

SM Energy Co  
Form 8-K  
July 03, 2012

**UNITED STATES  
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**

Washington, D.C. 20549

**FORM 8-K**

**CURRENT REPORT**

**Pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934**

Date of Report (Date of earliest event reported):

**July 3, 2012 (June 29, 2012)**

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**SM Energy Company**

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

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**Delaware**

(State or other jurisdiction of  
incorporation)

**001-31539**

(Commission  
File Number)

**41-0518430**

(IRS Employer  
Identification No.)

**1775 Sherman Street, Suite 1200, Denver, Colorado**

(Address of principal executive offices)

**80203**

(Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: **(303) 861-8140**

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**Not applicable**

(Former name or former address, if changed since last report.)

Check the appropriate box below if the Form 8-K filing is intended to simultaneously satisfy the filing obligation of the registrant under any of the following provisions:

- Written communications pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act (17 CFR 230.425)
  
  - Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14a-12)
  
  - Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d-2(b) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14d-2(b))
  
  - Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13e-4(c) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.13e-4(c))
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plus accrued and unpaid interest; (v) failure by the Company to comply for 60 days after notice with any of the other agreements of the Company in the Indenture; (vi) default under any mortgage, indenture or instrument under which there is issued or by which there is secured or evidenced any indebtedness for money borrowed by the Company or any of its Restricted Subsidiaries (or the payment of which is guaranteed by the Company or any of its Restricted Subsidiaries) if that default: (a) is caused by a failure to pay principal of, or

interest or premium, if any, on such indebtedness prior to the expiration of the grace period provided in such indebtedness (a Payment Default ); or (b) results in the acceleration of such indebtedness prior to its stated maturity, and, in each case, the principal amount of any such indebtedness, together with the principal amount of any other such indebtedness under which there has been a Payment Default or the maturity of which has been so accelerated, aggregates \$30.0 million or more; (vii) certain events of bankruptcy, insolvency or reorganization described in the Indenture with respect to the Company or any of the Company's Restricted Subsidiaries that is a Significant Subsidiary (as defined in the Indenture) of the Company or any group of the Company's Restricted Subsidiaries that, taken as a whole, would constitute a Significant Subsidiary of the Company; (viii) failure by the Company, or any of the Company's Restricted Subsidiaries that is a Significant Subsidiary of the Company or any group of the Company's Restricted Subsidiaries that, taken as a whole, would constitute a Significant Subsidiary of the Company, to pay final judgments aggregating in excess of \$30.0 million, which judgments are not paid, discharged or stayed for a period of 60 days; and (ix) any future subsidiary guarantee entered into by a Significant Subsidiary of the Company or group of the Company's Restricted Subsidiaries that, taken together, would constitute a Significant Subsidiary, ceases to be in full force and effect (except as contemplated by the Indenture) or is declared null and void in any judicial proceeding, or any Subsidiary Guarantor that is a Significant Subsidiary or group of Subsidiary Guarantors that, taken together, would constitute a Significant Subsidiary, denies or disaffirms its obligations under the Indenture or its subsidiary guarantee of the Notes.

In the case of an Event of Default arising from certain events of bankruptcy, insolvency or reorganization described above, all outstanding principal of, premium, if any, and accrued interest on the Notes will become due and payable immediately without further action or notice. If any other Event of Default occurs and is continuing, the Trustee or the holders of at least 25% in principal amount of the then outstanding Notes may declare all unpaid principal of, premium, if any, and accrued interest on the Notes to be due and payable immediately.

The foregoing description of the Indenture does not purport to be complete and is qualified in its entirety by reference to the Indenture, a copy of which is filed as Exhibit 4.1 to this Current Report on Form 8-K and is incorporated herein by reference. The foregoing description of the Notes does not purport to be complete and is qualified in its entirety by reference to the form of Notes, which is included as Exhibit A to the Indenture filed as Exhibit 4.1 hereto, and is incorporated herein by reference.

#### ***Registration Rights Agreement***

On June 29, 2012, the Company entered into a registration rights agreement with the Initial Purchasers (the Registration Rights Agreement ) that provides holders of the Notes certain rights relating to registration of the Notes under the Securities Act.

Pursuant to the Registration Rights Agreement, the Company will file an exchange offer registration statement with the SEC with respect to an offer to exchange the Notes for substantially identical notes that are registered under the Securities Act. The Company will use its reasonable best efforts to cause the exchange offer registration statement to become effective by June 29, 2013 and remain effective until 180 days after the closing of the exchange. Additionally, the Company has agreed to commence the exchange offer promptly after the exchange offer registration statement is declared effective by the SEC and use its reasonable best efforts to complete the exchange offer not later than 60 days after such effective date. Under certain circumstances, in lieu of a registered exchange offer, the Company has agreed to file a shelf registration statement with respect to the Notes. If the exchange offer is not completed on or before June 29, 2013, or the shelf registration statement, if required, is not declared effective within the time periods specified in the Registration Rights Agreement, then we agree to pay additional interest with respect to the Notes in an amount not to exceed 1.00% of the principal amount of the Notes until the exchange offer is completed or the shelf registration statement is declared effective.

The foregoing description of the Registration Rights Agreement does not purport to be complete and is qualified in its entirety by reference to the Registration Rights Agreement, a copy of which is filed as Exhibit 4.2 to this Current Report on Form 8-K and is incorporated herein by reference.



**Item 2.03. Creation of a Direct Financial Obligation or an Obligation under an Off-Balance Sheet Arrangement of a Registrant.**

The information set forth in Item 1.01 of this Current Report on Form 8-K is incorporated into this Item 2.03 by reference.

**Item 9.01 Financial Statements and Exhibits.**

**(d) Exhibits.**

<b>Exhibit Number</b>	<b>Description</b>
4.1	Indenture, dated as of June 29, 2012, between SM Energy Company and U.S. Bank National Association.
4.2	Registration Rights Agreement, dated June 29, 2012, by and among SM Energy Company and Wells Fargo Securities, LLC, Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated and J.P. Morgan Securities LLC, as representatives of the several initial purchasers.

**SIGNATURES**

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned hereunto duly authorized.

SM ENERGY COMPANY

Date: July 3, 2012

By:

/s/ David W. Copeland  
David W. Copeland  
Senior Vice President, General Counsel and  
Corporate Secretary