

Edgar Filing: CONSUMERS ENERGY CO - Form 424B5

CONSUMERS ENERGY CO
 Form 424B5
 March 18, 2002

THE INFORMATION IN THIS PRELIMINARY PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT IS NOT COMPLETE AND MAY BE CHANGED. THIS PRELIMINARY PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT IS NOT AN OFFER TO SELL THESE SECURITIES AND WE ARE NOT SOLICITING OFFERS TO BUY THESE SECURITIES IN ANY STATE WHERE THE OFFER OR SALE IS NOT PERMITTED.

Filed Pursuant to Rule 424(B)5
 Registration Number 333-73922

SUBJECT TO COMPLETION DATED MARCH 18, 2002

PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT

(TO PROSPECTUS DATED NOVEMBER 21, 2001)

\$

CONSUMERS ENERGY COMPANY
 % SENIOR NOTES DUE MARCH , 200

These notes bear interest at the rate of % per year. Interest on the notes is payable on and of each year, beginning . The notes will mature on March , 200 , and are redeemable at any time before that date as described under "Description of the Notes -- Optional Redemption".

We will issue senior note first mortgage bonds to secure the notes. On the day we have retired all first mortgage bonds, the notes will become unsecured and will rank equally with all of our other existing and future senior unsecured and unsubordinated debt. The notes will be issued only in registered form in denominations of \$1,000 and integral multiples of \$1,000.

	PRICE TO INVESTORS (1)	UNDERWRITING DISCOUNT	PROCEEDS EXPENS CONSU
Per Note.....	%	%	
Total.....	\$	\$	\$

(1) Plus accrued interest from March , 2002, if settlement occurs after that date.

INVESTING IN THE NOTES INVOLVES RISKS. SEE "RISK FACTORS" BEGINNING ON PAGE S-10 OF THIS PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT.

NEITHER THE SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION NOR ANY STATE SECURITIES COMMISSION HAS APPROVED OR DISAPPROVED OF THE NOTES OR DETERMINED IF THIS PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT IS TRUTHFUL OR COMPLETE. ANY REPRESENTATION TO THE CONTRARY IS A CRIMINAL OFFENSE.

Edgar Filing: CONSUMERS ENERGY CO - Form 424B5

The notes will be ready for delivery in book-entry form only through
The Depository Trust Company on or about March , 2002.

BANC ONE CAPITAL MARKETS, INC.

BARCLAYS CAPITAL

TOKYO-MITSUBISHI INTERNATIONAL PLC

The date of this prospectus supplement is March , 2002.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT	PAGE
-----	----
Forward-Looking Statements and Information.....	S-3
Summary.....	S-5
Risk Factors.....	S-10
Use of Proceeds.....	S-12
Ratio of Earnings to Fixed Charges.....	S-12
Capitalization.....	S-13
Description of the Notes.....	S-14
Description of First Mortgage Bonds.....	S-19
Ratings.....	S-21
Underwriting.....	S-22
Legal Opinions.....	S-23
Experts.....	S-23
PROSPECTUS	
Where You Can Find More Information.....	2
Consumers Energy Company.....	3
Consumers Energy Company Trusts.....	4
Use of Proceeds.....	5
Ratio of Earnings to Fixed Charges and Ratio of Earnings to Fixed Charges and Preferred Stock Dividends.....	6
Description of Securities.....	7
Plan of Distribution.....	26
Legal Opinions.....	27
Experts.....	27

YOU SHOULD RELY ONLY ON THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN OR INCORPORATED BY
REFERENCE INTO THIS PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT. WE HAVE NOT AUTHORIZED ANYONE TO
PROVIDE YOU WITH INFORMATION THAT IS DIFFERENT FROM THAT CONTAINED IN THIS
PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT. WE ARE OFFERING TO SELL, AND SEEKING OFFERS TO BUY, THE
NOTES ONLY IN JURISDICTIONS WHERE OFFERS AND SALES ARE PERMITTED. THE
INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THIS DOCUMENT IS ACCURATE ONLY AS OF THE DATE HEREOF,
REGARDLESS OF THE TIME OF DELIVERY OF THIS DOCUMENT OR OF ANY SALE OF THE NOTES.

S-2

FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS AND INFORMATION

Edgar Filing: CONSUMERS ENERGY CO - Form 424B5

This prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus contain or incorporate by reference forward-looking statements. From time to time, we may make statements regarding our assumptions, projections, expectations, intentions or beliefs about future events. These statements are intended as "Forward-Looking Statements" under the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. The words "believe," "expect," "estimate," "project," and "anticipate" or similar expressions identify forward-looking statements. Where any forward-looking statement includes a statement of the assumptions or bases underlying such forward-looking statement, we caution that, while such assumptions or bases are believed to be reasonable and are made in good faith, assumed facts or bases almost always vary from actual results, and the differences between assumed facts or bases and actual results can be material, depending upon the circumstances. Some of the factors that could cause actual achievements and events to differ materially from those expressed or implied in any forward-looking statements are:

- the ability to achieve operating synergies and revenue enhancements;
- factors affecting utility operations such as unusual weather conditions, catastrophic weather-related damage, unscheduled generation outages, maintenance or repairs, unanticipated changes to fossil fuel, nuclear fuel or gas supply costs or availability due to higher demand, shortages, transportation problems or other developments;
- environmental incidents;
- electric transmission or gas pipeline system constraints;
- national, regional and local economic, competitive and regulatory conditions and developments;
- adverse regulatory or legal decisions, including environmental laws and regulations;
- pace of implementation and provisions for deregulation of the natural gas industry, whether by legislative or regulatory action;
- implementation of the Michigan electric industry restructuring legislation;
- federal regulation of electric sales and transmission of electricity, including re-examination by Federal regulators of the market-based sales authorization by which CMS subsidiaries participate in wholesale power markets without price restrictions and proposals by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to change the way it currently allows subsidiaries of CMS and other public utilities and natural gas companies interact with each other;
- energy markets, including the timing and extent of unanticipated changes in commodity prices for oil, coal, natural gas, electricity and certain related products due to higher demand, shortages, transportation problems or other developments;
- nuclear power performance, incidents and decommissioning, Nuclear Regulatory Commission policies, procedures and regulation, and spent nuclear fuel storage availability;
- technological developments in energy production, delivery and usage;
- financial or regulatory accounting principles or policies;
- cost and other effects of legal and administrative proceedings,

Edgar Filing: CONSUMERS ENERGY CO - Form 424B5

settlements, investigations and claims; and

-- other uncertainties, all of which are difficult to predict and many of which are beyond our control.

S-3

These and other factors are discussed more completely in our public filings with the SEC, including our annual report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2000 and our reports on Form 10-Q for the periods ended March 31, June 30, and September 30, 2001.

The factors identified under "Risk Factors" on page S-10 are also important factors, but not necessarily all of the important factors, that could cause actual results to differ materially from those expressed in any forward-looking statement made by, or on behalf of, us or our subsidiaries.

S-4

SUMMARY

This summary may not contain all the information that may be important to you. You should read this prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus and the documents incorporated by reference in this document in their entirety before making an investment decision. The terms "Consumers," "Consumers Energy," "Company," "Our" and "We" as used in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus refer to "Consumers Energy Company" and its subsidiaries and predecessors as a combined entity, except where it is made clear that such term means only Consumers.

In this document, "Bcf" means billion cubic feet, "GWh" means gigawatt-hour, "KWh" means kilowatt-hour, "MBbls" means thousand barrels, "Mcf" means thousand cubic feet, "MMBoe" means million barrels of oil equivalent, "MMBbls" means million barrels, "MMcf" means million cubic feet, "MW" means megawatts, and "Tbtu" means trillion british thermal units.

CONSUMERS ENERGY COMPANY

Consumers is a public utility that provides natural gas and/or electricity to almost six million of the approximately 9.9 million residents in Michigan's lower peninsula. Consumers' electric operations include the generation, purchase, transmission, distribution and sale of electricity. It provides electric services in 61 of the 68 counties of Michigan's lower peninsula. In 2001, Consumers' electric utility owned and operated 31 electric generating plants with an aggregate of 6,441 MW of capacity and served 1.69 million customers in Michigan's lower peninsula. Consumers' gas utility operation purchases, transports, stores, distributes and sells natural gas. It renders gas sales and delivery service in 54 of the 68 counties in Michigan's lower peninsula. In 2001, Consumers' gas utility owned and operated over 24,746 miles of distribution mains and 1,099 miles of transmission lines throughout the lower peninsula of Michigan, providing natural gas to 1.6 million customers.

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

	YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31		
	2001	2000	CHANGE
Consumers Consolidated Earnings	----	----	-----

Edgar Filing: CONSUMERS ENERGY CO - Form 424B5

Net income available to common stockholder..... \$57 \$268 \$(211)

For 2001, Consumers' net income available to the common stockholder totaled \$57 million, a decrease of \$211 million from the previous year. The decrease in earnings reflects an \$82 million after-tax loss, recorded in September 2001, related to Consumers' Power Purchase Agreement with the Midland Cogeneration Venture. The earnings decrease also reflects significantly increased operating expense in 2001, primarily \$59 million of after-tax loss for replacement power supply costs, due to a six month unscheduled outage at the Palisades nuclear plant that ended in January 2002. Net income for 2001 was also adversely impacted by \$11 million to reflect a change in accounting for certain electric call option contracts. In addition, 2001 earnings decreased due to the impact of reduced gas deliveries resulting from milder temperatures during both the first quarter and fourth quarter heating seasons. Electric and gas revenues were also adversely impacted by a decrease in electricity and gas delivered to industrial customers, reflecting the year long impact of an economic slowdown throughout Michigan.

For the year 2001, electric deliveries, including transactions with other electric utilities, were 39.6 billion kWh, a decrease of 1.4 billion kWh or 3.5 percent from 2000. The overall decrease was driven primarily by the industrial sector, particularly offset by increases in the residential and commercial sectors.

S-5

For the year 2001, gas deliveries totaled 367 bcf, a decrease of 43 bcf or 10% compared to 2000. The decrease reflects warmer heating season temperatures and a reduction in economic demand.

For the fourth quarter of 2001, Consumers Energy had a net loss of \$0.1 million, a decrease of \$95.9 million compared to the fourth quarter of 2000. The decrease reflects both reduced electric and gas sales, higher operating costs primarily due to the Palisades nuclear plant outage, and lower earnings from Consumers' investment in the Midland Cogeneration Venture Partnership. Also reflected in the 2001 versus 2000 decrease is an \$11 million expense net of tax recorded in December 2001 to reflect a change in accounting for certain electric call option contracts.

For the fourth quarter of 2001, electric deliveries totaled 9.3 billion kWh, a decrease of 1.2 billion kWh, or 11.7% from fourth quarter 2000 levels. The decrease is primarily the result of weather.

For the fourth quarter of 2001, gas delivered totaled 108.6 bcf, a decrease of 28.4 bcf or 20.7% from fourth quarter 2000 levels. The decrease is primarily the result of weather and a reduction in economic demand.

INSURANCE MATTERS

Consumers maintains primary and excess nuclear property insurance from Nuclear Electric Insurance Limited ("NEIL"), an industry mutual insurance company owned by Member Utility companies, totaling \$2.7 billion in recoverable limits for Palisades nuclear plant. Consumers also procured coverage from NEIL that would partially cover the cost of replacement power during certain prolonged accidental outages at Palisades nuclear plant.

Consumers retains the risk of loss to the extent of the insurance deductibles and to the extent that its loss exceeds its policy limits. Because NEIL is a mutual insurance company, Consumers could be subject to assessments from NEIL of up to \$26.9 million in any policy year if insured losses in excess

Edgar Filing: CONSUMERS ENERGY CO - Form 424B5

of NEIL's maximum policyholders surplus occur at Consumers', or any other member's, nuclear facility.

Consumers maintains nuclear liability insurance for injuries and off-site property damage insurance resulting from the nuclear hazard at Palisades for up to approximately \$9.5 billion, the maximum insurance liability limits established by the Price-Anderson Act. Congress enacted the Price-Anderson Act to provide financial protection for persons who may be liable for a nuclear accident or incident and persons who may be injured by a nuclear incident. The Price-Anderson Act expires in August 2002 and is currently in the process of reauthorization by the U.S. Congress. It is possible that the Price-Anderson Act will not be reauthorized or changes may be made that significantly affect the insurance provisions for nuclear licensees.

In October 2001, NEIL modified its coverage for acts of terrorism and limited coverage for multiple acts occurring during a twelve-month period to a maximum aggregate for all such acts of \$3.24 billion plus any additional amounts available to NEIL from recoverable reinsurance, indemnity and other sources of recovery. The nuclear liability insurers for Palisades and Big Rock also limit the aggregate amount of coverage for public liability from terrorist acts to \$200 million; however, the Price-Anderson Act provides additional insurance coverage for amounts above these aggregate limits from the nuclear liability insurance.

Insurance policy terms, limits and conditions are subject to change during the year as Consumers renews its policies.

S-6

MICHIGAN'S CUSTOMER CHOICE AND ELECTRIC RELIABILITY ACT

Michigan's Customer Choice and Electric Reliability Act (the "Customer Choice Act") allows for the securitization of certain costs that fit the definition of qualified costs for securitization purposes, and in October 2000 and January 2001, the Michigan Public Service Commission ("MPSC") issued orders that authorized Consumers to issue securitization bonds. In November 2001, Consumers Funding LLC, a special purpose consolidated subsidiary of Consumers formed to issue the bonds, issued \$469 million of Securitization Bonds, Series 2001-1 (the "Securitization Bonds"). The Securitization Bonds mature at different times over a period of up to 14 years and have an average interest rate of 5.3 percent.

The last expected maturity date is October 20, 2015. Net proceeds from the sale of the Securitization bonds after issuance expenses was approximately \$460 million. The net proceeds were used to buy back \$164 million of its common stock from its parent, CMS Energy. Beginning in December 2001 and finishing in March 2002, the remainder of these proceeds were used to pay down long-term debt. CMS Energy used the \$164 million received from Consumers to pay down its own short-term debt.

Consumers and Consumers Funding LLC will recover the repayment of principal, interest and other expenses relating to the issuance of the Securitization Bonds through a securitization charge and a tax charge that began in December 2001. These charges are subject to an annual true-up until one year prior to the last expected Securitization Bond maturity date and no more than quarterly thereafter. Current electric rates are designed to cover these charges, and will not increase rates for most of Consumers' electric customers due to the rate freeze imposed under the Customer Choice Act. Securitization charges collected will be remitted to a trustee for the Securitization Bonds and are not available to Consumers' creditors.

Regulatory assets are normally amortized over their period of regulated

Edgar Filing: CONSUMERS ENERGY CO - Form 424B5

recovery. Beginning January 1, 2001, the amortization of the approved regulatory assets being securitized as qualified costs was deferred, which effectively offset the loss in revenue in 2001 resulting from the five percent residential rate reduction required. In December 2001, after the Securitization bonds were sold, the amortization was reestablished based on a schedule that is the same as the recovery of the principal amounts of the securitized qualified costs. In 2002, the amortization amount is expected to be approximately \$31 million and the securitized assets will be fully amortized by the end of 2015.

S-7

THE OFFERING

Issuer..... Consumers Energy Company.

Securities Offered..... % Senior Notes due March , 200 ("the notes").

Maturity..... March , 200 .

Interest Rate..... The notes will bear interest at % per annum.

Interest Rate Adjustment..... The interest rate on the notes will become subject to adjustment upon certain changes of the ratings on the notes. See "Description of the Notes -- Interest, Interest Rate Adjustment" on page S-14.

Interest Payment Dates..... Semi-Annually on and of each year beginning , 2002.

Record Date for Interest Payments..... The first calendar day of the month in which an Interest Payment Date occurs.

Use of Proceeds..... We estimate that the net proceeds of the offering will be approximately \$ million before deducting expenses. We intend to use these proceeds to retire a bridge loan issued by Bank One, NA and Barclays Capital for the purpose of financing Consumers' January 15, 2002 call of \$300 million principal amount of its 6 3/8% First Mortgage Bonds due September 2003.

Ratings..... BBB+ by Standard & Poor's Ratings Services ("S&P"), Baa3 by Moody's Investors Service, Inc. ("Moody's") and BBB+ by Fitch, Inc.

Ranking..... Senior note first mortgage bonds will secure the notes. On the date that we have retired all first mortgage bonds, the notes will become unsecured and rank equally with all of our other unsecured and unsubordinated indebtedness.

Optional Redemption..... The notes will be redeemable at our option, in whole or in part, at any time or from time to time, on not less than 30 days' notice at the redemption prices described herein, plus any accrued interest to the date fixed for

Edgar Filing: CONSUMERS ENERGY CO - Form 424B5

redemption. See "Description of the Notes -- Optional Redemption" on page S-15.

Form of Note..... One global security held in the name of The Depository Trust Company ("DTC"), in minimum denomination of \$1,000 and any integral multiple thereof.

Settlement and Payment..... Same-day immediately available funds.

Trustee, Paying Agent and Calculation Agent..... JPMorgan Chase Bank.

S-8

SELECTED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL DATA

The following selected historical data has been derived from our consolidated financial statements. Please refer to our Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2000 and our Form 10-Q for the three months ended March 31, 2001, the six months ended June 30, 2001 and the nine months ended September 30, 2001, each of which is incorporated by reference. The financial information set forth below should be read in conjunction with our consolidated financial statements, related notes and other financial information incorporated by reference in the accompanying prospectus. See "Where You Can Find More Information" in the accompanying prospectus.

	NINE MONTHS ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2001 ----- (UNAUDITED)	YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, ----- (IN MILLIONS)			
		2000	1999	1998	1997
Operating revenue.....	\$2,992	\$3,935	\$3,874	\$3,709	\$3,769
Net income.....	88	304	340	349 (b)	321
Net income available to common stockholder.....	57	268	313	312 (b)	284
Total assets.....	7,994	7,773	7,170	7,163	6,949
Long-term debt, excluding current maturities.....	2,452	2,110	2,006	2,007	1,369
Non-current portion of capital leases.....	53	49	85	100	74
Preferred Stock.....	44	44	44	238	238
Company-obligated mandatorily redeemable preferred securities of subsidiaries.....	520	395	395	220	220
Ratio of earnings to fixed charges (a).....	2.12 (c)	3.06	3.46	3.16 (d)	3.31

(a) For purposes of computing the ratios, earnings represent net income before income taxes, net interest charges and the estimated interest portions of lease rentals, plus distributed income of equity investees less earnings from minority interests of equity investees.

(b) Includes a pre-tax \$66 million increase due to a one-time change in method of accounting for property taxes.

Edgar Filing: CONSUMERS ENERGY CO - Form 424B5

(c) For twelve months ended September 30, 2001.

(d) Excludes a cumulative effect of change-in-accounting, after-tax gain of \$43 million; if included, ratio would be 3.52.

S-9

RISK FACTORS

In considering whether to purchase the notes, you should carefully consider all the information we have included or incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus. In particular, you should carefully consider the risk factors described below. In addition, please read "Forward-Looking Statements and Information" on page S-3 of this prospectus supplement, where we describe additional uncertainties associated with our business and the forward-looking statements in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus.

REGULATORY CHANGES AND OTHER DEVELOPMENTS HAVE RESULTED AND WILL CONTINUE TO RESULT IN INCREASED COMPETITION IN OUR DOMESTIC ENERGY BUSINESS. GENERALLY, INCREASED COMPETITION THREATENS OUR MARKET SHARE IN CERTAIN SEGMENTS OF OUR BUSINESS AND CAN REDUCE OUR PROFITABILITY.

Increased competition and open access in the electric industry. Consumers has in the last several years experienced and expects to continue to experience a significant increase in competition for generation services with the introduction of retail open access in the state of Michigan. Pursuant to the Customer Choice Act, as of January 1, 2002, all electric customers have the choice of buying electric generation service from an alternative electric supplier.

NEW ELECTRIC INDUSTRY REGULATION COULD ADVERSELY AFFECT OUR BUSINESS

Federal and state regulation of the electric utility has changed dramatically in the last two decades and could continue to change over the next several years. These changes could adversely affect our business, financial condition and profitability.

In June 2000, the Michigan Legislature enacted the Customer Choice Act that became effective June 5, 2000. Pursuant to the Customer Choice Act:

- all electric rates were frozen through December 31, 2003;
- residential rates were reduced by five percent then capped through at least December 31, 2005; and
- small commercial and industrial customer rates were capped through at least December 31, 2004.

Ultimately, the rate caps could extend until December 31, 2013 depending upon whether Consumers and two other utilities jointly complete expansion of available transmission capability in the state of Michigan of at least 2,000 MW and do not exceed the market power supply test established by the legislation (a requirement with which Consumers believes itself to be in compliance with at this time). Under circumstances specified in the Customer Choice Act certain costs can be deferred for future recovery after the expiration of the rate cap period. The rate caps could, however, result in Consumers being unable to collect customer rates sufficient to fully recover its cost of conducting business. Some of these costs may be beyond Consumers' ability to control. In particular, if Consumers needs to purchase power supply from wholesale suppliers during the period when retail rates are frozen or capped, the rate restrictions imposed by the Customer Choice Act may make it impossible for Consumers to fully

Edgar Filing: CONSUMERS ENERGY CO - Form 424B5

recover the cost of purchased power through the rates it charges its customers. As a result, it is not certain that Consumers can maintain its profit margins in its electric utility business during the period of the rate freeze or rate caps.

In 1998, Consumers submitted a plan for electric retail open access to the MPSC and in March 1999, the MPSC issued orders that generally supported the plan. Implementation began in September 1999. The Customer Choice Act states that orders issued by the MPSC before the date of this act that: 1) allow electric customers to choose their supplier; 2) authorize recovery of "net" Stranded Costs and implementation costs; and 3) confirm any voluntary commitments of electric utilities, are in compliance with this act and enforceable by the MPSC. In September 2000, as required by the MPSC, Consumers once again filed tariffs governing its retail open access program and addressed revisions appropriate to comply with the Customer Choice Act. In December 2001, the MPSC approved revised retail open access service tariffs. The revised tariffs establish rates, terms and

S-10

conditions under which retail customers will be permitted to choose an alternative electric supplier for generation services. The tariffs are effective January 1, 2002, and in general do not require any significant modifications in the existing retail open access program. The terms of the tariff allow retail open access customers, upon thirty days notice to Consumers, to return to Consumers' generation service at current tariff rates. Consumers may not have sufficient, reasonably priced, capacity to meet the additional demand needs of returning retail open access customers, and may be forced to purchase electricity on the spot market at prices higher than it could recover from its customers.

The Customer Choice Act allows for the recovery by an electric utility of the cost of implementing the act's requirements and "net" Stranded Costs, without defining the term. The act directs the MPSC to establish a method of calculating "net" Stranded Costs and of conducting related true-up adjustments. In December 2001, the MPSC adopted a methodology for calculating "net" Stranded Costs as the shortfall between (a) the revenue needed to cover the costs associated with fixed generation assets, generation-related regulatory assets, and capacity payments associated with purchase power agreements and (b) the revenues received from retail and wholesale customers under existing rates available to cover those revenue needs. According to the MPSC, "net" Stranded Costs are to be recovered from retail open access customers through a Stranded Cost surcharge. Even though the MPSC ruled that the Stranded Cost surcharge to be in effect on January 1, 2002 for the recovery of "net" Stranded Costs for calendar year 2000 for Consumers is zero, the MPSC also indicated that the "net" Stranded Costs for 2000 would be subject to further review in the context of its subsequent determinations of "net" Stranded Costs for 2001 and later years. The MPSC authorized Consumers to use deferred accounting to recognize future recovery of plant determined to be stranded by the application of the MPSC's methodology. Consumers is seeking a rehearing and clarification of the methodology adopted, and will be making future "net" Stranded Cost filings with the MPSC in March or April of 2002. The outcome of these proceedings before the MPSC is uncertain at this time.

WE COULD INCUR SIGNIFICANT CAPITAL EXPENDITURES TO COMPLY WITH ENVIRONMENTAL STANDARDS

Consumers is subject to costly and increasingly stringent environmental regulations. Consumers expects that the cost of future environmental compliance, especially compliance with clean air laws, will be significant.

In 1997, the Environment Protection Agency ("EPA") introduced new

Edgar Filing: CONSUMERS ENERGY CO - Form 424B5

regulations regarding ozone and particulate-related emissions that were the subject of litigation. The United States Supreme Court recently found that the EPA has power to revise the standards but found that the EPA implementation plan was not lawful. In 1998, the EPA Administrator issued final regulations requiring the state of Michigan to further limit nitrogen oxide emissions. The EPA has also issued additional final regulations regarding nitrogen oxide emissions that require certain generators, including some of Consumers' electric generating facilities, to achieve the same emissions rate as that required by the 1998 plan. These regulations will require Consumers to make significant capital expenditures. The estimated cost to Consumers would be between \$470 million and \$560 million, calculated in year 2001 dollars. As of December 2001, Consumers has incurred \$296 million in capital expenditures to comply with these regulations and anticipates that the remaining capital expenditures will be incurred between 2002 and 2004.

At some point after 2004, if the new standards for multi-pollutants become effective, Consumers may need an additional capital expenditures to comply with the standards. Consumers is unable to estimate the additional capital expenditures required until the proposed standards are further defined.

Beginning January 2004, an annual return of and on these capital expenditures above depreciation levels are expected to be recoverable, subject to an MPSC prudency hearing, in future rates.

These and other required environmental expenditures may have a material adverse effect upon our financial condition and results of operations.

S-11

Terrorist Activities Could Cause Serious Interruption of Services and Damages to Our Facility

Terrorist threats and activities, particularly with respect to our nuclear facilities, could cause serious interruptions in our service to customers, substantial damages and liability and adverse reactions in the economy affecting the future of our business.

USE OF PROCEEDS

The net proceeds to us from this offering, after deducting underwriting discounts and commissions but before deducting expenses, will be \$. We will apply the net proceeds of this offering to a bridge loan issued by Bank One, NA and Barclays Capital for the purpose of financing Consumers' January 15, 2002 call of \$300 million principal amount of its 6 3/8% First Mortgage Bonds due September 2003.

RATIO OF EARNINGS TO FIXED CHARGES

The ratios of earnings to fixed charges for the twelve months ended September 30, 2001 and for each of the years ended December 31, 1996 through 2000 are as follows:

TWELVE MONTHS ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2001	YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31,			
-----	2000	1999	1998	1997
-----	----	----	----	----

Edgar Filing: CONSUMERS ENERGY CO - Form 424B5

Ratio of earnings to fixed charges(a)..... 2.12 3.06 3.46 3.16(b) 3.31

 (a) For purposes of computing the ratios, earnings represent net income before income taxes, net interest charges and the estimated interest portions of lease rentals, plus distributed income of equity investees less earnings from minority interests of equity investees.

(b) Excludes a cumulative effect of change-in-accounting after-tax gain of \$43 million; if included, ratio would be 3.52.

S-12

CAPITALIZATION

The following table sets forth our capitalization as of September 30, 2001 (1) on an actual basis and (2) as adjusted to reflect the sale of \$___ million of notes in this offering and the application of the net proceeds as described under "Use of Proceeds." This table should be read in conjunction with our consolidated financial statements and related notes included in the incorporated documents as described under "Where You Can Find More Information" in the accompanying prospectus.

	AT SEPTEMBER 30, 2001	
	ACTUAL	AS ADJUSTED
	-----	-----
	(UNAUDITED)	
	(IN MILLIONS)	
Common stockholder's equity.....	\$2,006	
Preferred stock.....	44	
Company-obligated mandatorily redeemable preferred securities of subsidiaries(a).....	520	
Long-term debt:		
% Senior Notes Due March , 200 (b).....	--	
Other long-term debt (excluding current maturities) (b).....	2,452	
	-----	-----
Total long-term debt (c).....	2,452	
Non-current portion of capital leases.....	53	
	-----	-----
Total capitalization.....	5,075	
Current portion of long-term debt and capital leases (c).....	251	
Notes payable.....	155	
	-----	-----
Total capitalization and current portion of long-term debt, capital leases and notes payable.....	\$5,481	
	=====	=====

 (a) Consumers has four wholly-owned statutory business trusts that are consolidated within its financial statements. The primary asset of Consumers Power Company Financing I is \$103 million principal amount of 8.36% subordinated deferrable interest notes due 2015 from Consumers. The primary

Edgar Filing: CONSUMERS ENERGY CO - Form 424B5

asset of Consumers Energy Company Financing II is \$124 million principal amount of 8.20% subordinated deferrable interest notes due 2027 from Consumers. The primary asset of Consumers Energy Company Financing III is \$180 million principal amount of 9.25% subordinated deferrable interest notes due 2029 from Consumers. The primary asset of Consumers Energy Company Financing IV is \$129 million principal amount of 9.00% subordinated deferrable interest notes due 2031 from Consumers.

- (b) Adjusted amount reflects issuance of the % senior notes due . The net proceeds will be used to pay down a bridge loan outstanding issued by Barclays Capital and Bank One, NA as described in "Use of Proceeds" in this Prospectus Supplement.
- (c) In November 2001, Consumers Funding LLC, a special purpose subsidiary of Consumers, issued \$469 million of Securitization Bonds, including 16 million of current portion of long-term debt. See Recent Developments for additional details.

S-13

DESCRIPTION OF THE NOTES

GENERAL

The following information concerning the notes supplements, and should be read in conjunction with, the statements under "Description of Securities -- Debt Securities", "-- Senior Notes", and "Description of First Mortgage Bonds" in the accompanying prospectus. Capitalized terms not defined herein are used as defined in the accompanying prospectus.

The notes will be issued under an Indenture, dated February 1, 1998, between Consumers and JPMorgan Chase Bank, as the Trustee. As of March , 2002, seven series of senior notes, in an aggregate principal amount of \$1,306 million, were outstanding under the Indenture. The following summaries of certain provisions of the Indenture are not complete and are subject to, and qualified in their entirety by, all of the provisions of the Indenture, which is incorporated by reference into this prospectus supplement and accompanying prospectus, and which is available upon request to the Trustee. Capitalized terms used in this section and not otherwise defined in this prospectus supplement or in the accompanying prospectus have the meaning given to them in the Indenture.

ON THE RELEASE DATE (AS DEFINED AND DESCRIBED IN THE ACCOMPANYING PROSPECTUS UNDER "DESCRIPTION OF SECURITIES -- SENIOR NOTES"), THE NOTES WILL CEASE TO BE SECURED BY SENIOR NOTE FIRST MORTGAGE BONDS, WILL BECOME UNSECURED GENERAL OBLIGATIONS OF CONSUMERS AND WILL RANK ON A PARITY WITH OTHER UNSECURED INDEBTEDNESS OF CONSUMERS.

INTEREST

The notes will bear interest at a rate of % per year, payable in arrears on and of each year and at the date of maturity. Interest will be paid to the person in whose name the notes are registered at the close of business on the first calendar day of the month in which the interest payment date occurs. The initial interest payment date will be , 2002, for the notes. Interest payable on any interest payment date or on the date of maturity will be the amount of interest accrued from and including the date of original issuance or from and including the most recent interest payment date on which interest has been paid or duly made available for payment to but excluding such interest payment date or the date of maturity, as the case may be. So long as the notes are in book-entry form, principal of and

Edgar Filing: CONSUMERS ENERGY CO - Form 424B5

interest on the notes will be payable, and the notes may be transferred, only through the facilities of DTC.

Interest Rate Adjustment. The interest rate on the notes will be subject to adjustment if either of the ratings assigned to the notes by S&P or by Moody's becomes non-investment grade. S&P has assigned the notes a rating of BBB+ and Moody's has assigned the notes a rating of Baa3. If the rating falls below Baa3 by Moody's or below BBB- by S&P, the calculation agent will adjust the interest rate on the notes in accordance with the table below for each respective rating agency. In such case, the adjusted interest rate per annum for the notes would be the sum of % and the sum of each of the Moody's and S&P adjustment amounts set forth below effective on the next interest payment date. If on any date subsequent to a step-up in the interest rate, a new ratings change by Moody's or S&P causes the rating assigned by that rating agency to the notes to rise to Baa3 or above, or to BBB- or above, as the case may be, the interest payable on the notes will be decreased by the applicable adjustment amount set forth below effective on the next interest payment date. There is no limit on the number of times the interest rate payable on the notes can be adjusted up or down based on ratings changes by Moody's and S&P during the life of the notes.

MOODY'S RATING	MOODY'S ADJUSTMENT AMOUNT	S&P RATING	S&P ADJUSTMENT AMOUNT
Baa1 or lower	0.50%	BB+ or lower	0.50%

S-14

Rounding. All amounts used in or resulting from that calculation will be rounded to the nearest cent (with one-half cent being rounded upwards).

Trustee, Paying Agent. JPMorgan Chase Bank is the trustee, paying agent and the calculation agent. The calculation agent will provide the proper interest rate in the event of an interest rate adjustment.

OPTIONAL REDEMPTION

The notes will be redeemable as a whole or in part, at our option, at any time, at a redemption price equal to the greater of (1) 100% of the principal amount of such notes and (2) the sum of the present values of the Remaining Scheduled Payments of principal and interest on the notes discounted to the redemption date semiannually (assuming a 360-day year consisting of twelve 30-day months) at the Treasury Rate (as defined below), plus basis points, plus in either case accrued interest on the notes to the date of redemption.

"Treasury Rate" means, with respect to any redemption date, the rate per annum equal to the semiannual equivalent yield to maturity of the Comparable Treasury Issue, assuming a price for the Comparable Treasury Issue (expressed as a percentage of its principal amount) equal to the Comparable Treasury Price for such redemption date.

"Comparable Treasury Issue" means the United States Treasury security selected by an Independent Investment Banker as having a maturity comparable to the remaining term of the notes to be redeemed that would be used, at the time of selection and in accordance with customary financial practice, in pricing new issues of corporate debt securities of comparable maturity to the remaining term of such notes.

Edgar Filing: CONSUMERS ENERGY CO - Form 424B5

"Independent Investment Banker" means either Banc One Capital Markets, Inc. or Barclays Capital or, if such firms are unwilling or unable to select the comparable Treasury Issues, an independent banking institution of national standing selected by us.

"Comparable Treasury Price" means, with respect to any redemption date, (1) the average of the bid and asked prices for the Comparable Treasury Issue (expressed in each case as a percentage of its principal amount) on the third business day preceding such redemption date, as set forth in the daily statistical release (or any successor release) published by the Federal Reserve Bank of New York and designated "Composite 3:30 p.m. Quotations for U.S. Government Securities" or (2) if such release (or any successor release) is not published or does not contain such prices on such business day, (a) the average of the Reference Treasury Dealer Quotations for such redemption date, after excluding the highest and lowest such Reference Treasury Dealer Quotations, or (b) if the Company obtains fewer than four such Reference Treasury Dealer Quotations, the average of all such quotations.

"Reference Treasury Dealer Quotations" means, with respect to each Reference Treasury Dealer and any redemption date, the average, as determined by the Company, of the bid and asked prices for the Comparable Treasury Issue (expressed in each case as a percentage of its principal amount) quoted in writing to the Company by such Reference Treasury Dealer at 5:00 p.m. on the third business day preceding such redemption date.

"Reference Treasury Dealer" means each of Banc One Capital Markets, Inc. and Barclays Capital and their respective successors; provided, however, that if any of the foregoing shall cease to be a primary U.S. Government Securities dealer in New York City (a "Primary Treasury Dealer"), we shall replace that former dealer with another Primary Treasury Dealer.

"Remaining Scheduled Payments" means, with respect to each note to be redeemed, the remaining scheduled payments of the principal thereof and interest thereon that would be due after

S-15

the related redemption date but for such redemption; provided, however, that, if that redemption date is prior to an interest payment date with respect to such note, the amount of the next succeeding scheduled interest payment thereon will be reduced by the amount of interest accrued thereon to that redemption date.

We will mail notice of any redemption between 30 days and 60 days before the redemption date to each holder of the debt securities to be redeemed.

REGISTRATION, TRANSFER AND EXCHANGE

The notes will initially be issued in the form of one or more global notes, in registered form, without coupons, in denominations of \$1,000 and any integral multiple thereof as described under "Book-Entry Only Issuance -- The Depository Trust Company." The global notes will be registered in the name of the nominee of DTC. Except as described under "Book-Entry Only Issuance -- The Depository Trust Company," owners of beneficial interests in a global note will not be entitled to have notes registered in their names, will not receive or be entitled to receive physical delivery of any such note and will not be considered the registered holder thereof under the Indenture.

The notes may be presented for exchange or registration of transfer (duly endorsed or accompanied by a duly executed written instrument of transfer), at the office of the trustee maintained in the Borough of Manhattan, the City of

Edgar Filing: CONSUMERS ENERGY CO - Form 424B5

New York, without service charge but upon payment of any taxes and other governmental charges as described in the Indenture. The transfer or exchange will be effected upon Consumers and the trustee being satisfied with the documents of title and indemnity of the person making the request.

CONCERNING THE TRUSTEE

Consumers and its affiliates maintain depository and other normal banking relationships with JPMorgan Chase Bank. JPMorgan Chase Bank is also a lender to Consumers and its affiliates.

BOOK-ENTRY ONLY ISSUANCE -- THE DEPOSITORY TRUST COMPANY

DTC will act as the initial securities depository for the notes. The notes will be issued only as fully registered securities registered in the name of Cede & Co., DTC's nominee or such other name as may be requested by an authorized representative of DTC. One fully registered global note certificate will be issued, representing in the aggregate the total principal amount of notes, and will be deposited with, or on behalf of, DTC (the "Global Note").

DTC is a limited-purpose trust company organized under the New York Banking Law, a "banking organization" within the meaning of the New York Banking Law, a member of the Federal Reserve System, a "clearing corporation" within the meaning of the New York Uniform Commercial Code, and a "clearing agency" registered pursuant to the provisions of Section 17A of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. DTC holds securities that its participants ("Direct Participants") deposit with DTC. DTC also facilitates the settlement among Direct Participants of securities transactions, such as transfers and pledges, in deposited securities through electronic computerized book-entry changes in Direct Participant's accounts, thereby eliminating the need for physical movement of securities certificates. Direct Participants include securities brokers and dealers, banks, trust companies, clearing corporations and certain other organizations. DTC is owned by a number of its Direct Participants and by the New York Stock Exchange, Inc., the American Stock Exchange, LLC, and the National Association of Securities Dealers, Inc. Access to the DTC system is also available to others such as securities brokers and dealers, banks and trust companies that clear through or maintain a custodial relationship with a Direct Participant, either directly or indirectly ("Indirect Participants"). The rules applicable to DTC and its Direct and Indirect Participants are on file with the SEC.

S-16

Purchases of notes within the DTC system must be made by or through Direct Participants, which will receive a credit for the notes on DTC's records. The ownership interest of each actual purchaser of notes (such purchaser, or the person to whom such purchaser conveys his or her ownership interest, a "Beneficial Owner") is in turn to be recorded on the Direct and Indirect Participants' records. Beneficial Owners will not receive written confirmation from DTC of their purchases, but Beneficial Owners are expected to receive written confirmations providing details of the transactions, as well as periodic statements of their holdings, from the Direct or Indirect Participants through which the Beneficial Owners purchased notes. Transfers of ownership interests in the notes are to be accomplished by entries made on the books of Direct and Indirect Participants acting on behalf of Beneficial Owners. Beneficial Owners will not receive certificates representing their ownership interests in the notes, except in the event that use of the book-entry system for the notes is discontinued, unless the Company determines that Beneficial Owners may exchange their ownership interests for such certificates or there shall have occurred an Event of Default.

Edgar Filing: CONSUMERS ENERGY CO - Form 424B5

To facilitate subsequent transfers, all notes deposited by Direct Participants with DTC are registered in the name of DTC's partnership nominee, Cede & Co. or such other name as may be requested by an authorized representative of DTC. The deposit of the notes with DTC and their registration in the name of Cede & Co. or such other nominee do not affect any change in beneficial ownership. DTC has no knowledge of the actual Beneficial Owners of the notes. DTC's records reflect only the identity of the Direct Participants to whose accounts such notes are credited, which may or may not be the Beneficial Owners. The Direct and Indirect Participants will remain responsible for keeping account of their holdings on behalf of their customers.

Conveyance of notices and other communications by DTC to Direct Participants, by Direct Participants to Indirect Participants, and by Direct Participants and Indirect Participants to Beneficial Owners will be governed by arrangements among them, subject to any statutory or regulatory requirements as may be in effect from time to time.

Redemption notices shall be sent to DTC. If less than all of the notes are being redeemed, DTC's practice is to determine by lot the amount of the interest of each Direct Participant in such issue to be redeemed.

Although voting with respect to the notes is limited, in those cases where a vote is required, neither DTC nor Cede & Co. (nor such other DTC nominee) will itself consent or vote with respect to the notes. Under its usual procedures, DTC mails an Omnibus Proxy to the Company as soon as possible after the record date. The Omnibus Proxy assigns Cede & Co.'s consenting or voting rights to those Direct Participants to whose accounts the notes are credited on the record date (identified in a listing attached to the Omnibus Proxy).

Payments on the notes will be made to Cede & Co. or such other nominee as may be requested by an authorized representative of DTC. DTC's practice is to credit Direct Participants' accounts upon DTC's receipt of funds and corresponding detail information from the Company on the interest payment date in accordance with their respective holdings shown on DTC's records. Payments by Participants to Beneficial Owners will be governed by standing instructions and customary practices, as is the case with securities held for the account of customers registered in "street name," and will be the responsibility of such Participant and not of DTC or the Company, subject to any statutory or regulatory requirements as may be in effect from time to time. Payment to Cede & Co. (or such other nominee as may be requested by an authorized representative of DTC) is the responsibility of the Company, disbursement of such payments to Direct Participants is the responsibility of DTC, and disbursement of such payments to the Beneficial Owners is the responsibility of Direct and Indirect Participants.

S-17

Except as provided herein, a Beneficial Owner of an interest in a Global Note will not be entitled to receive physical delivery of notes. Accordingly, each Beneficial Owner must rely on the procedures of DTC to exercise any rights under the notes. The laws of some jurisdictions require that certain purchasers of securities take physical delivery of securities in definitive form. Such laws may impair the ability to transfer beneficial interests in a Global Note.

DTC may discontinue providing its services as securities depository with respect to the notes at any time by giving reasonable notice to the Company. Under such circumstances, in the event that a successor securities depository is not obtained, notes certificates will be printed and delivered to the holders of record. Additionally, the Company may decide to discontinue use of the system of book-entry transfers through DTC (or a successor depository) with respect to the notes. In that event, certificates for the notes will be printed and delivered

to the holders of record.

S-18

DESCRIPTION OF FIRST MORTGAGE BONDS

GENERAL

The following information concerning the senior note first mortgage bonds supplements, and should be read in conjunction with, the statements under "Description of Securities -- Debt Securities" and "-- Description of First Mortgage Bonds" in the accompanying prospectus. Capitalized terms not defined herein are used as defined in the accompanying prospectus.

The senior note first mortgage bonds are to be issued under an Indenture dated as of September 1, 1945, between Consumers and JP Morgan Chase Bank (formerly "The Chase Manhattan Bank"), as the mortgage trustee, as amended and supplemented by various supplemental indentures and as supplemented by the 80th Supplemental Indenture dated as of March , 2002 providing for the series of senior note first mortgage bonds relating to the notes (the "Mortgage"). In connection with the change of the state of incorporation from Maine to Michigan in 1968, Consumers succeeded to, and was substituted for, the Maine corporation under the Mortgage. At January 1, 2002, two series of first mortgage bonds in an aggregate principal amount of approximately \$508 million were outstanding under the Mortgage, excluding seven series of first mortgage bonds in an approximate aggregate principal amount of \$1,306 million to secure outstanding senior notes and three series of first mortgage bonds in an approximate aggregate principal amount of \$126 million to secure outstanding pollution control revenue bonds.

The statements herein concerning the senior note first mortgage bonds and the Mortgage are an outline and do not purport to be complete and are subject to, and qualified in their entirety by, all of the provisions of the Mortgage, which is incorporated herein by this reference. They make use of defined terms and are qualified in their entirety by express reference to the cited sections and articles of the Mortgage a copy of which will be available upon request to the mortgage trustee.

The senior note first mortgage bonds will be immediately delivered to and registered in the name of the trustee. The senior note first mortgage bonds will be issued as security for the notes and will secure the notes until the release date.

REDEMPTION PROVISIONS

The senior note first mortgage bonds, issued as security for the notes, will be redeemed on the respective dates and in the respective principal amounts that correspond to the redemption dates for, and the principal amounts to be redeemed of, the notes. The senior note first mortgage bonds are not redeemable by operation of the maintenance or replacement provisions of the Mortgage, or with the proceeds of released property.

In the event of default under the Indenture and acceleration of the notes, the senior note first mortgage bonds will be immediately redeemable in whole, upon demand of the trustee, at a redemption price of 100% of the principal amount thereof, together with accrued interest to the redemption date. See "Description of Securities -- Senior Notes -- Events of Default" in the accompanying prospectus.

SINKING FUND REQUIREMENT

The senior note first mortgage bonds will not have the benefit of any

Edgar Filing: CONSUMERS ENERGY CO - Form 424B5

sinking fund.

ISSUANCE OF ADDITIONAL FIRST MORTGAGE BONDS

Additional bonds may be issued under the Mortgage up to 60% of unfunded net property additions or against the deposit of an equal amount of cash, if, for any period of twelve consecutive months within the fifteen preceding calendar months the net earnings of Consumers (before income

S-19

or excess profit taxes) shall have been at least twice the interest requirement for one year on all bonds outstanding and to be issued and on indebtedness of prior or equal rank. Additional bonds may also be issued to refund bonds outstanding under the Mortgage. Deposited cash may be applied to the retirement of bonds or be withdrawn in an amount equal to the principal amount of bonds which may be issued on the basis of unfunded net property additions. As of November 30, 2001, unfunded net property additions were \$3.9 billion. Consumers could issue \$2.3 billion of additional bonds on the basis of such property additions. In addition, as of January 30, 2002, Consumers could issue \$714 million of additional bonds on the basis of bonds previously retired.

The senior note first mortgage bonds are to be issued upon the basis of retired bonds.

LIMITATIONS ON DIVIDENDS

The 80th Supplemental Indenture does not restrict Consumers' ability to pay dividends on its common stock.

CONCERNING THE MORTGAGE TRUSTEE

Consumers and its affiliates maintain depository and other normal banking relationships with JPMorgan Chase Bank. JPMorgan Chase Bank is also a lender to Consumers and its affiliates.

S-20

RATINGS

S&P has assigned the notes a rating of BBB+, Moody's has assigned the notes a rating of Baa3 and Fitch has assigned the notes a rating of BBB+. Such ratings reflect only the views of such ratings agencies, and do not constitute a recommendation to buy, sell or hold securities. In general, ratings address credit risk. Each rating should be evaluated independently of any other rating. An explanation of the significance of such ratings may be obtained only from such rating agencies at the following addresses: Moody's Investors Service, Inc., 99 Church Street, New York, New York 10007; Standard & Poor's, 25 Broadway, New York, New York 10004; and Fitch, Inc., 1 State Street Plaza, New York, New York 10004. The security rating may be subject to revision or withdrawal at any time by the assigning rating organization, and, accordingly, there can be no assurance that such ratings will remain in effect for any period of time or that they will not be revised downward or withdrawn entirely by the rating agencies if, in their judgment, circumstances warrant. Neither the Company nor the underwriters have undertaken any responsibility to oppose any proposed downward revision or withdrawal of a rating on the notes. Any such downward revision or withdrawal of such ratings may have an adverse effect on the market price of the notes.

S-21

Edgar Filing: CONSUMERS ENERGY CO - Form 424B5

UNDERWRITING

Under the terms and subject to the conditions contained in an underwriting agreement dated the date of this prospectus supplement, the underwriters named below have severally agreed to purchase, and Consumers has agreed to sell to them, severally, the principal amount of notes indicated below:

UNDERWRITERS -----	PRINCIPAL AMOUNT -----
Banc One Capital Markets, Inc.....	\$--
Barclays Capital Inc.....	--
Tokyo-Mitsubishi International plc.....	--

Total.....	\$-- ===

The underwriters are offering the notes subject to their acceptance of the notes. In the underwriting agreement, the several underwriters have agreed, subject to the terms and conditions set forth in that agreement, to purchase all of the notes offered by this prospectus supplement. In the event of default by an underwriter, the underwriting agreement provides that, in certain circumstances, the purchase commitments of the non-defaulting underwriters may be increased or the underwriting agreement may be terminated.

The underwriters propose initially to offer the notes to the public at the public offering price set forth on the cover of this prospectus supplement and to certain dealers at such price less a concession not in excess of % of the principal amount of the notes. The underwriters may allow, and such dealers may reallow, a discount not in excess of % of the principal amount of the notes to certain other dealers. After the initial public offering, the public offering price, concession and discount may be changed.

The notes are a new issue of securities with no established trading market. Consumers does not intend to apply for listing the notes on any securities exchange or for quotation through any inter-dealer quotation system. The underwriters have advised Consumers that they presently intend to make a market in the notes as permitted by applicable laws and regulations. The underwriters are not obligated, however, to make a market in any of the notes and any such market making may be discontinued at any time without notice at the discretion of the underwriters. No assurances can be given as to the liquidity of, or the trading market for, the notes.

In order to facilitate the offering of the notes, the underwriters may engage in transactions that stabilize, maintain or otherwise affect the price of the notes. Specifically, the underwriters may over-allot in connection with the offering, creating a short position in the notes for their own account. In addition, to cover over-allotments or to stabilize the price of the notes, the underwriters may bid for, and purchase, notes in the open market. Finally, the underwriting syndicate may reclaim selling concessions allowed to an underwriter or a dealer for distributing the notes in the offering, if the syndicate repurchases previously distributed notes in transactions to cover syndicate short positions, in stabilization transactions or otherwise. Any of these activities may stabilize or maintain the market price of the notes above independent market levels. The underwriters are not required to engage in these activities and may end any of these activities at any time.

Edgar Filing: CONSUMERS ENERGY CO - Form 424B5

The underwriters and certain of their affiliates have provided, and may continue to provide, investment banking and commercial lending services to Consumers. Because affiliates of Banc One Capital Markets, Inc. and Barclays Capital are receiving more than 10% of the net proceeds from this offering, it is being conducted in accordance with Rule 2710(c)(8) of the National Association of Securities Dealers.

S-22

Mr. William T. McCormick, Jr. is a director of BANK ONE CORPORATION, of which Banc One Capital Markets, Inc. is a direct wholly-owned subsidiary. He is also a director of both CMS Energy Corporation, the parent company of Consumers, and Consumers.

Consumers has agreed to indemnify the underwriters against certain liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act.

LEGAL OPINIONS

Michael D. Van Hemert, Deputy General Counsel for CMS Energy Corporation, the parent company of Consumers, will render opinions as to the legality of the notes for Consumers. As of March 1, 2002, Mr. Van Hemert beneficially owned approximately 14,000 shares of CMS Energy common stock.

Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP, New York, New York will pass upon certain legal matters with respect to the notes for the underwriters. As of March 1, 2002, an attorney currently employed by Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP and formerly employed by CMS Energy, owned approximately 51,734 shares of CMS Energy common stock, 10 shares of Consumers \$4.50 Series preferred stock, \$100 par value, and \$50,000 aggregate principal amount of certain debt securities issued by CMS Energy. Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP has represented from time to time CMS Energy, the Company and their affiliates.

EXPERTS

The consolidated financial statements and schedule of Consumers as of December 31, 2000 and 1999, and for each of the three years in the period ended December 31, 2000, incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement, have been audited by Arthur Andersen LLP, independent public accountants, as indicated in their reports with respect thereto, and are included herein in reliance upon the authority of said firm as experts in accounting and auditing in giving said reports.

With respect to the unaudited interim consolidated financial information for the periods ended March 31, June 30, and September 30, 2001 and 2000, Arthur Andersen LLP has applied limited procedures in accordance with professional standards for a review of such information. However, their separate reports thereon state that they did not audit and they did not express an opinion on that interim consolidated financial information. Accordingly, the degree of reliance on their report on that information should be restricted in light of the limited nature of the review procedures applied. In addition, the accountants are not subject to the liability provisions of Section 11 of the Securities Act, for their reports on the unaudited interim consolidated financial information because those reports are not a "report" or "part" of the registration statement prepared or certified by the accountants within the meaning of Sections 7 and 11 of the Securities Act.

Future consolidated financial statements of Consumers and the reports thereon of Arthur Andersen LLP also will be incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement in reliance upon the authority of that firm as experts in giving those reports to the extent that said firm has audited said consolidated

Edgar Filing: CONSUMERS ENERGY CO - Form 424B5

financial statements and consented to the use of their reports thereon.

S-23

CONSUMERS ENERGY COMPANY

SENIOR NOTES
SUBORDINATED DEBENTURES
GUARANTEES

AND

CONSUMERS ENERGY COMPANY FINANCING V
CONSUMERS ENERGY COMPANY FINANCING VI
TRUST PREFERRED SECURITIES
GUARANTEED TO THE EXTENT SET FORTH HEREIN BY
CONSUMERS ENERGY COMPANY

OFFERING PRICE: \$500,000,000

We may offer, from time to time:

- secured senior debt, unsecured senior debt or unsecured subordinated debt securities consisting of debentures, notes and other unsecured evidence of indebtedness; and
- guarantees of Consumers Energy Company with respect to trust preferred securities of Consumers Energy Company Financing V and Consumers Energy Company Financing VI.

For each type of securities listed above, the amount, price and terms will be determined at or prior to the time of sale.

Consumers Energy Company Financing V and Consumers Energy Company Financing VI, which are Delaware business trusts, may offer trust preferred securities. The trust preferred securities represent preferred undivided beneficial interests in the assets of Consumers Energy Company Financing V and Consumers Energy Company Financing VI in amounts, at prices and on terms to be determined at or prior to the time of sale.

We will provide the specific terms of these securities in an accompanying prospectus supplement or supplements. You should read this prospectus and the accompanying prospectus supplement or supplements carefully before you invest.

Neither the Securities and Exchange Commission nor any state securities commission has approved or disapproved of these securities or passed upon the accuracy or adequacy of this prospectus. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

We intend to sell these securities through underwriters, dealers, agents or directly to a limited number of purchasers. The names of, and any securities to be purchased by or through, these parties, the compensation of these parties and other special terms in connection with the offering and sale of these securities will be provided in the related prospectus supplement or supplements.

This prospectus may not be used to consummate sales of any of these securities unless accompanied by a prospectus supplement.

The date of the prospectus is November 21, 2001

Edgar Filing: CONSUMERS ENERGY CO - Form 424B5

You should rely only on the information contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus. We have not, and the underwriters have not, authorized any person to provide you with different information. If anyone provides you with different or inconsistent information, you should not rely on it. We are not, and the underwriters are not, making an offer to sell these securities in any jurisdiction where the offer or sale is not permitted. You should assume that the information appearing in this prospectus is accurate as of the date on the front cover of this prospectus. Consumers' business, financial condition, results of operations and prospects may have changed since such dates.

WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION

Consumers files reports, proxy statements and other information with the Securities and Exchange Commission. Our SEC filings are also available over the Internet at the SEC's web site at <http://www.sec.gov>. You may also read and copy any document it files at the SEC's public reference room at 450 Fifth Street N.W., Room 1024, Washington, D.C. 20549. Please call the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330 for more information on the public reference rooms and their copy charges. You may also inspect our SEC reports and other information at the New York Stock Exchange, 20 Broad Street, New York, New York 10005.

Consumers is "incorporating by reference" information into this prospectus. This means that Consumers is disclosing important information by referring to another document filed separately with the SEC. The information incorporated by reference is deemed to be part of this prospectus, except for any information superceded by information in this prospectus. This prospectus incorporates by reference the documents set forth that Consumers has previously filed with the SEC. These documents contain important information about Consumers and its finances.

SEC FILINGS (FILE NO. 1-5611)	PERIOD/DATE
- Annual Report on Form 10-K.....	Year ended December 31, 2000
- Quarterly Reports of Form 10-Q.....	Quarters ended March 31, 2001, June 30, 2001, and September 30, 2001
- Current Reports on Form 8-K.....	Filed February 23, 2001, June 22, 2001, July 12, 2001, August 1, 2001, August 31, 2001, and October 26, 2001

The documents filed by Consumers with the SEC pursuant to Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 and 15(d) of the Exchange Act subsequent to the date of this prospectus, but prior to its termination, are also incorporated by reference into this prospectus.

Consumers will provide, upon your oral or written request, a copy of any or all of the information that has been incorporated by reference in the prospectus but not delivered with the prospectus. You may request a copy of these filings at no cost, by writing or telephoning Consumers at the following address:

Consumers Energy Company
212 West Michigan Avenue
Jackson, Michigan 49201
Tel: (517) 788-0550
Attention: Office of the Secretary

You should rely only on the information contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus. Consumers has not authorized anyone to provide you

Edgar Filing: CONSUMERS ENERGY CO - Form 424B5

with information that is different from this information.

Separate financial statements of the trusts have not been included in this prospectus. Consumers and the trusts do not consider such financial statements to be helpful because:

- Consumers beneficially owns directly or indirectly all of the undivided beneficial interests in the assets of the trusts (other than the beneficial interests represented by the trust preferred securities).

2

See "Consumers Energy Company Trusts," "Description of Securities -- Trust Preferred Securities" and "Description of Securities -- The Guarantees."

- Consumers will guarantee the trust preferred securities such that the holders of the trust preferred securities, with respect to the payment of distributions and amounts upon liquidation, dissolution and winding-up, are at least in the same position with regard to the assets of Consumers as a preferred stockholder of Consumers.
- in future filings under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, an audited footnote to Consumers' annual financial statements will state that the trusts are wholly-owned by Consumers, that the sole assets of the trusts are the senior notes or the subordinated debentures of Consumers having a specified total principal amount, and, considered together, the back-up undertakings, including the guarantees, constitute a full and unconditional guarantee by Consumers of the trusts' obligations under the trust preferred securities issued by the trusts.
- each trust is a newly created special purpose entity, has no operating history, no independent operations and is not engaged in, and does not propose to engage in, any activity other than as described under "Consumers Energy Company Trusts."

CONSUMERS ENERGY COMPANY

Consumers, formed in Michigan in 1968, is the successor to a corporation organized in Maine in 1910 that conducted business in Michigan from 1915 to 1968.

Consumers is a public utility that provides natural gas and/or electricity to almost six million of the approximately 9.9 million residents in Michigan's lower peninsula. Consumers' electric operations include the generation, purchase, transmission, distribution, and sale of electricity. Consumers provides electric services in 61 of the 68 counties of Michigan's lower peninsula. In 2000, Consumers' electric utility owned and operated 31 electric generating plants with an aggregate of 6,437 MW of capacity and served 1.69 million customers in Michigan's lower peninsula. Consumers' gas utility operations purchase, transport, store, distribute and sell natural gas. As of December 31, 2000, it was authorized to provide service in 54 of the 68 counties in Michigan's lower peninsula. Consumers' gas utility owned and operated over 24,383 miles of distribution mains and 1,108 miles of transmission lines throughout Michigan's lower peninsula, providing natural gas to 1.6 million customers. In 2000, Consumers' consolidated operating revenue was \$3.935 billion. Of Consumers' operating revenue, 68% was generated from its electric utility business, 30% from its gas utility business, and 2% from its non-utility business.

Consumers is subject to regulation by various federal, state, local and

Edgar Filing: CONSUMERS ENERGY CO - Form 424B5

foreign governmental agencies. Consumers is subject to the jurisdiction of the Michigan Public Service Commission, which regulates public utilities in Michigan with respect to retail utility rates, accounting, utility services, certain facilities and various other matters. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission ("FERC") also has jurisdiction under the Natural Gas Act over Michigan Gas Storage Company, a subsidiary of Consumers, relating, among other things, to the construction of facilities and to service provided and rates charged by Michigan Gas Storage. Some of Consumers' gas business is also subject to regulation of FERC, including a blanket transportation tariff pursuant to which Consumers can transport gas in interstate commerce. Certain of Consumers' electric operations are also subject to regulation by FERC, including compliance with FERC's accounting rules and other regulations applicable to "public utilities" and "licensees," the transmission of electric energy in interstate commerce and the rates and charges for the sale of electric energy at wholesale and transmission of electric energy in interstate commerce, the consummation of certain mergers, the sale of certain facilities, the construction, operation and maintenance of hydroelectric projects and the issuance of securities, as provided by the Federal Power Act. Consumers is subject to the jurisdiction of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission ("NRC") with respect to the design, construction and operation of its Palisades nuclear power plant and the decommissioning of its closed Big Rock power plant. Consumers is also subject to NRC jurisdiction with respect to certain other uses of nuclear material.

3

The foregoing information concerning Consumers does not purport to be comprehensive. For additional information concerning Consumers' business and affairs, including their capital requirements and external financing plans, pending legal and regulatory proceedings and descriptions of certain laws and regulations to which those companies are subject, prospective purchasers should refer to the Incorporated Documents. See "Where You Can Find More Information" above.

The address of the principal executive offices of Consumers Energy Company is 212 West Michigan Avenue, Jackson, Michigan 49201. Its telephone number is (517) 788-0550.

CONSUMERS ENERGY COMPANY TRUSTS

Consumers Energy Company Financing V and Consumers Energy Company Financing VI are statutory business trusts created under the Delaware Business Trust Act by way of:

- Declaration of Trust executed by Consumers, as sponsor, and the trustees of the trusts and
- the filing of certificates of trust with the Secretary of State of the State of Delaware.

At the time of public issuance of the trust preferred securities, each Declaration of Trust will be amended and restated in its entirety and will be qualified as an indenture under the Trust Indenture Act of 1939, as amended. Consumers will directly or indirectly acquire common securities of each trust in a total liquidation amount of at least 3% of the total capital of the trust. Each trust exists for the exclusive purposes of:

- issuing the trust preferred securities and common securities representing undivided beneficial interests in the assets of the trust;
- investing the gross proceeds of the common securities and the trust preferred securities in the senior notes or subordinated debentures; and

Edgar Filing: CONSUMERS ENERGY CO - Form 424B5

- engaging in only those other activities necessary or incidental thereto.

Each trust has a term of approximately 55 years, but may terminate earlier as provided in the amended and restated Declaration of Trust.

The proceeds from the offering of the trust preferred securities and the sale of the common securities may be used by each trust to purchase from Consumers senior notes or subordinated debentures in a total principal amount equal to the total liquidation preference of the common securities and the trust preferred securities. The Consumers notes or debentures would bear interest at an annual rate equal to the annual distribution rate of the common securities and the trust preferred securities and would have certain redemption terms that correspond to the redemption terms for the common securities and the trust preferred securities. The senior notes will rank on an equal basis with all other unsecured debt of Consumers except subordinated debt. The subordinated debentures will rank subordinate in right of payment to all of Consumers' senior indebtedness (as defined in this prospectus). Distributions on the common securities and the trust preferred securities may not be made unless each trust receives corresponding interest payments on the senior notes or the subordinated debentures from Consumers. Consumers will irrevocably guarantee, on a senior or subordinated basis, as applicable, and to the extent set forth in the guarantee, with respect to each of the common securities and the trust preferred securities, the payment of distributions, the redemption price, including all accrued or deferred and unpaid distributions, and payment on liquidation, but only to the extent of funds on hand. Each guarantee will be unsecured and will be either equal to or subordinate to, as applicable, all senior indebtedness, of Consumers. Upon the occurrence of certain events (subject to the conditions to be described in an accompanying prospectus supplement) each trust may be liquidated and the holders of the common securities and the trust preferred securities could receive senior notes or subordinated debentures in lieu of any liquidating cash distribution.

Pursuant to the amended and restated Declaration of Trust, the number of trustees of each trust will initially be four. Two of the trustees will be persons who are employees or officers of or who are affiliated

4

with Consumers and will be referred to as the regular trustees. The third trustee will be a financial institution that is unaffiliated with Consumers, which trustee will serve as property trustee under the applicable amended and restated Declaration of Trust and as indenture trustee for the purposes of compliance with the provisions of the Trust Indenture Act of 1939. Initially, The Bank of New York, a New York banking corporation, will be the property trustee until removed or replaced by the holder of the common securities. For the purpose of compliance with the provisions of the Trust Indenture Act of 1939, The Bank of New York will also act as guarantee trustee. The fourth trustee, The Bank of New York (Delaware), will act as the Delaware trustee for the purposes of the Delaware Business Trust Act, until removed or replaced by the holder of the common securities. See "Description of Securities -- The Guarantees."

The property trustee will hold title to the applicable senior notes or subordinated debenture for the benefit of the holders of the common securities and the trust preferred securities and the property trustee will have the power to exercise all rights, powers and privileges under the applicable indentures as the holder of the senior notes or subordinated debenture. In addition, the property trustee will maintain exclusive control of a segregated non-interest bearing bank account to hold all payments made in respect of the senior notes or subordinated debentures for the benefit of the holders of the common securities and the trust preferred securities. The property trustee will make payments of

Edgar Filing: CONSUMERS ENERGY CO - Form 424B5

distributions and payments on liquidation, redemption and otherwise to the holders of the common securities and the trust preferred securities out of funds from the segregated non-interest bearing bank account. The guarantee trustee will hold the guarantees for the benefit of the holders of the common securities and the trust preferred securities. Consumers, as the direct or indirect holder of all the common securities, will have the right to appoint, remove or replace any of the trustees. Consumers will also have the right to increase or decrease the number of trustees, as long as the number of trustees shall be at least three, a majority of which shall be regular trustees. Consumers will pay all fees and expenses related to the trusts and the offering of the common securities and the trust preferred securities.

The rights of the holders of the trust preferred securities, including economic rights, rights to information and voting rights, are set forth in the applicable amended and restated Declaration of Trust, the Delaware Business Trust Act and the Trust Indenture Act of 1939.

The trustee for each trust in the State of Delaware is The Bank of New York (Delaware), White Clay Center, Route 273, Newark, Delaware 19711.

The principal place of business of each trust will be c/o Consumers Energy Company, 212 West Michigan Avenue, Jackson, Michigan 49201.

USE OF PROCEEDS

The proceeds received by each of the trusts from the sale of its trust preferred securities or the common securities will be invested in the senior notes or the subordinated debentures. As will be more specifically set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement, Consumers will use those borrowed amounts and the net proceeds from the sale of senior notes or subordinated debentures offered hereby for its general corporate purposes, including capital expenditures, investment in subsidiaries, working capital and repayment of debt. Any specific allocation of the proceeds to a particular purpose that has been made at the date of any prospectus supplement will be described in the appropriate prospectus supplement.

5

RATIO OF EARNINGS TO FIXED CHARGES AND
RATIO OF EARNINGS TO FIXED CHARGES AND PREFERRED STOCK DIVIDENDS

The ratios of earnings to fixed charges and the ratios of earnings to fixed charges and preferred stock dividends for each of the years ended December 31, 1996 through 2000 and the nine months ended September 30, 2001 and 2000, are as follows:

	NINE MONTHS ENDED SEPTEMBER 30,		YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31				
	2001	2000	2000	1999	1998	1997	1996
Ratio of earnings to:(a)							
Fixed charges.....	1.65	2.89	3.06	3.46	3.16 (b)	3.31	3.27
Fixed charges & preferred stock dividends....	1.37	2.41	2.57	2.99	2.52 (c)	2.61	2.54

Edgar Filing: CONSUMERS ENERGY CO - Form 424B5

- (a) For purposes of computing the ratio, earnings represent net income before income taxes, net interest charges and the estimated interest portions of lease rentals, plus distributed income of equity investees less earnings from minority interests of equity investees. Earnings for the ratio of earnings to fixed charges and preferred stock dividends also includes the amount required to pay distributions on preferred securities and the amount of pretax earnings required to pay the dividends on outstanding preferred stock.
- (b) Excludes a cumulative effect of change in accounting after-tax gain of \$43 million; if included, ratio would be 3.52.
- (c) Excludes a cumulative effect of change in accounting after-tax gain of \$43 million; if included, ratio would be 2.81.

6

DESCRIPTION OF SECURITIES

INTRODUCTION

Specific terms of the debt securities consisting of the senior notes and subordinated debentures, or the trust preferred securities, or any combination of these securities, the irrevocable guarantees of Consumers, with respect to each of the common securities and the preferred securities of the trust, for which this prospectus is being delivered, will be set forth in an accompanying prospectus supplement or supplements. The prospectus supplement will set forth with regard to the particular offered securities, without limitation, the following:

- in the case of debt securities, the designation, total principal amount, denomination, maturity, premium, if any, any exchange, conversion, redemption or sinking fund provisions, interest rate (which may be fixed or variable), the time or method of calculating interest payments, the right of Consumers, if any, to defer payment or interest on the debt securities and the maximum length of such deferral, put options, if any, public offering price, ranking, any listing on a securities exchange and other specific terms of the offering; and
- in the case of trust preferred securities, the designation, number of shares, liquidation preference per security, initial public offering price, any listing on a securities exchange, dividend rate (or method of calculation thereof), dates on which dividends shall be payable and dates from which dividends shall accrue, any voting rights, any redemption, exchange, conversion or sinking fund provisions and any other rights, preferences, privileges, limitations or restrictions relating to a specific series of the trust preferred securities including a description of the Consumers guarantee, as the case may be.

DEBT SECURITIES

Senior notes will be issued under a senior debt indenture. The subordinated debentures will be issued under a subordinated debt indenture. The senior debt indenture and the subordinated debt indenture are sometimes referred to in this prospectus individually as an "indenture" and collectively as the "indentures."

The following briefly summarizes the material provisions of the indentures and the debt securities. You should read the more detailed provisions of the applicable indenture, including the defined terms, for provisions that may be important to you. You should also read the particular terms of a series of debt

Edgar Filing: CONSUMERS ENERGY CO - Form 424B5

securities, which will be described in more detail in the applicable prospectus supplement. Copies of the indentures may be obtained from Consumers or the applicable trustee.

Unless otherwise provided in the applicable prospectus supplement, the trustee under the senior debt indenture will be The Chase Manhattan Bank and the trustee under the subordinated debt indenture will be The Bank of New York.

General

The indentures provide that debt securities of Consumers may be issued in one or more series, with different terms, in each case as authorized on one or more occasions by Consumers.

Federal income tax consequences and other special considerations applicable to any debt securities issued by Consumers at a discount will be described in the applicable prospectus supplement.

The applicable prospectus supplement relating to any series of debt securities will describe the following terms, where applicable:

- the title of the debt securities;
- whether the debt securities will be senior or subordinated debt;
- the total principal amount of the debt securities;
- the percentage of the principal amount at which the debt securities will be sold and, if applicable, the method of determining the price;
- the maturity date or dates;
- the interest rate or the method of computing the interest rate;
- the date or dates from which any interest will accrue, or how such date or dates will be determined, and the interest payment date or dates and any related record dates;
- the location where payments on the debt securities will be made;
- the terms and conditions on which the debt securities may be redeemed at the option of Consumers;
- any obligation of Consumers to redeem, purchase or repay the debt securities at the option of a holder upon the happening of any event and the terms and conditions of redemption, purchase or repayment;
- any provisions for the discharge of Consumers' obligations relating to the debt securities by deposit of funds or United States government obligations;
- whether the debt securities are to trade in book-entry form and the terms and any conditions for exchanging the global security in whole or in part for paper certificates;
- any material provisions of the applicable indenture described in this prospectus that do not apply to the debt securities;
- any additional amounts with respect to the debt securities that Consumers will pay to a non-United States person because of any tax, assessment or

Edgar Filing: CONSUMERS ENERGY CO - Form 424B5

governmental charge withheld or deducted and, if so, any option of Consumers to redeem the debt securities rather than paying these additional amounts;

- any additional events of default; and
- any other specific terms of the debt securities.

Concerning the Trustees

Each of The Chase Manhattan Bank, the trustee under the senior debt indenture for the senior notes, and The Bank of New York, the trustee under the subordinated debt indenture for the subordinated debentures, is one of a number of banks with which Consumers and its subsidiaries maintain ordinary banking relationships, including credit facilities.

Exchange and Transfer

Debt securities may be presented for exchange. Registered debt securities may be presented for registration of transfer at the offices and, subject to the restrictions set forth in the debt security and in the applicable prospectus supplement, without service charge, but upon payment of any taxes or other governmental charges due in connection with the transfer, subject to any limitations contained in the applicable indenture. Debt securities in bearer form and any related coupons, will be transferable by delivery.

Payment

Distributions on the debt securities in registered form will be made at the office or agency of the applicable trustee in the Borough of Manhattan, the City of New York or its other designated office. However, at the option of Consumers, payment of any interest may be made by check or by wire transfer. Payment of any interest due on debt securities in registered form will be made to the persons in whose

8

name the debt securities are registered at the close of business on the record date for such interest payments. Payments made in any other manner will be specified in the prospectus supplement.

Governing Law

Each indenture and the debt securities will be governed by, and construed in accordance with, the laws of the State of Michigan unless the laws of another jurisdiction shall mandatorily apply. The rights, duties and obligations of the subordinated note trustee are governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of New York.

SENIOR NOTES

General

The following summaries of some important provisions of the senior note indenture (including its supplements by such reference) do not purport to be complete and are subject to, and qualified in their entirety by, all of the provisions of the senior note indenture. The senior note indenture is incorporated by reference in this prospectus and is available upon request to the senior note trustee. In addition, capitalized terms used in this section and not otherwise defined in this prospectus shall have the meaning given to them in the senior note indenture.

Edgar Filing: CONSUMERS ENERGY CO - Form 424B5

Security; Release Date

Until the release date (as described in the next paragraph), the senior notes will be secured by one or more series of Consumers' first mortgage bonds issued and delivered by Consumers to the senior note trustee. See "Description of First Mortgage Bonds." Upon the issuance of a series of senior notes prior to the release date, Consumers will simultaneously issue and deliver to the senior note trustee, as security for all senior notes, a series of first mortgage bonds that will have the same stated maturity date and corresponding redemption provisions, and will be in the same total principal amount as the series of the senior notes being issued. Any series of first mortgage bonds securing senior notes may, but need not, bear interest. Any payment by Consumers to the senior note trustee of principal of, interest and/or premium, if any, on a series of first mortgage bonds will be applied by the senior note trustee to satisfy Consumers' obligations with respect to principal of, interest and/or premium, if any, on the corresponding senior notes.

The "release date" will be the date that all first mortgage bonds of Consumers issued and outstanding under a mortgage indenture with The Chase Manhattan Bank as mortgage trustee, other than first mortgage bonds securing senior notes, have been retired (at, before or after their maturity) through payment, redemption or otherwise. On the release date, the senior note trustee will deliver to Consumers, for cancellation, all first mortgage bonds securing senior notes. Not later than 30 days thereafter, the senior note trustee will provide notice to all holders of senior notes of the occurrence of the release date. As a result, on the release date, the first mortgage bonds securing senior notes will cease to secure the senior notes. The senior notes will then become unsecured general obligations of Consumers and will rank equally with other unsecured indebtedness of Consumers. Each series of first mortgage bonds that secures senior notes will be secured by a lien on certain property owned by Consumers. See "Description of First Mortgage Bonds -- Priority and Security." Upon the payment or cancellation of any outstanding senior notes, the senior note trustee will surrender to Consumers for cancellation an equal principal amount of the related series of first mortgage bonds. Consumers will not permit, at any time prior to the release date, the total principal amount of first mortgage bonds securing senior notes held by the senior note trustee to be less than the total principal amount of senior notes outstanding. Following the release date, Consumers will cause the mortgage to be discharged and will not issue any additional first mortgage bonds under the mortgage. While Consumers will be precluded after the release date from issuing additional first mortgage bonds, it will not be precluded under the senior note indenture or senior notes from issuing or assuming other secured debt, or incurring liens on its property, except to the extent indicated below under "-- Certain Covenants of Consumers -- Limitation on Liens."

9

Events Of Default

The following constitute events of default under senior notes of any series:

- (1) failure to pay principal of and premium, if any, on any senior note of such series when due;
- (2) failure to pay interest on any senior note of such series when due for 60 days;
- (3) failure to perform any other covenant or agreement of Consumers in the senior notes of such series for 90 days after written notice to

Edgar Filing: CONSUMERS ENERGY CO - Form 424B5

Consumers by the senior note trustee or the holders of at least 33% in total principal amount of the outstanding senior notes;

(4) prior to the release date, a default under the mortgage; provided, however, that the waiver or cure of such default and the rescission and annulment of the consequences under the mortgage will be a waiver of the corresponding event of default under the senior note indenture and a rescission and annulment of the consequences under the senior note indenture; and

(5) certain events of bankruptcy, insolvency, reorganization, assignment or receivership of Consumers.

If an event of default occurs and is continuing, either the senior note trustee or the holders of a majority in total principal amount of the outstanding senior notes may declare the principal amount of all senior notes to be due and payable immediately.

The senior note trustee generally will be under no obligation to exercise any of its rights or powers under the senior note indenture at the request or direction of any of the holders of senior notes of such series unless those holders have offered to the senior note trustee reasonable security or indemnity. Subject to the provisions for indemnity and certain other limitations contained in the senior note indenture, the holders of a majority in principal amount of the outstanding senior notes of such series generally will have the right to direct the time, method and place of conducting any proceeding for any remedy available to the senior note trustee, or of exercising any trust or power conferred on the senior note trustee. The holders of a majority in principal amount of the outstanding senior notes of such series generally will have the right to waive any past default or event of default (other than a payment default) on behalf of all holders of senior notes of such series.

No holder of senior notes of a series may institute any action against Consumers under the senior note indenture unless:

(1) that holder gives to the senior note trustee advance written notice of default and its continuance;

(2) the holders of not less than a majority in total principal amount of senior notes of such series then outstanding affected by that event of default request the senior note trustee to institute such action;

(3) that holder has offered the senior note trustee reasonable indemnity; and

(4) the senior note trustee shall not have instituted such action within 60 days of such request.

Furthermore, no holder of senior notes will be entitled to institute any such action if and to the extent that that action would disturb or prejudice the rights of other holders of senior notes of such series.

Within 90 days after the occurrence of a default with respect to the senior notes of a series, the senior note trustee must give the holders of the senior notes of such series notice of any such default known to the senior note trustee, unless cured or waived. The senior note trustee may withhold such notice if it determines in good faith that it is in the interest of such holders to do so except in the case of default in the payment of principal of, and interest and/or premium, if any, on any senior notes of such series. Consumers is required to deliver to the senior note trustee each year a certificate as to whether or not, to the knowledge of the officers signing such certificate, Consumers is in compliance with the conditions and covenants under the senior

note indenture.

10

Modification

Consumers and the senior note trustee cannot modify and amend the senior note indenture without the consent of the holders of a majority in principal amount of the outstanding affected senior notes. Consumers and the senior note trustee cannot modify and amend the senior note indenture without the consent of the holder of each outstanding senior note of such series to:

- (1) change the maturity date of any senior note of such series;
- (2) reduce the rate (or change the method of calculation thereof) or extend the time of payment of interest on any senior note of such series;
- (3) reduce the principal amount of, or premium payable on, any senior note of such series;
- (4) change the coin or currency of any payment of principal of, and interest and/or premium on any senior note of such series;
- (5) change the date on which any senior note of such series may be redeemed or repaid at the option of its holder or adversely affect the rights of a holder to institute suit for the enforcement of any payment on or with respect to any senior note of such series;
- (6) impair the interest of the senior note trustee in the first mortgage bonds securing the senior notes of such series held by it or, prior to the release date, reduce the principal amount of any series of first mortgage bond securing the senior notes of such series to an amount less than the principal amount of the related series of senior notes or alter the payment provisions of such senior note mortgage bonds in a manner adverse to the holders of the senior notes; or
- (7) modify the senior notes of such series necessary to modify or amend the senior note indenture or to waive any past default to less than a majority.

Consumers and the senior note trustee can modify and amend the senior note indenture without the consent of the holders in certain cases, including:

- (1) to add to the covenants of Consumers for the benefit of the holders or to surrender a right conferred on Consumers in the senior note indenture;
- (2) to add further security for the senior notes of such series;
- (3) to add provisions enabling Consumers to be released with respect to one or more series of outstanding senior notes from its obligations under the covenants upon satisfaction of conditions with respect to such series of senior notes;
- (4) to supply omissions, cure ambiguities or correct defects which actions, in each case, are not prejudicial to the interests of the holders in any material respect; or
- (5) to make any other change that is not prejudicial to the holders of senior notes of such series in any material respect.

Edgar Filing: CONSUMERS ENERGY CO - Form 424B5

A supplemental indenture which changes or eliminates any covenant or other provision of the senior note indenture (or any supplemental indenture) which has expressly been included solely for the benefit of one or more series of senior notes, or which modifies the rights of the holders of senior notes of such series with respect to such covenant or provision, will be deemed not to affect the rights under the senior note indenture of the holders of senior notes of any other series.

Defeasance and Discharge

The senior note indenture provides that Consumers will be discharged from any and all obligations in respect to the senior notes of such series and the senior note indenture (except for certain obligations such as obligations to register the transfer or exchange of senior notes, replace stolen, lost or mutilated senior notes and maintain paying agencies) if, among other things, Consumers irrevocably deposits with the senior note trustee, in trust for the benefit of holders of senior notes of such series, money or certain

11

United States government obligations, or any combination of money or government obligations. The payment of interest and principal on the deposits in accordance with their terms must provide money in an amount sufficient, without reinvestment, to make all payments of principal of, and any premium and interest on, the senior notes on the dates such payments are due in accordance with the terms of the senior note indenture and the senior notes of such series. If all of the senior notes of such series are not due within 90 days of such deposit by redemption or otherwise, Consumers must also deliver to the senior note trustee an opinion of counsel to the effect that the holders of the senior notes of such series will not recognize income, gain or loss for federal income tax purposes as a result of that defeasance or discharge of the senior note indenture. Thereafter, the holders of senior notes must look only to the deposit for payment of the principal of, and interest and any premium on, the senior notes.

Consolidation, Merger and Sale or Disposition of Assets

Consumers may consolidate with or merge into, or sell or otherwise dispose of its properties as or substantially as an entirety if:

- (1) the new corporation is a corporation organized and existing under the laws of the United States of America, any state thereof, or the District of Columbia,
- (2) the new corporation assumes the due and punctual payment of the principal of and premium and interest on all the senior notes and the performance of every covenant of the senior note indenture to be performed or observed by Consumers, and
- (3) if prior to the release date, the new corporation assumes Consumers' obligations under the mortgage indenture with respect to first mortgage bonds securing senior notes.

The conveyance or other transfer by Consumers of:

- (1) all or any portion of its facilities for the generation of electric energy,
- (2) all of its facilities for the transmission of electric energy, or
- (3) all of its facilities for the distribution of natural gas, in each case considered alone or in any combination with properties described in (1), (2) or (3) of this sentence, will not be considered a conveyance or

Edgar Filing: CONSUMERS ENERGY CO - Form 424B5

other transfer of all the properties of Consumers, as or substantially as an entirety.

Certain Covenants Of Consumers

Limitation on Liens

So long as any senior notes are outstanding, Consumers may not issue, assume, guarantee or permit to exist after the release date any debt that is secured by any mortgage, security interest, pledge or lien (each a "lien") of or upon any operating property of Consumers, whether owned at the date of the senior note indenture or thereafter acquired, without in any such case effectively securing the senior notes (together with, if Consumers shall so determine, any other indebtedness of Consumers ranking equally with the senior notes) equally and ratably with such debt (but only so long as such debt is so secured). The foregoing restriction will not apply to:

(1) liens on any operating property existing at the time of its acquisition (which liens may also extend to subsequent repairs, alterations and improvements to such operating property);

(2) liens on operating property of a corporation existing at the time such corporation is merged into or consolidated with, or such corporation disposes of its properties (or those of a division) as or substantially as an entirety to, Consumers;

(3) liens on operating property to secure the cost of acquisition, construction, development or substantial repair, alteration or improvement of property or to secure indebtedness incurred to provide funds for any such purpose or for reimbursement of funds previously expended for any such purpose, provided such liens are created or assumed contemporaneously with, or within 18 months after, such

12

acquisition or the completion of substantial repair or alteration, construction, development or substantial improvement;

(4) liens in favor of any state or any department, agency or instrumentality or political subdivision of any state, or for the benefit of holders of securities issued by any such entity (or providers of credit enhancement with respect to such securities), to secure any debt (including, without limitation, obligations of Consumers with respect to industrial development, pollution control or similar revenue bonds) incurred for the purpose of financing all or any part of the purchase price or the cost of substantially repairing or altering, constructing, developing or substantially improving operating property of Consumers; or

(5) any extension, renewal or replacement (or successive extensions, renewals or replacements), in whole or in part, of any lien referred to in clauses (1) through (4), provided, however, that the principal amount of debt secured thereby and not otherwise authorized by said clauses (1) to (4), inclusive, shall not exceed the principal amount of debt, plus any premium or fee payable in connection with any such extension, renewal or replacement, so secured at the time of such extension, renewal or replacement.

These restrictions will not apply to the issuance, assumption or guarantee by Consumers of debt secured by a lien which would otherwise be subject to the foregoing restrictions up to a total amount which, together with all other secured debt of Consumers (not including secured debt permitted under any of the

Edgar Filing: CONSUMERS ENERGY CO - Form 424B5

foregoing exceptions) and the value of sale and lease-back transactions existing at such time (other than sale and lease-back transactions the proceeds of which have been applied to the retirement of certain indebtedness, sale and lease-back transactions in which the property involved would have been permitted to be subjected to a lien under any of the foregoing exceptions in clauses (1) to (5) and sale and lease-back transactions that are permitted by the first sentence of "Limitation on Sale and Lease-Back Transactions" below), does not exceed the greater of 15% of Net Tangible Assets or 15% of Capitalization.

Limitation on Sale and Lease-Back Transactions

So long as senior notes are outstanding, Consumers may not enter into or permit to exist after the release date any sale and lease-back transaction with respect to any operating property (except for transactions involving leases for a term, including renewals, of not more than 48 months), if the purchaser's commitment is obtained more than 18 months after the later of the completion of the acquisition, construction or development of such operating property or the placing in operation of such operating property or of such operating property as constructed or developed or substantially repaired, altered or improved. This restriction will not apply if:

(1) Consumers would be entitled under any of the provisions described in clauses (1) to (5) of the first sentence of the second paragraph under "Limitation on Liens" above to issue, assume, guarantee or permit to exist debt secured by a lien on such operating property without equally and ratably securing the senior notes,

(2) after giving effect to such sale and lease-back transaction, Consumers could incur pursuant to the provisions described in the second sentence of the second paragraph under "Limitation on Liens," at least \$1.00 of additional debt secured by liens (other than liens permitted by clause (1)), or

(3) Consumers applies within 180 days an amount equal to, in the case of a sale or transfer for cash, the net proceeds (not exceeding the net book value), and, otherwise, an amount equal to the fair value (as determined by its Board of Directors) of the operating property so leased to the retirement of senior notes or other debt of Consumers ranking equally with, the senior notes, subject to reduction for senior notes and such debt retired during such 180-day period otherwise than pursuant to mandatory sinking fund or prepayment provisions and payments at stated maturity.

13

Voting Of Senior Note Mortgage Bonds Held By the Senior Note Trustee

The senior note trustee, as the holder of first mortgage bonds securing senior notes, will attend any meeting of bondholders under the mortgage indenture, or, at its option, will deliver its proxy in connection therewith as it relates to matters with respect to which it is entitled to vote or consent. So long as no event of default under the senior note indenture has occurred and is continuing, the senior note trustee will vote or consent:

(1) in favor of amendments or modifications of the mortgage indenture of substantially the same tenor and effect as follows:

- to eliminate the maintenance and replacement fund and to recover amounts of net property additions previously applied in satisfaction thereof so that the same would become available as a basis for the issuance of first mortgage bonds;

Edgar Filing: CONSUMERS ENERGY CO - Form 424B5

- to eliminate sinking funds or improvement funds and to recover amounts of net property additions previously applied in satisfaction thereof so that the same would become available as a basis for the issuance of first mortgage bonds;
- to eliminate the restriction on the payment of dividends on common stock and to eliminate the requirements in connection with the periodic examination of the mortgaged and pledged property by an independent engineer;
- to permit first mortgage bonds to be issued under the mortgage indenture in a principal amount equal to 70% of unfunded net property additions instead of 60%, to permit sinking funds improvement funds requirements (to the extent not otherwise eliminated) under the Mortgage to be satisfied by the application of net property additions in an amount equal to 70% of such additions instead of 60%, and to permit the acquisition of property subject to certain liens prior to the lien of the Mortgage if the principal amount of indebtedness secured by such liens does not exceed 70% of the cost of such property instead of 60%;
- to eliminate requirements that Consumers deliver a net earnings certificate for any purpose under the mortgage indenture;
- to raise the minimum dollar amount of insurance proceeds on account of loss or damage that must be payable to the senior note trustee from \$50,000 to an amount equal to the greater of (A) \$5,000,000 and (B) three per centum (3%) of the total principal amount of first mortgage bonds outstanding;
- to increase the amount of the fair value of property which may be sold or disposed of free from the lien of the mortgage indenture, without any release or consent by the senior note trustee, from not more than \$25,000 in any calendar year to not more than an amount equal to the greater of (A) \$5,000,000 and (B) three per centum (3%) of the total principal amount of first mortgage bonds then outstanding;
- to permit certain mortgaged and pledged property to be released from the lien of the mortgage indenture if, in addition to certain other conditions, the senior note trustee receives purchase money obligations of not more than 70% of the fair value of such property instead of 60% and to eliminate the further requirement for the release of such property that the total principal amount of purchase money obligations held by the senior note trustee not exceed 20% of the principal amount of first mortgage bonds outstanding;
- to eliminate the restriction prohibiting the mortgage trustee from applying cash held by it pursuant to the mortgage indenture to the purchase of bonds not otherwise redeemable at a price exceeding 110% of the principal of such bonds, plus accrued interest; and

(2) with respect to any other amendments or modifications of the mortgage indenture, as follows: the senior note trustee shall vote all first mortgage bonds securing senior notes then held by it, or consent with respect thereto, proportionately with the vote or consent of the holders of all other

Edgar Filing: CONSUMERS ENERGY CO - Form 424B5

first mortgage bonds outstanding under the mortgage indenture, the holders of which are eligible to vote or consent. However, the senior note trustee will not vote in favor of, or consent to, any amendment or modification of the mortgage which, if it were an amendment or modification of the senior note indenture, would require the consent of senior notes holders (as described under "Modification,") without the prior consent of holders of senior notes which would be required for such an amendment or modification of the senior note indenture.

Concerning The Senior Note Trustee

The Chase Manhattan Bank is both the senior note trustee under the senior note indenture and the mortgage trustee under the mortgage indenture. Consumers and its affiliates maintain depository and other normal banking relationships with The Chase Manhattan Bank. The Chase Manhattan Bank is also a lender to Consumers and its affiliates. The senior note indenture provides that Consumers' obligations to compensate the senior note trustee and reimburse the senior note trustee for expenses, disbursements and advances will constitute indebtedness which will be secured by a lien generally prior to that of the senior notes upon all property and funds held or collected by the senior note trustee as such.

DESCRIPTION OF FIRST MORTGAGE BONDS

General

The first mortgage bonds securing senior notes are to be issued under a mortgage indenture as amended and supplemented by various supplemental indentures with The Chase Manhattan Bank, as the mortgage trustee. The statements herein concerning the mortgage indenture are an outline and do not purport to be complete and are subject to, and qualified in their entirety by, all of the provisions of the mortgage indenture, which is incorporated by reference herein. They make use of defined terms and are qualified in their entirety by express reference to the cited sections and articles of the mortgage indenture a copy of which will be available upon request to the senior note trustee.

First mortgage bonds securing senior notes will be issued as security for Consumers' obligations under the senior note indenture and will be immediately delivered to and registered in the name of the senior note trustee. The first mortgage bonds securing senior notes will be issued as security for senior notes of a series and will secure the senior notes of that series until the release date. The senior note indenture provides that the senior note trustee shall not transfer any first mortgage bonds securing senior notes except to a successor trustee, to Consumers (as provided in the senior note indenture) or in compliance with a court order in connection with a bankruptcy or reorganization proceeding of Consumers. The senior note trustee shall generally vote the first mortgage bonds securing senior notes proportionately with what it believes to be the vote of all other first mortgage bonds then outstanding except in connection with certain amendments or modifications of the mortgage indenture, as described under "Description of Senior Notes Voting of Senior Note Mortgage Bonds Held by Senior Note Trustee."