

GARDINER WILLIAM J  
 Form 4  
 November 22, 2011

**FORM 4**

**UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
 Washington, D.C. 20549**

OMB APPROVAL

OMB Number: 3235-0287  
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Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5 obligations may continue. See Instruction 1(b).

**STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF SECURITIES**

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, Section 17(a) of the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935 or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person \*  
**GARDINER WILLIAM J**

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol  
**SM Energy Co [SM]**

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

(Check all applicable)

(Last) (First) (Middle)  
**1775 SHERMAN STREET, SUITE 1200**

3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)  
**11/18/2011**

Director  10% Owner  
 Officer (give title below)  Other (specify below)

(Street)  
**DENVER, CO 80203**

4. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year)

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line)  
 Form filed by One Reporting Person  
 Form filed by More than One Reporting Person

**Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned**

| 1. Title of Security (Instr. 3) | 2. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year) | 2A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year) | 3. Transaction Code (Instr. 8) | 4. Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5) | 5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4) | 6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4) | 7. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4) |   |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|---|--|---|---|
|                                 |                                      |  |                                | (A) or (D)  | Price   |  |   |   |
|                                 |                                      |  |                                | Code  | V   | Amount   |   |   |
| Common Stock; \$.01 Par Value   | 11/18/2011                           |  | M                              | 13,084  | A   | \$ 10.595  | 58,232  | D |
| Common Stock; \$.01 Par Value   | 11/18/2011                           |  | S <sup>(1)</sup>               | 13,084  | D   | \$ 78.5841   | 45,148  | D |
|                                 |                                      |  |                                |   |   | <sup>(3)</sup>   |   |   |

Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially owned directly or indirectly.

**Persons who respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form**

SEC 1474 (9-02)

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**Table II - Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned**  
(e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)

| 1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 3) | 2. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security | 3. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year) | 3A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year) | 4. Transaction Code (Instr. 8) | 5. Number of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5) | 6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year) | 7. Title and Amount of Underlying Security (Instr. 3 and 4) | 8. Amount or Number of Shares |
|--|--|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|--|---|-------------------------------|
| Stock Option (Right-to-Buy)                | \$ 10.595  | 11/18/2011                           |  | M                              | 13,084  | <u>(2)</u> 12/31/2011                                    | Common Stock  | 13,                           |

## Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address  | Relationships |           |         |       |
|---|---------------|-----------|---------|-------|
|   | Director      | 10% Owner | Officer | Other |
| GARDINER WILLIAM J<br>1775 SHERMAN STREET<br>SUITE 1200<br>DENVER, CO 80203 | X             |           |         |       |

## Signatures

Karin M. Writer  
(Attorney-In-Fact) 11/21/2011

\*\*Signature of Reporting Person Date

## Explanation of Responses:

- \* If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, see Instruction 4(b)(v).
- \*\* Intentional misstatements or omissions of facts constitute Federal Criminal Violations. See 18 U.S.C. 1001 and 15 U.S.C. 78ff(a).
- (1) The sales reported on this Form 4 were effected pursuant to a Rule 10b5-1 plan adopted by the reporting person on August 12, 2011.
- (2) The option vested in four equal installments on December 31, 2001, 2002, 2003, and 2004.
- (3) The price reflects an average of multiple transaction prices ranging from \$77.18 to \$80.52.

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, see Instruction 6 for procedure. Potential persons who are to respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB number.