Palmer Robert R Form 4 February 24, 2012

FORM 4

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

OMB

3235-0287 Number: January 31, Expires:

OMB APPROVAL

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Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or

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

Form 5 Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, obligations Section 17(a) of the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935 or Section may continue. 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940 See Instruction

(Print or Type Responses)

1(b).

| 1. Name and Ad Palmer Robe | • | ting Person * | 2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol | 5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable) | | | |
|-------------------------------|----------|---------------|--|---|--|--|--|
| (Last) | (First) | (Middle) | XCEL ENERGY INC [XEL] 3. Date of Earliest Transaction | | | | |
| 1800 LARIMER STREET | | Γ | (Month/Day/Year) 02/22/2012 | Director 10% Owner Officer (give title Other (specification) Sr. VP, Pub Policy, Ext Affair | | | |
| | (Street) | | 4. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year) | 6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line) _X_ Form filed by One Reporting Person | | | |
| DENVER, CO 80202 | | | | Form filed by More than One Reporting Person | | | |
| (City) | (State) | (7in) | | | | | |

| Í | | Person | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|---|--|--------|-------------|--|--|---|--|--|
| (City) | (State) | (Zip) 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 a poor Disposed of (Instr. 3, 4 an | of (D) | red (A) | 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) | | |
| Common Stock | 02/22/2012 | | A | 9,208.468 | A | \$ 0 | 10,641.468 | D | | | |
| Common Stock | 02/22/2012 | | F | 2,603.991 | D | \$ 26.43 | 8,037.477 (1) | D | | | |
| Common Stock | 02/22/2012 | | F | 1,208.477 | D | \$ 26.5 | 6,829 (1) | D | | | |
| Common Stock | | | | | | | 3,494.968 (2) | I | 401(k) | | |

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

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SEC 1474 (9-02)

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. Transactic Code (Instr. 8) | 5. onNumber of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5) | 3 | ate | 7. Title and A Underlying S (Instr. 3 and | Securities | 8. Price of Derivative Security (Instr. 5) |
|---|---|--------------------------------------|---|--|---|---------------------|--------------------|---|--|---|
| | | | | Code V | (A) (D) | Date Exercisable | Expiration Date | Title | Amount or Number of Shares | |
| Phantom Stock | \$ 0 | | | | | (3) | (3) | Common Stock | 0 | |

Reporting Owners

Relationships Reporting Owner Name / Address

> Director 10% Owner Officer Other

Palmer Robert R 1800 LARIMER STREET DENVER, CO 80202

Sr. VP, Pub Policy, Ext Affair

Signatures

Tara M. Heine, Attorney in Fact for Robert R. Palmer

02/24/2012

**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) A fractional share interest was sold.
- Shares held in the Xcel Energy Stock Fund under the Xcel Energy 401(K) Savings Plan as of the most recent plan statement (December 31, 2011).
- (3) Shares of phantom stock are payable in cash following termination of reporting persons employment.
- Stock equivalent units held under the Xcel Energy Deferred Compensation Plan as of the most recent plan statement (December 31,

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, see Instruction 6 for procedure.

Reporting Owners 2

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