

CONSUMERS ENERGY CO
Form DEF 14C
April 06, 2012

UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

SCHEDULE 14C

INFORMATION STATEMENT PURSUANT TO SECTION 14(c)
OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934 (AMENDMENT NO.)

Check the appropriate box:

- Preliminary Information Statement
- Confidential, for Use of the Commission Only (as permitted by Rule 14c-5(d)(2))
- Definitive Information Statement

Consumers Energy Company
(Name of Registrant As Specified In Its Charter)

Payment of Filing Fee (Check the appropriate box):

- No fee required
- Fee computed on table below per Exchange Act Rules 14c-5(g) and 0-11

(1) Title of each class of securities to which transaction applies:

(2) Aggregate number of securities to which transaction applies:

(3)

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Per unit price or other underlying value of transaction computed pursuant to Exchange Act Rule 0-11 (set forth the amount on which the filing fee is calculated and state how it was determined):

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.. Fee paid previously with preliminary materials.

.. Check box if any part of the fee is offset as provided by Exchange Act Rule 0-11(a)(2) and identify the filing for which the offsetting fee was paid previously. Identify the previous filing by registration statement number, or the Form or Schedule and the date of its filing.

(1) Amount Previously Paid:

(2) Form, Schedule or Registration Statement No.:

(3) Filing Party:

(4) Date Filed:

CONSUMERS ENERGY COMPANY

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS

MAY 18, 2012

To the Shareholders of Consumers Energy Company:

The Annual Meeting of Shareholders of Consumers Energy Company (Consumers) will be held on Friday, May 18, 2012, at 9:00 A.M., Eastern Daylight Saving Time, at the corporate headquarters located at One Energy Plaza, Jackson, Michigan 49201. The purposes of the annual meeting are to:

- (1) Elect 10 members to the Consumers Board of Directors;
- (2) Ratify the appointment of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP (PwC) as our independent registered public accounting firm to audit Consumers consolidated financial statements for the year ending December 31, 2012; and
- (3) Transact such other business as may properly come before the annual meeting.

The Consumers Annual Report to the Shareholders for the year 2011, including its consolidated financial statements, accompanies this information statement, unless you have previously requested internet access rather than a paper copy.

The Board of Directors has set March 23, 2012, as the record date for our annual meeting. Shareholders are invited to attend our annual meeting. **Shareholders interested in attending the annual meeting must present proof of current stock ownership (such as a recent account statement) and government-issued photo identification prior to being admitted into the meeting.**

WE ARE NOT ASKING YOU FOR A PROXY AND YOU ARE REQUESTED NOT TO SEND US A PROXY.

By Order of the Board of Directors

Catherine M. Reynolds
Corporate Secretary

Consumers Energy Company

One Energy Plaza

Jackson, Michigan 49201

April 6, 2012

INFORMATION STATEMENT

INTRODUCTION

This Information Statement is furnished by the Board of Directors of Consumers Energy Company (Consumers) in connection with the Annual Meeting of Shareholders to be held on May 18, 2012.

As of March 23, 2012, Consumers outstanding common stock (\$10 par value) and preferred stock (\$100 par value) consisted of 84,108,789 shares of common stock held by CMS Energy Corporation (CMS) and 441,599 shares of preferred stock held by the public (except the directors holdings noted below). Holders of preferred and common stock are entitled to one vote for each share and shareholders have cumulative voting rights for the election of directors. That is, holders of preferred and common shares are entitled to cast as many votes as equal the number of shares held multiplied by the number of directors to be elected (10 this year), and they may cast all of such votes for a single nominee or distribute them among any two or more nominees as they choose.

While all shareholders are cordially invited to attend the annual meeting, **WE ARE NOT ASKING YOU FOR A PROXY AND YOU ARE REQUESTED NOT TO SEND US A PROXY.** We have been advised that all 84,108,789 Consumers common shares held by CMS (99.5% of the Consumers shares entitled to vote) will be voted in favor of the proposed directors, thus assuring their election, as well as in favor of the other proposal(s) recommended by the Consumers Board of Directors.

To the knowledge of management, no person or entity except CMS owns beneficially more than 5% of any class of Consumers outstanding voting securities. Messrs. Way and Yasinsky each own 10 shares of the preferred stock of Consumers.

The determination of approval of corporate action by the shareholders is based on votes for and against. Abstentions and broker discretionary votes are not counted as against votes but are counted in the determination of a quorum.

INCORPORATION BY REFERENCE CMS PROXY STATEMENT

Please refer to the enclosed CMS Proxy Statement dated April 6, 2012, for information regarding the nominees for directors and the other proposal(s) being voted on by Consumers shareholders, as well as the committees of the Board of Directors, compensation of directors and executive officers and various other 2011 information statement disclosures. This information appears beginning with the heading CORPORATE GOVERNANCE in the CMS Proxy Statement and is incorporated by reference herein.

BOARD AND COMMITTEE INFORMATION

The Consumers Board of Directors met 9 times during 2011. Our Principles state the expectation that all Board members will attend all scheduled board and committee meetings, as well as the Annual Meeting of Shareholders. All, but one, of the incumbent directors attended 100% of the Consumers Board and assigned committee meetings during 2011; one director attended 95% of the Consumers Board and assigned committee meetings during 2011. All Board members attended the 2011 Annual Meeting of Shareholders.