

XCEL ENERGY INC  
 Form 4  
 December 30, 2015

**FORM 4**

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

OMB APPROVAL

OMB Number: 3235-0287  
 Expires: January 31, 2015  
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Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5 obligations may continue. See Instruction 1(b).

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

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

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person \*  
**OBRIEN RICHARD T**

(Last) (First) (Middle)  
 414 NICOLLET MALL  
 (Street)

MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55401

(City) (State) (Zip)

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol  
**XCEL ENERGY INC [XEL]**

3. Date of Earliest Transaction  
 (Month/Day/Year)  
**12/28/2015**

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

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

(Check all applicable)

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

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

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

| 1. Title of Security (Instr. 3) | 2. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year) | 2A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year) | 3. Transaction Code (Instr. 8) | 4. Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5) | 5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4) | 6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4) | 7. Nature of Ownership Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4) |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|---|--|---|
|                                 |                                      |  |                                | (A) or (D)  | Price   |  |   |
|                                 |                                      |  |                                | Code  | V   | Amount   | (D)   |

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

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SEC 1474 (9-02)

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

| 1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 3) | 2. Conversion or Exercise Price of | 3. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year) | 3A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year) | 4. Transaction Code (Instr. 8) | 5. Number of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or | 6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year) | 7. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities (Instr. 3 and 4) |
|--|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|--|--|---|
|--|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|--|--|---|

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|                        | Derivative Security |            | Code | V | Disposed of (D)        |     | Date Exercisable | Expiration Date | Title        | Amount or Number of Shares |
|------------------------|---------------------|------------|------|---|------------------------|-----|------------------|-----------------|--------------|----------------------------|
|                        |                     |            |      |   | (A)                    | (D) |                  |                 |              |                            |
| Stock Equivalent Units | \$ 0 <sup>(1)</sup> | 12/28/2015 | A    |   | 839.396 <sup>(2)</sup> |     | <sup>(1)</sup>   | <sup>(1)</sup>  | Common Stock | 839.396                    |

## Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address                                 | Relationships |           |         |       |
|--|---------------|-----------|---------|-------|
|  | Director      | 10% Owner | Officer | Other |
| OBRIEN RICHARD T<br>414 NICOLLET MALL<br>MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55401 |               | X         |         |       |

## Signatures

Tara M. Heine, Attorney in Fact for Richard T. O'Brien 12/30/2015

\_\_Signature of Reporting Person

Date

## Explanation of Responses:

- \* If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, *see* Instruction 4(b)(v).
- \*\* Intentional misstatements or omissions of facts constitute Federal Criminal Violations. *See* 18 U.S.C. 1001 and 15 U.S.C. 78ff(a).
- (1) Each stock equivalent unit is the economic equivalent of one share of common stock. Whole stock equivalent units are payable in shares of common stock following termination of a reporting person's service as a director; fractional units are payable at such time in cash.  
Of the 839.396 stock equivalent units, 699.496 were granted at a price of \$35.74 per unit in connection with the reporting person's
- (2) election to defer receipt of quarterly cash director retainers, and 139.900 were granted at no cost to the reporting person as a 20% premium on the amount of such retainer.
- (3) Includes 243.232 shares of stock equivalent units acquired pursuant to reinvestment of stock equivalent unit dividends.

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