

Edgar Filing: UNICREDITO ITALIANO SPA - Form SC 13G

UNICREDITO ITALIANO SPA
Form SC 13G
May 08, 2008

SECURITIES EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, DC 20549

Under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934
(Amendment No. 0)

NORTHWEST PIPE COMPANY
(Name of Issuer)

Common Stock
(Title of Class of Securities)

Date of Event Which Requires Filing of this Statement
April 30, 2008

Check the appropriate box to designate the rule
pursuant to which this Schedule is filed

- Rule 13d-1(b)
 Rule 13d-1(c)
 Rule 13d-1(d)

667746101
(CUSIP NUMBER)

1) Name of Reporting Person: UniCredito Italiano S.p.A.

IRS Identification No. of Above	000000000
2) Check the Appropriate Box of A Member of Group (See Instructions)	(a) (b)
3) SEC Use Only	
4) Citizenship of Place of Organization	Italy
Number of Shares Beneficially Owned by Each Reporting Person With	(5) Sole Voting Power 457,436 [See Item 4 below.] (6) Shared Voting Power 0 (7) Sole Disposi- tive Power 457,436 [See Item 4 below.] (8) Shared Disposi- tive Power 0

Edgar Filing: UNICREDITO ITALIANO SPA - Form SC 13G

9)	Aggregate Amount Beneficially Owned by Each Reporting Person	457,436 [See Item 4 below.]
10)	Check if the aggregate Amount in Row (9) Exclude Certain Shares (See Instructions)	
11)	Percent of Class Represented By Amount in Row 9.	5.0%
12)	Type of Reporting Person (See Instructions)	HC

Item 1(a) Name of Issuer.

NORTHWEST PIPE COMPANY

Item 1(b) Address of Issuer's Principal Executive Offices:

WILLIAM R TAGMYER
200 SOUTH WEST MARKET STREET
SUITE 1800
PORTLAND, OR 97201
UNITED STATES

Item 2(a) Name of Person Filing:

UniCredito Italiano S.p.A.

Item 2(b) Address of Principal Business Office:

Piazza Cordusio 2
20123 Milan, Italy

Item 2(c) Citizenship:

Italy

Item 2(d) Title of Class of Securities:

Common Stock

Item 2(e) Cusip Number:

667746101

Item 3 The person filing this statement pursuant to Rule 13d-1(b) or 13d-2(b) is:

Inapplicable

Item 4. Ownership.

(a) Amount Beneficially Owned: 457,436**

(b) Percent of Class: 5.0%**

(c) Number of shares as to which such person has

(i) sole power to vote or to direct the vote 457,436**

(ii) shared power to vote or to direct vote 0

Edgar Filing: UNICREDITO ITALIANO SPA - Form SC 13G

(iii) sole power to dispose or to direct disposition of 457,436**

(iv) shared power to dispose or to direct disposition 0

**Shares reported on this Schedule 13G (the Shares) are owned by a Fund advised by Pioneer Investment Management Limited (PIML the "Investment Advisory Business"). The Shares include 457,436 shares (approximately 5.0% of the Issuer's outstanding shares) owned by the Fund advised by PIML.

The Investment Advisory Business is an indirect subsidiary of the Reporting Person. In its role as investment manager or adviser to the Funds, the Investment Advisory Business possesses investment and/or voting control over the Shares. The Reporting Person disclaims beneficial ownership of the Shares. The filing of this Schedule 13G shall not be construed as an admission that the Reporting Person or any of its subsidiaries is the beneficial owner of the Shares for any other purposes than Section 13(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934.

Item 5. Ownership of Five Percent or Less of a Class.

If this statement is being filed to report the fact that as of the date Hereof the reporting person has ceased to be the beneficial owner of more than five percent of the class of securities, check here:

Item 6. Ownership of More than Five Percent on Behalf of Another Person.

The interest of one person, Pioneer Funds - Global Ecology, an open-end investment fund in Luxembourg, in the Common Stock of Northwest Pipe Company, amounted to 457,436 shares or 5.0% of the total outstanding Common Stock at April 30, 2008.

Item 7. Identification and Classification of the Subsidiary Which Acquired the Security Being Reported On By the Parent Holding Company.

Inapplicable.

Item 8. Identification and Classification of Members of the Group.

Inapplicable.

Item 9. Notice of Dissolution of the Group.

Inapplicable.

Item 10. Certification.

By signing below I certify that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, the securities referred to above were not acquired and are not held for the purpose of or with the effect of changing or influencing the control of the issuer of the securities and were not acquired and are not held in connection with or as a participant in any transaction having that purpose or effect.

After reasonable inquiry and to the best of my knowledge and belief, I certify that the information set forth in this statement is true, complete and correct.

Date
MAY 8, 2008

/s/Dario Frigerio
Name: Dario Frigerio
Title: Head of Private Banking and Asset Management Division

/s/Paolo Fiorentino
Name: Paolo Fiorentino
Title: Head of Global Banking Services Division

S-11 securities and the related 7 3/4% Convertible Subordinated Debentures due 2027, the 8.750% Junior Subordinated Deferrable Interest Debentures due 2004, and the 7 1/4% Subordinated Deferrable Note due 2004 respectively, were issued, we have agreed that we will not, and will not cause any of our subsidiaries to, declare or pay any dividends or distributions on, or redeem, purchase, acquire or make a liquidation payment with respect to, any of our capital stock, if at such time: - an event has occurred, of which we have actual knowledge, that with the giving of notice or the lapse of time, or both, would constitute an event of default and in respect of which we have not taken reasonable steps to cure; - we are in default with respect to the payment of any obligations under the Guarantee Agreement; or - we have given notice of our selection of an extension period as provided in the subordinated debt indenture with respect to the subordinated debentures and have not rescinded such notice, or such extension period (or any extension thereof) is continuing. Dividend Restrictions Under Michigan Law Michigan law prohibits payment of a dividend if, after giving it effect, a corporation would not be able to pay its debts as they become due in the usual course of business, or its total assets would be less than the sum of its total liabilities plus, unless the articles of incorporation provide otherwise, the amount that would be needed, if the corporation were to be dissolved at the time of the distribution, to satisfy the preferential rights upon dissolution of shareholders whose preferential rights are superior to those receiving the distribution (including the rights of holders of preferred stock, if any). Under the provisions of the Michigan Business Corporation Act, at June 30, 2001, assets available for the payment of dividends were \$2.682 billion. Consumers' Dividend Restrictions Consumers' ability to pay dividends to CMS Energy is restricted by Consumers' Restated Articles of Incorporation and certain agreements to which it is a party, as described under "Description of Securities -- Primary Source of Funds of CMS Energy; Restrictions on Sources of Dividends" in the accompanying base prospectus. Under the provisions of the Michigan Business Corporation Act, at June 30, 2001, Consumers' net assets available for payment of dividends were \$1.913 billion. Under its Restated Articles of Incorporation, the most restrictive dividend limitation, Consumers would be able to pay \$408 million in dividends. In February 2001 and May 2001, Consumers paid a \$66 million and \$30 million common dividend, respectively. In July 2001, Consumers declared a \$39 million common dividend payable in August 2001. Enterprises' Dividend Restrictions The ability of CMS Energy to pay (i) dividends on its capital stock and (ii) its indebtedness depends and will depend in part upon timely receipt of sufficient dividends or other distributions from Enterprises. Enterprises' ability to pay dividends to CMS Energy is restricted by Enterprises' articles of incorporation. The articles of incorporation prohibit the payment of cash dividends on its common stock if Enterprises is in arrears on preferred stock dividend payments. It further provides that no dividends can be paid on the Enterprises common stock except (i) out of surplus of Enterprises available for distribution to stock over which the preferred stock has preference, or (ii) if, at the time of declaration or payment of a distribution, there is not remaining capital and surplus (after subtracting for dividends and distributions), in an amount at least equal to 60 percent of the redemption price then in effect per share on all then outstanding shares of the Enterprises preferred stock and other preference stock of Enterprises. In addition, the Michigan Business Corporation Act prohibits payment of a dividend if, after giving it effect (i) Enterprises would not be able to pay its debts as they become due in the usual course of S-12 business, or (ii) its total assets would be less than the sum of its total liabilities plus (unless the articles permit otherwise) the amount that would be needed if Enterprises were to be dissolved at the time of the distribution, to satisfy the preferential rights upon dissolution of

shareholders whose preferential rights are superior to those receiving the distribution. Enterprises is also limited in the amount of dividends it is able to pay pursuant to the Revolving Credit Facility. TRANSFER AGENT CMS Energy common stock is transferable at the offices of Consumers Energy Company, 212 W. Michigan Avenue, Jackson, MI 49201. The transfer agent and registrar for CMS Energy common stock is CMS Energy. PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION We have entered into a sales agreement with Brinson Patrick under which we may issue and sell up to 2,000,000 shares of common stock from time to time through Brinson Patrick, as a sales manager. The form of the sales agreement is an exhibit to the Post Effective Amendment No. 1 to the Form S-3 Registration Statement under the Securities Act of 1933 filed by us with the Commission on August 3, 2001 and is incorporated by reference into this prospectus. The sales, if any, of common stock made under the sales agreement will be made on an at the market basis only by means of ordinary brokers' transactions on the New York Stock Exchange. Brinson Patrick will sell the shares of common stock subject to the sales agreement on a daily basis or as otherwise agreed upon by our company and Brinson Patrick. Brinson Patrick will act as sales manager on a best efforts basis. We will designate the maximum amount of shares of common stock to be sold by Brinson Patrick on a daily basis or otherwise as we and Brinson Patrick agree. Subject to the terms and conditions of the sales agreement, Brinson Patrick will use its best efforts to sell all of the designated shares of common stock. We will instruct Brinson Patrick not to sell shares of common stock if the sales cannot be effected at or above the price designated by our company in any such instruction. Our company or Brinson Patrick may suspend the offering of shares of common stock upon proper notice and subject to other conditions. Brinson Patrick will provide written confirmation to our company following the close of trading on the New York Stock Exchange each day in which shares of common stock are sold under the sales agreement. Each confirmation will include the number of shares sold on that day, the net proceeds to our company, the compensation payable by our company to Brinson Patrick in connection with the sales, the total number of shares sold and the gross sales price of the shares sold. The compensation to Brinson Patrick for sales of common stock will equal a fixed commission rate of 2% of the gross sales price of any shares sold pursuant to the sales agreement. The remaining sales proceeds, after deducting any transaction fees imposed by any governmental or self-regulatory organization in connection with the sales, will equal our net proceeds for the sale of the shares. Settlement for sales of common stock will occur on the third business day following the date on which any sales are made in return for payment of the net proceeds to us. There is no arrangement for funds to be received in an escrow, trust or similar arrangement. In connection with the sale of the common stock on our behalf, Brinson Patrick may be deemed to be an "underwriter" within the meaning of the Securities Act of 1933, and the compensation of Brinson Patrick may be deemed to be underwriting commissions or discounts. We have agreed to indemnify Brinson Patrick against liabilities under the Securities Act, or contribute to payments that Brinson Patrick may be required to make in that respect. Brinson Patrick may engage in transactions with, or perform other services for, our company in the ordinary course of business. S-13 The offering of common stock pursuant to the sales agreement will terminate upon the earlier of (1) the sale of all shares of common stock subject to the agreement or (2) termination of the sales agreement. The sales agreement may be terminated by either our company or by Brinson Patrick in their sole discretion at any time. LEGAL OPINIONS Opinions as to the legality of the common stock will be rendered for CMS Energy by Michael D. Van Hemert, Assistant General Counsel for CMS Energy. Certain legal matters with respect to the sales agreement will be passed upon for the sales manager by Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP New York, New York. As of August 27, 2001, an attorney currently employed by Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP, and formerly employed by CMS, owned approximately 51,734 shares of CMS 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. As of August 27, 2001, Mr. Van Hemert beneficially owned approximately 6,000 shares of CMS common stock. Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP has represented from time to time the Company and its affiliates. EXPERTS The consolidated financial statements and schedule of CMS Energy 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 and the accompanying prospectus 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 and June 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 Section 7 and 11 of the Securities Act. Future consolidated financial statements of CMS Energy and the reports thereon of Arthur Andersen LLP also will be incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus in reliance upon the authority of that firm as experts in giving those reports to the extent that said firm has audited said consolidated financial statements and consented to the use of their reports thereon.

S-14 CMS ENERGY CORPORATION CMS ENERGY COMMON STOCK SENIOR DEBENTURES SUBORDINATED DEBENTURES STOCK PURCHASE CONTRACTS STOCK PURCHASE UNITS GUARANTEES AND CMS ENERGY TRUST IV CMS ENERGY TRUST V TRUST PREFERRED SECURITIES GUARANTEED TO THE EXTENT SET FORTH HEREIN BY CMS ENERGY CORPORATION OFFERING PRICE: \$2,000,000,000 ----- We may offer, from time to time: - shares of CMS Energy Common Stock, - unsecured senior or subordinated debt securities consisting of debentures, convertible debentures, notes and other unsecured evidence of indebtedness, - stock purchase contracts to purchase CMS Energy Common Stock, - stock purchase units, each representing ownership of a stock purchase contract and unsecured senior or subordinated debt securities or trust preferred securities or debt obligations of third parties, including U.S. Treasury Securities, securing the holder's obligation to purchase the CMS Energy Common Stock under the stock purchase contract, or any combination of the above, and - Guarantees of CMS Energy with respect to Trust Preferred Securities of CMS Energy Trusts IV and V. For each type of securities listed above, the amount, price and terms will be determined at or prior to the time of sale. CMS Energy Trust IV and CMS Energy Trust V, which are Delaware business trusts, may offer trust preferred securities. The trust preferred securities represent preferred undivided beneficial interests in the assets of CMS Energy Trust IV and CMS Energy Trust V 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. CMS Energy Common Stock is traded on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol "CMS". CMS Energy Common Stock sold pursuant to a prospectus supplement or supplements accompanying this prospectus will also be listed for trading on the New York Stock Exchange, subject to official notice of issuance. 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. This prospectus dated February 14, 2002 amends the prospectus dated August 8, 2001. NO PERSON IS AUTHORIZED IN CONNECTION WITH THE OFFERING MADE HEREBY TO GIVE ANY INFORMATION OR TO MAKE ANY REPRESENTATION NOT CONTAINED OR INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE IN THIS PROSPECTUS OR ANY PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT, AND ANY INFORMATION OR REPRESENTATION NOT CONTAINED OR INCORPORATED HEREIN MUST NOT BE RELIED UPON AS HAVING BEEN AUTHORIZED BY CMS ENERGY OR ANY UNDERWRITER, DEALER OR AGENT. THIS PROSPECTUS AND ANY PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT DO NOT CONSTITUTE AN OFFER TO SELL OR THE SOLICITATION OF AN OFFER TO BUY ANY SECURITIES OTHER THAN THE SECURITIES TO WHICH THEY RELATE OR AN OFFER TO SELL OR THE SOLICITATION OF AN OFFER TO BUY SUCH SECURITIES IN ANY CIRCUMSTANCES IN WHICH SUCH OFFER OR SOLICITATION IS UNLAWFUL. NEITHER THE DELIVERY OF THIS PROSPECTUS OR ANY PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT NOR ANY SALE MADE HEREUNDER OR THEREUNDER SHALL, UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES, CREATE ANY IMPLICATION THAT THE INFORMATION CONTAINED OR INCORPORATED HEREIN OR THEREIN IS CORRECT AS OF ANY TIME SUBSEQUENT TO THE DATE OF SUCH INFORMATION. WHERE TO FIND MORE INFORMATION We file annual, quarterly and current reports, as well as other information, with the Securities and Exchange Commission. You may read and copy any reports or other information that we file at the SEC's public reference room at Judiciary Plaza, 450 Fifth Street N.W.,

Washington, D.C. 20549. You may obtain information on the operation of the public reference room by calling the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330. Our SEC filings are also available to the public from commercial document retrieval services and on the internet at the SEC's web site at <http://www.sec.gov>. We have securities listed on the New York Stock Exchange. You can inspect and copy reports and other information about us at the NYSE's offices at 20 Broad Street, New York, New York 10005. We have not included separate financial statements of the Trusts. We and the Trusts do not consider that such financial statements would be material to holders of Trust Preferred Securities because each Trust is a newly organized special purpose entity, has no operating history and no independent operations. The Trusts are not currently involved in and don't anticipate being involved in any activity other than as described under "CMS Energy Trusts". Further, we believe that financial statements of the Trusts are not material to the holders of the Trust Preferred Securities since we will guarantee the Trust Preferred Securities. 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 vis-a-vis the assets of CMS Energy as a preferred stockholder of CMS Energy. We beneficially own all of the undivided beneficial interests in the assets of the Trusts (other than the beneficial interests represented by the Trust Preferred Securities). See "CMS Energy Trusts," "Description of Securities -- Trust Preferred Securities" and "Description of Securities -- The Guarantees." In future filings under the Exchange Act, there will be an audited footnote to our annual financial statements stating that the Trusts are wholly-owned by CMS Energy, that the sole assets of the Trusts are the Senior Debentures or the Subordinated Debentures of CMS Energy having a specified aggregate principal amount, and, considered together, the back-up undertakings, including the Guarantees, constitute a full and unconditional guarantee by CMS Energy of the Trusts' obligations under the Trust Preferred Securities issued by the Trusts. We are "incorporating by reference" information into this registration statement. This means that we are disclosing important information to you when we refer you to another document that we filed separately with the SEC. Information incorporated by reference is considered to be part of this prospectus, unless the information is updated by information in this prospectus. This prospectus incorporates by reference the documents listed below. We encourage you to read these additional documents because these documents contain important information about us and our finances. SEC FILINGS (FILE NO. 1-9513)

PERIOD/DATE ----- - Registration Statement on Form November 21, 1996. 8-B/A - Annual Report on Form 10-K Year ended December 31, 2000. - Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q Quarter ended March 31, 2001. - Current Reports on Form 8-K February 23, 2001, May 17, 2001. June 22, 2001, July 12, 2001, August 1, 2001 The documents we have filed with the SEC after the date of this prospectus and prior to the termination of the offering made by this prospectus are also incorporated by reference into this prospectus. Any statement contained in such document will be deemed to be modified or superseded for purposes of this prospectus to the extent that a statement contained in this prospectus or any other subsequently filed document modifies or supersedes such statement. This prospectus, which is part of the offering registration statement, does not contain all of the information found in the offering registration statement including various exhibits and schedules. We are incorporating by reference the offering registration statement. We will provide, upon your oral or written request, a copy of any or all of the information that has been incorporated by reference into the prospectus but not delivered with the prospectus. You may request copies of these filings, including the registration statement, at no cost, by writing or telephoning CMS Energy at the following address: CMS Energy Corporation Attn: Office of the Secretary Fairlane Plaza South, Suite 1100 330 Town Center Drive Dearborn, Michigan 48126 Telephone: (313) 436-9200 You should rely only on the information contained in or incorporated by reference in this Prospectus. We have not authorized anyone to provide you with information that is different from this information. CMS ENERGY CORPORATION We are a leading diversified energy company operating in the United States and around the world. Our two principal subsidiaries are Consumers Energy and CMS Enterprises. Consumers is a public utility that provides natural gas or electricity to almost 6 million of the approximately 9.5 million residents in Michigan's lower peninsula. Enterprises, through subsidiaries, is engaged in several domestic and international diversified energy businesses including: - Natural gas transmission, storage and processing; - Independent power production; - Oil and gas exploration and production; - International energy distribution; and - Energy marketing, services and trading. -3- CMS ENERGY TRUSTS CMS Energy Trust IV and CMS Energy Trust V are statutory business trusts formed under the Delaware Business Trust Act (the "Trust Act") (each, a "Trust" and collectively, the "Trusts") pursuant to: (i) a trust agreement executed by CMS Energy, as sponsor, and the trustees of the Trusts (the "CMS Trustees"); and (ii) the filing of a certificate of trust with the Secretary of State of the State of Delaware. At the time of public issuance of Trust

Preferred Securities, each trust agreement will be amended and restated in its entirety (as so amended and restated, the "Trust Agreement") and will be qualified as an indenture under the Trust Indenture Act of 1939, as amended (the "Trust Indenture Act"). CMS Energy will directly or indirectly acquire common securities of each Trust (the "Common Securities" and, together with the Trust Preferred Securities, the "Trust Securities") in an aggregate liquidation amount equal to approximately 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 Trust Securities in the Senior Debentures or Subordinated Debentures; and - engaging in only those other activities necessary or incidental thereto. Each Trust has a term of approximately 30 years, but may terminate earlier as provided in the Trust Agreement. The undivided common beneficial interests in the Trust will be owned by CMS Energy. The proceeds from the offering of the Trust Preferred Securities and the sale of the Common Securities may be contributed by the Trust to purchase from CMS Energy Senior Debentures or Subordinated Debentures in an aggregate principal amount equal to the aggregate liquidation preference of the Trust Securities, bearing interest at an annual rate equal to the annual distribution rate of such Trust Securities and having certain redemption terms which correspond to the redemption terms for the Trust Securities. The Senior Debentures will rank on an equal basis with all other unsecured debt of CMS Energy except subordinated debt. The Subordinated Debentures will rank subordinate in right of payment to all of CMS Energy's Senior Indebtedness (as defined herein). Distributions on the Trust Securities may not be made unless the Trust receives corresponding interest payments on the Senior Debentures or the Subordinated Debentures from CMS Energy. CMS Energy will irrevocably guarantee, on a senior or subordinated basis, as applicable, and to the extent set forth therein, with respect to each of the Trust 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 CMS Energy. Upon the occurrence of certain events (subject to the conditions to be described in an accompanying prospectus supplement) the Trust may be liquidated and the holders of the Trust Securities could receive Senior Debentures or Subordinated Debentures in lieu of any liquidating cash distribution. Pursuant to the Trust Agreement, the number of CMS Trustees will initially be three. Two of the CMS Trustees (the "Administrative Trustees") will be persons who are employees or officers of or who are affiliated with CMS Energy. The third trustee will be a financial institution that is unaffiliated with CMS Energy, which trustee will serve as property trustee under the Trust Agreement and as indenture trustee for the purposes of compliance with the provisions of the Trust Indenture Act (the "Property Trustee"). Initially, either The Bank of New York, a New York banking corporation, or Bank One Trust Company, National Association, a national banking association, 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, The Bank of New York or Bank One Trust Company, National Association will also act as trustee (each a "Guarantee Trustee" and collectively the "Guarantee Trustees"). The Bank of New York (Delaware) will act as the Delaware Trustee for the purposes of the Trust Act, until removed or replaced by the holder of the Common Securities. See "Description of Securities -- The Guarantees." Each Property Trustee will hold title to the applicable Debt Securities for the benefit of the holders of the Trust Securities and each -4- Property Trustee will have the power to exercise all rights, powers and privileges under the applicable indentures (as defined herein) as the holder of the Debt Securities. In addition, each Property Trustee will maintain exclusive control of a segregated non-interest bearing bank account (the "Property Account") to hold all payments made in respect of the Debt Securities for the benefit of the holders of the Trust Securities. Each Property Trustee will make payments of distributions and payments on liquidation, redemption and otherwise to the holders of the Trust Securities out of funds from the Property Account. The Guarantee Trustees will hold the Guarantees for the benefit of the holders of the Trust Securities. CMS Energy, as the direct or indirect holder of all the Common Securities, will have the right to appoint, remove or replace any CMS Trustee and to increase or decrease the number of CMS Trustees; provided, that the number of CMS Trustees shall be at least three, a majority of which shall be Administrative Trustees. CMS Energy will pay all fees and expenses related to the Trusts and the offering of the Trust 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 Trust Agreement, the Trust Act and the Trust Indenture Act. The trustee 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 shall be c/o CMS Energy Corporation, Fairlane Plaza South, 330 Town Center Drive, Suite 1100, Dearborn, Michigan 48126-2712. 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 Debentures or the Subordinated Debentures. As will be more specifically set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement, we will use such borrowed amounts and the net proceeds from the sale of CMS Energy Common Stock, Stock Purchase Contracts, Stock Purchase Units and any Senior Debentures or Subordinated Debentures offered hereby for our general corporate purposes, including capital expenditures, investment in subsidiaries, working capital and repayment of debt.

RATIO OF EARNINGS TO FIXED CHARGES AND RATIO OF EARNINGS TO FIXED CHARGES AND PREFERRED STOCK DIVIDENDS The ratio of earnings to fixed charges and the ratio of earnings to fixed charges and preferred stock dividends for each of the years ended December 31, 1996 through 2000 and the three months ended March 31, 2001 are as follows: Three Months Ended March 31, 2001 2000 2000 1999 1998 1997 1996 ---- ---- ---- ---- ---- ---- Ratio of earnings to fixed charges..... 1.77 1.58 --(a) 1.38 1.59 1.78 1.96 Ratio of earnings to fixed charges and preferred stock dividends..... 1.65 1.54 --(a) 1.28 1.43 1.59 1.75 (a) For the year ended December 31, 2000, fixed charges exceeded earnings by \$124 million. Earnings as defined include a \$329 million pretax impairment loss on the Loy Yang investment. The ratio of earnings to fixed charges and preferred securities dividends and distributions would have been 1.26 and the ratio of earnings to fixed charges would have been 1.32, excluding this amount. For the purpose of computing such ratios, earnings represent net income before income taxes, net interest charges and the estimated interest portion of lease rentals.

DESCRIPTION OF SECURITIES INTRODUCTION Specific terms of the shares of Common Stock, par value \$.01 per share ("CMS Energy Common Stock"), unsecured senior debt securities (the "Senior Debentures") and unsecured subordinated debt securities (the "Subordinated Debentures") (individually a "Debt Security" and collectively the "Debt Securities") consisting of debentures, convertible debentures, notes and other unsecured evidence of indebtedness, Stock Purchase Contracts (the "Stock Purchase Contracts") to purchase CMS Energy Common Stock, Stock Purchase Units (the "Stock Purchase Units"), each representing ownership of a Stock Purchase Contract and Debt Securities, or Trust Preferred Securities or debt obligations of third parties, including U.S. Treasury Securities, securing the holder's obligation to purchase the CMS Energy Common Stock under the Stock Purchase Contract, or any combination of the foregoing, irrevocable guarantees (individually a "Guarantee" and collectively "Guarantees") of CMS Energy, on a senior or subordinated basis as applicable, and to the extent set forth therein, with respect to each of the Trust 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 fund on hand, and trust preferred securities -5- (the "Trust Preferred Securities") representing preferred undivided beneficial interests in the assets of the Trust, in respect of which this prospectus is being delivered (collectively, the "Offered Securities"), will be set forth in an accompanying prospectus supplement or supplements, together with the terms of the offering of the Offered Securities, the initial price thereof and the net proceeds from the sale thereof. The prospectus supplement will set forth with regard to the particular Offered Securities, without limitation, the following: (i) in the case of Debt Securities, the designation, aggregate 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 CMS Energy, 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; (ii) in the case of CMS Energy Common Stock, the designation, number of shares, public offering price and other specific terms of the Offering, from the sale thereof; (iii) 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 Guarantee (as defined herein), as the case may be; and (iv) in the case of Stock Purchase Units, the specific terms of the Stock Purchase Contracts and any Debt Securities, Trust Preferred Securities, or debt obligations of third parties securing the holders obligation to purchase CMS Energy Common Stock under the Stock Purchase Contracts, and the terms of the offering and sale thereof.

CAPITAL STOCK The following summary of certain rights of the holders of CMS Energy capital stock does not purport to be complete and is qualified in its entirety by express reference to the Restated Articles of Incorporation of CMS Energy (the "Articles of Incorporation") and the By-Laws of CMS Energy, copies of which are filed as exhibits to the Registration Statement of which this prospectus is a part, and by express

reference to the Registration Statement on Form 8-B/A, which is incorporated into this prospectus by reference. See "Where to Find More Information" herein. The authorized capital stock of CMS Energy consists of 250 million shares of CMS Energy Common Stock, 60 million shares of Class G Common Stock, no par value ("Class G Common Stock") and 10 million shares of CMS Energy Preferred Stock, \$.01 par value ("Preferred Stock"). The CMS Energy Common Stock and the Class G Common Stock are sometimes together referred to herein as the "Common Stock." Currently there is no Class G Common Stock issued and outstanding. **COMMON STOCK** When issued and outstanding, the Class G Common Stock is intended to reflect the separate performance of the gas distribution, storage and transportation businesses conducted by Consumers and Michigan Gas Storage, a subsidiary of Consumers (such businesses, collectively, have been attributed to the "Consumers Gas Group"). The CMS Energy Common Stock is intended to reflect the performance of all businesses of CMS Energy and its subsidiaries, including the businesses of the Consumers Gas Group, except for the interest in the Consumers Gas Group attributable to any outstanding shares of Class G Common Stock. **DIVIDEND RIGHTS AND POLICY; RESTRICTIONS ON DIVIDENDS** Dividends on the CMS Energy Common Stock are paid at the discretion of the Board of Directors based primarily upon the earnings and financial condition of CMS Energy, including the Consumers Gas Group, except for the interest in the Consumers Gas Group attributable to any outstanding shares of the Class G Common Stock, and other factors. Dividends are payable out of the assets of CMS Energy legally available therefore, including the Available Class G Dividend Amount (as defined in the Articles of Incorporation). When issued and outstanding, dividends on the Class G Common Stock are paid at the discretion of the Board of Directors based primarily upon the earnings and financial condition of the Consumers Gas Group, and, to a lesser extent, CMS Energy as a whole. Dividends are payable out of the lesser of (i) the assets of CMS Energy legally available therefore and (ii) the Available Class G Dividend Amount. Although the Available Class G Dividend Amount is intended to reflect the amount available for dividends to holders of any outstanding Class G Common Stock, it is also legally available for dividends to holders of CMS Energy Common Stock. CMS Energy, in the sole discretion of its Board of Directors could pay dividends exclusively to the holders of CMS Energy -6- Common Stock, exclusively to the holders of any outstanding Class G Common Stock, or to the holders of both of such classes in equal or unequal amounts. CMS Energy is a holding company and its assets consist primarily of investments in its subsidiaries. As a holding company with no significant operations of its own, the principal sources of its funds are dependent primarily upon the earnings of its subsidiaries (in particular, Consumers), borrowings and sales of equity. CMS Energy's ability to pay dividends, including dividends on CMS Energy Common Stock and any outstanding Class G Common Stock, is dependent primarily upon the earnings and cash flows of its subsidiaries and the distribution or other payment of such earnings to CMS Energy in the form of dividends, loans or advances and repayment of loans and advances from CMS Energy. Accordingly, the ability of CMS Energy to pay dividends on its capital stock will depend on the earnings, financial requirements, contractual restrictions of the subsidiaries of CMS Energy, in particular, Consumers, and other factors. CMS Energy's subsidiaries are separate and distinct legal entities and have no obligation, contingent or otherwise, to pay any amounts on the capital stock of CMS Energy or to make any funds available therefor, whether by dividends, loans or other payments. Dividends on capital stock of CMS Energy are limited by Michigan law to legally available assets of CMS Energy. Distributions on Common Stock may be subject to the rights of the holders, if any, of the CMS Energy Preferred Stock including the currently issued and outstanding Series A Mandatorily Convertible Preferred Stock. As long as the Series A Mandatorily Convertible Preferred Stock is outstanding, CMS Energy may not pay dividends on its Common Stock unless certain conditions are met including, but not limited to, dividends on the Series A Preferred Stock being paid. See "Preferred Stock -- Dividends". There are restrictions on CMS Energy's ability to pay dividends contained in certain revolving credit agreements as and the indenture dated as of September 15, 1992, as amended and supplemented, between CMS Energy and NBD Bank, as Trustee, and the indenture dated as of January 15, 1994, as amended and supplemented, between CMS Energy and The Chase Manhattan Bank, as Trustee. A discussion of specific restrictions on CMS Energy's ability to pay dividends will be set forth in an accompanying prospectus supplement pursuant to which convertible Senior Debentures, Subordinated Debentures, convertible Trust Preferred Securities, Stock Purchase Contracts, Stock Purchase Units, or CMS Energy Common Stock are offered. **VOTING RIGHTS** The holders of CMS Energy Common Stock vote with the holders of outstanding Class G Common Stock as a single class, except on matters that would be required by law or the Articles of Incorporation to be voted on by class. Each holder of Common Stock is entitled to one vote for each share of Common Stock held by such holder on each matter voted upon by the shareholders. Such right to vote is not cumulative. A majority of the votes cast by the

holders of shares entitled to vote thereon is sufficient for the adoption of any question presented, except that certain provisions of the Articles of Incorporation relating to special shareholder meetings, the removal, indemnification and liability of the Board of Directors and the requirements for amending these provisions may not be amended, altered, changed or repealed unless such amendment, alteration, change or repeal is approved by the affirmative vote of at least 75% of the outstanding shares entitled to vote thereon. Under Michigan law, the approval of the holders of a majority of the outstanding shares of a class of Common Stock, voting as a separate class, would be necessary for authorizing, effecting or validating the merger or consolidation of CMS Energy into or with any other corporation if such merger or consolidation would adversely affect the powers or special rights of such class of stock, and to authorize any amendment to the Articles of Incorporation that would increase or decrease the aggregate number of authorized shares of such class (except pursuant to Section 303 of the Michigan Business Corporation Act, which, under certain circumstances, would enable the Board of Directors to increase the number of authorized shares to satisfy the exchange features of the Common Stock described below) or alter or change the powers, preferences or special rights of the shares of such class so as to affect them adversely. The Articles of Incorporation also provide that unless the vote or consent of a greater number of shares shall then be required by law, the vote or consent of the holders of a majority of all the shares of either class of Common Stock then outstanding, voting as a separate class, will be necessary for authorizing, effecting or validating the merger or consolidation of CMS Energy into or with any other entity if such merger or consolidation would adversely affect the powers or special rights of such class of Common Stock, either directly by amendment to the Articles of Incorporation or indirectly by requiring the holders of such class to accept or retain, in such merger or consolidation, anything other than (i) shares of such class or (ii) shares of the surviving or resulting corporation, having, in either case, powers and special rights identical to those of such class prior to such merger or consolidation. The effect of these provisions may be to permit the holders of a majority of the outstanding shares of either class of Common Stock to block any such merger or amendment that would adversely affect the powers or special rights of holders of such class of Common Stock.

-7- PREEMPTIVE RIGHTS The Articles of Incorporation provide that holders of Common Stock will have no preemptive rights to subscribe for or purchase any additional shares of the capital stock of CMS Energy of any class now or hereafter authorized, or Preferred Stock, bonds, debentures, or other obligations or rights or options convertible into or exchangeable for or entitling the holder or owner to subscribe for or purchase any shares of capital stock, or any rights to exchange shares issued for shares to be issued.

LIQUIDATION RIGHTS In the event of the dissolution, liquidation or winding up of CMS Energy, whether voluntary or involuntary, after payment or provision for payment of the debts and other liabilities of CMS Energy and after there shall have been paid or set apart for the holders of Preferred Stock the full preferential amounts (including any accumulated and unpaid dividends) to which they are entitled, the holders of CMS Energy Common Stock and any future holders of issued and outstanding shares of Class G Common Stock shall be entitled to receive, on a per share basis, the same portion of all of the assets of CMS Energy remaining for distribution to the holders of Common Stock, regardless of whether or not any of such assets were attributed to the Consumers Gas Group. Neither the merger or consolidation of CMS Energy into or with any other corporation, nor the merger or consolidation of any other corporation into or with CMS Energy nor any sale, transfer or lease of all or any part of the assets of CMS Energy, shall be deemed to be a dissolution, liquidation or winding up for the purposes of this provision. Because CMS Energy has subsidiaries that have debt obligations and other liabilities of their own, CMS Energy's rights and the rights of its creditors and its stockholders to participate in the distribution of assets of any subsidiary upon the latter's liquidation or recapitalization will be subject to prior claims of the subsidiary's creditors, except to the extent that CMS Energy may itself be a creditor with recognized claims against the subsidiary.

SUBDIVISION OR COMBINATION If CMS Energy subdivides (by stock split, stock dividend or otherwise) or combines (by reverse stock split or otherwise), the voting and liquidation rights of shares of CMS Energy Common Stock relative to outstanding shares of Class G Common Stock will be appropriately adjusted so as to avoid any dilution in aggregate voting or liquidation rights of either class of Common Stock. For example, in case CMS Energy were to effect a two-for-one split of Class G Common Stock, the per share liquidation rights of CMS Energy Common Stock would be multiplied by two in order to avoid dilution in the aggregate liquidation rights of holders of CMS Energy Common Stock and each post-split share of Class G Common Stock would have one-half of a vote on matters voted upon by the Shareholders.

EXCHANGES The Articles of Incorporation do not provide for either the mandatory or optional exchange or redemption of CMS Energy Common Stock but do provide that Class G Common Stock may be exchanged for CMS Energy Common Stock as described in the Registration Statement on Form 8-B/A

incorporated by reference herein. If Class G Shares are issued and outstanding in the future, CMS Energy cannot predict the impact of the potential for such exchanges on the market prices of CMS Energy Common Stock. CMS Energy may exchange future issued and outstanding shares of Class G Common Stock for a proportionate number of shares of a subsidiary that holds all the assets and liabilities attributed to the Consumers Gas Group, and no other assets and liabilities. If CMS Energy transfers all or substantially all of the properties and assets attributed to the Consumers Gas Group, CMS Energy is required, subject to certain exceptions and conditions, to exchange each outstanding share of Class G Common Stock for a number of shares of CMS Energy Common Stock having a Fair Market Value (defined in the Articles of Incorporation) equal to 110% of the Fair Market Value of one share of Class G Common Stock. In the event any shares of Class G Common Stock are issued and outstanding,, CMS Energy may, in the sole discretion of the Board of Directors, at any time, exchange each outstanding share of Class G Common Stock for a number of shares of CMS Energy Common Stock having a Fair Market Value equal to 115% of the Fair Market Value of one share of Class G Common Stock. CMS Energy cannot predict the impact of the potential for such exchanges on the market prices of the CMS Energy Common Stock.

-8- TRANSFER AGENT AND REGISTRAR CMS Energy Common Stock is transferable at Consumers Energy Company, 212 W. Michigan Avenue, Jackson, MI 49201. CMS Energy is the registrar and transfer agent for CMS Energy Common Stock.

PREFERRED STOCK The authorized Preferred Stock may be issued without the approval of the holders of Common Stock in one or more series, from time to time, with each such series to have such designation, powers, preferences and relative, participating, optional or other special rights, voting rights, if any, and qualifications, limitations or restrictions thereof, as shall be stated in a resolution providing for the issue of any such series adopted by CMS Energy's Board of Directors. The Articles of Incorporation provide that holders of Preferred Stock will not have any preemptive rights to subscribe for or purchase any additional shares of the capital stock of CMS Energy of any class now or hereafter authorized, or any Preferred Stock, bonds, debentures or other obligations or rights or options convertible into or exchangeable for or entitling the holder or owner to subscribe for or purchase any shares of capital stock. The future issuance of Preferred Stock may have the effect of delaying, deterring or preventing a change in control of CMS Energy.

SERIES A MANDATORILY CONVERTIBLE PREFERRED STOCK The Articles of Incorporation establish one series of preferred stock designated as "Series A Mandatorily Convertible Preferred Stock" consisting of 125,000 shares with a liquidation preference of \$1,000 per share. The Series A Preferred Stock ranks prior to any series of our Common Stock as to the payment of dividends and distribution of assets upon dissolution, liquidation or winding up of CMS Energy, and is convertible into shares of Common Stock. The holders of the Series A Preferred Stock have no preemptive rights.

DIVIDENDS Holders of Series A Preferred Stock are not entitled to receive dividends prior to the rate reset date. The rate reset date is the earlier of the date when remarketing of the Series A Preferred Stock begins or the date that there is a failure to remarket the Series A Preferred Stock because it is legally impossible. After such date, dividends on the Series A Preferred Stock are payable quarterly in cash at the reset dividend rate. The reset dividend rate per annum for each dividend period beginning on the rate reset date will generally be equal to \$1,000 times the sum of (1) 7.0% plus (2) the annual dividend yield of a share of our Common Stock. Dividends on the Series A Preferred Stock are cumulative and accrue to the holders of Series A Preferred Stock whether or not they are declared and, whether or not our earnings or financial condition are sufficient to pay such dividends in whole or in part. As long as any Series A Preferred Stock is outstanding, we may not pay dividends or distributions on, or purchase, redeem or otherwise acquire, subject to certain exceptions, shares of our Common Stock unless (1) full dividends on the Series A Preferred Stock have been paid or set aside for payment, (2) all required amounts for purchase or retirement of, or sinking funds for, outstanding shares of Series A Preferred Stock have been paid or set aside and (3) we are not in default of any of our obligations to redeem the Series A Preferred Stock.

LIQUIDATION PREFERENCE In the event of any voluntary or involuntary liquidation, dissolution or winding up our affairs, holders of Series A Preferred Stock will be entitled to be paid in full in cash the amount of \$1,000 per share as well as all accrued dividends to the date of the distribution or payment, whether or not earned or declared. However, this payment right is subject to the rights of any senior stock or parity stock that is outstanding at that time. If, upon any liquidation, dissolution or winding up of our affairs, Series A Preferred Stock holders and parity stock holders are not paid in full then they shall share the amount paid out in proportion to the full amounts they would have been entitled to.

VOTING RIGHTS The holders of the Series A Preferred Stock are not entitled to vote, except as set forth below or as expressly required by applicable law. So long as any shares of Series A Preferred Stock are outstanding, the affirmative vote or consent of the holders of at least a majority of the outstanding shares of Series A

Preferred Stock will be required for any amendment of our Articles of Incorporation which will adversely affect the powers, preferences, privileges or rights of the Series A Preferred Stock. In addition, the affirmative -9- vote or consent of the holders of a least a majority of the outstanding shares of Series A Preferred Stock will be required to authorize, issue or increase the authorized amount of any stock of any class or series or any security convertible into stock of any class or series ranking prior to the Series A Preferred Stock, or to authorize our merger or consolidation with or into another corporation or a statutory share exchange with another corporation, subject to certain exceptions.

REDEMPTION At any time following a redemption event and prior to a rate reset date, we will have the right to redeem all outstanding shares of Series A Preferred Stock at a price of \$1,000 per share, plus accrued and unpaid dividends. A redemption event means the occurrence of any of the following: - our consolidation or merger with or into another entity, or a statutory exchange of securities with another entity, unless in connection with such transaction, our outstanding shares of Common Stock immediately preceding the transaction are converted into, exchanged for or otherwise represent at least a majority of the outstanding common stock of the surviving or resulting entity; or - the sale or conveyance of all or substantially all of our assets to another entity, other than our subsidiary.

MANDATORY CONVERSION Unless previously converted at the option of the holder as described in the next paragraph, on the third anniversary of the rate reset date, each outstanding share of Series A Preferred Stock will automatically convert into a number of shares of our common stock at the "CMS mandatory conversion rate" plus accrued and unpaid dividends. The CMS mandatory conversion rate equals the following number of shares of our Common Stock per share of Series A Preferred Stock, subject to adjustment: - if the average trading price of a share of our Common Stock for the 20-trading day period immediately prior to the conversion date equals or exceeds the product of the reset price and 1.10 (the "CMS threshold appreciation price"), the quotient of \$1,000 divided by the CMS threshold appreciation price; - if the average trading price of a share of our Common Stock for the 20-trading day period immediately prior to the conversion date is less than the CMS threshold appreciation price but is greater than the reset price, the quotient of \$1,000 divided by the average trading price of a share of our Common Stock for the 20-trading day period immediately prior to the conversion date; and - if the average trading price of a share of our Common Stock for the 20-trading day period immediately prior to the conversion date is less than or equal to the reset price, the quotient of \$1,000 divided by the reset price.

CONVERSION AT THE OPTION OF THE HOLDER At any time before the third anniversary of the rate reset date, each outstanding share of Series A Preferred Stock is convertible at the option of the holder into 24.779 shares of our Common Stock, subject to certain anti-dilution adjustments and adjustment on the rate reset date.

PRIMARY SOURCE OF FUNDS OF CMS ENERGY;

RESTRICTIONS ON SOURCES OF DIVIDENDS The ability of CMS Energy to pay (i) dividends on its capital stock and (ii) its indebtedness, including the Debt Securities, depends and will depend substantially upon timely receipt of sufficient dividends or other distributions from its subsidiaries, in particular Consumers. Consumers' ability to pay dividends on its common stock depends upon its revenues, earnings and other factors. Consumers' revenues and earnings will depend substantially upon rates authorized by the MPSC. Consumers' ability to pay dividends is restricted by its First Mortgage Bond Indenture (the "Mortgage Indenture") and its Articles of Incorporation ("Articles"). The Mortgage Indenture provides that Consumers can only pay dividends on its common stock out of retained earnings accumulated subsequent to September 30, 1945, provided that upon such payment, there shall remain of such retained earnings an amount equivalent to any deficiency in maintenance and replacement expenditures as compared with maintenance and replacement requirements since December 31, 1945. Because of restrictions in its Articles and Mortgage Indenture, Consumers was prohibited from paying dividends on its common stock from June 1991 to December 31, 1992. However, as of December 31, -10- 1992, Consumers effected a quasi-reorganization in which Consumers' accumulated deficit of \$574 million was eliminated against other paid-in capital. With the accumulated deficit eliminated, Consumers satisfied the requirements under its Mortgage Indenture and resumed paying dividends on its common stock in May 1993. Consumers' Articles also provide two restrictions on its payment of dividends on its common stock. First, prior to the payment of any common stock dividend, Consumers must reserve retained earnings after giving effect to such dividend payment of at least (i) \$7.50 per share on all then outstanding shares of its preferred stock, (ii) in respect to its Class A Preferred Stock, 7.5% of the aggregate amount established by its Board of Directors to be payable on the shares of each series thereof in the event of involuntary liquidation of Consumers, and (iii) \$7.50 per share on all then outstanding shares of all other stock over which its preferred stock and Class A Preferred Stock do not have preference as to the payment of dividends and as to assets. Second, dividend payments during the 12 month period ending with the month the proposed payment is to be

paid are limited to: (i) 50% of net income available for the payment of dividends during the base period (hereinafter defined) if the ratio of common stock and surplus to total capitalization and surplus for 12 consecutive calendar months within the 14 calendar months immediately preceding the proposed dividend payment (the "base period"), adjusted to reflect the proposed dividend, is less than 20%; and (ii) 75% of net income available for the payment of dividends during the base period if the ratio of common stock and surplus to total capitalization and surplus for the base period, adjusted to reflect the proposed dividend, is at least 20% but less than 25%. In addition, Consumers' Indenture dated January 1, 1996, between Consumers and Bank of New York as Trustee ("Indenture"), and certain Preferred Securities Guarantees by Consumers dated January 23, 1996, September 11, 1997 and October 25, 1999 (collectively the "Consumers Preferred Securities Guarantees"), in connection with which the 8.36% Trust Preferred Securities of Consumers Power Company Financing I, the 8.20% Trust Securities of Consumers Energy Financing II, the 9.25% Trust Originated Preferred Securities of Consumers Energy Financing III and the 9% Trust Preferred Securities of Consumers Energy Company Financing IV (collectively the "Consumers Trust Preferred Securities") were issued, provide that Consumers shall not declare or pay any dividend on, make any distributions with respect to, or redeem, purchase or make a liquidation payment with respect to, any of its capital stock if: (i) there shall have occurred any event that would constitute an event of default under the Indenture or the trust agreements pursuant to which the Consumers Trust Preferred Securities were issued, (ii) a default with respect to its payment of any obligations under the Consumers Preferred Securities Guarantees or certain Consumers common stock guarantees, or (iii) it gives notice of its election to extend the interest payment period on the subordinated notes issued under the Indenture, at any time for up to 20 consecutive quarters provided, however, Consumers may declare and pay stock dividends where the dividend stock is the same stock as that on which the dividend is being paid. Consumers' Articles also prohibit the payment of cash dividends on its common stock if Consumers is in arrears on preferred stock dividend payments. In addition, Michigan law prohibits payment of a dividend if, after giving it effect, Consumers would not be able to pay its debts as they become due in the usual course of business, or its total assets would be less than the sum of its total liabilities plus, unless the articles permit otherwise, the amount that would be needed, if Consumers were to be dissolved at the time of the distribution, to satisfy the preferential rights upon dissolution of shareholders whose preferential rights are superior to those receiving the distribution. Currently, it is Consumers' policy to pay annual dividends equal to 80% of its annual consolidated net income. Consumers' Board of Directors reserves the right to change this policy at any time.

DEBT SECURITIES The Debt Securities offered by this prospectus will be unsecured obligations of CMS Energy and will be either senior or subordinated debt. Senior Debentures will be issued under a senior debt indenture and 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 Securities, which will be described in more detail in the applicable prospectus supplement. Copies of the indentures may be obtained from CMS Energy or the applicable trustee. Unless otherwise provided in the applicable prospectus supplement, the trustee under the senior debt indenture will be Bank One Trust Company, National Associations and the trustee under the subordinated debt indenture will be The Bank of New York.

-11- GENERAL The indentures provide that Debt Securities of CMS Energy may be issued in one or more series, with different terms, in each case as authorized from time to time by CMS Energy. Federal income tax consequences and other special considerations applicable to any Debt Securities issued by CMS Energy at a discount will be described in the applicable prospectus supplement. Because CMS Energy is a holding company, the claims of creditors of CMS Energy's subsidiaries will have a priority over CMS Energy's equity rights and the rights of CMS Energy's creditors, including the holders of Debt Securities, to participate in the assets of the subsidiary upon the subsidiary's liquidation. 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 CMS Energy; - any obligation of CMS Energy 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 CMS Energy's 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 CMS Energy will pay to a non-United States person because of any tax, assessment or governmental charge withheld or deducted and, if so, any option of CMS Energy to redeem the Debt Securities rather than paying these additional amounts; and - any other specific terms of the Debt Securities.

CONCERNING THE TRUSTEES Each of Bank One Trust Company, National Association, the trustee under the senior debt indenture, and The Bank of New York, the trustee under the subordinated debt indenture, is one of a number of banks with which CMS Energy and its subsidiaries maintain ordinary banking relationships, including credit facilities.

-12- EXCHANGE AND TRANSFER Debt Securities may be presented for exchange and registered Debt Securities may be presented for registration of transfer at the offices and subject to the restrictions set forth therein and in the applicable prospectus supplement without service charge, but upon payment of any taxes or other governmental charges due in connection therewith, subject to any limitations contained in the applicable indenture. Debt Securities in bearer form and the coupons appertaining thereto, if any, 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 CMS Energy, 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 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.

EVENTS OF DEFAULT Each indenture provides that events of default regarding any series of Debt Securities will be: - failure to pay required interest on any Debt Security of such series for 30 days; - failure to pay principal other than a scheduled installment payment or premium, if any, on any Debt Security of such series when due; - failure to make any required scheduled installment payment for 30 days on Debt Securities of such series; - failure to perform for 90 days after notice any other covenant in the relevant indenture other than a covenant included in the relevant indenture solely for the benefit of a series of Debt Securities other than such series; - certain events of bankruptcy or insolvency, whether voluntary or not; or - entry of final judgments against CMS Energy or Consumers for more than \$25,000,000 which remain undischarged or unbonded for 60 days or a default resulting in the acceleration of indebtedness of CMS Energy or Consumers of more than \$25,000,000, and the acceleration has not been rescinded or annulled within 10 days after written notice of such default as provided in the applicable indenture. Additional events of default may be prescribed for the benefit of the holders of a particular series of Debt Securities and will be described in the prospectus supplement relating to those Debt Securities. If an event of default regarding Debt Securities of any series issued under the indentures should occur and be continuing, either the trustee or the holders of 25% in the principal amount of outstanding Debt Securities of such series may declare each Debt Security of that series due and payable. Holders of a majority in principal amount of the outstanding Debt Securities of any series will be entitled to control certain actions of the trustee under the indentures and to waive past defaults regarding such series. The trustee generally will not be requested, ordered or directed by any of the holders of Debt Securities, unless one or more of such holders shall have offered to the trustee reasonable security or indemnity. Before any holder of any series of Debt Securities may institute action for any remedy, except payment on such holder's Debt Security when due, the holders of not less than 25% in principal amount of the Debt Securities of that series outstanding must request the trustee to take action. Holders must also offer and give the satisfactory security and indemnity against liabilities incurred by the trustee for taking such action. CMS Energy is required to annually furnish the relevant trustee a statement as to CMS Energy's compliance with all conditions and covenants under the applicable indenture. Each indenture provides that the relevant trustee may withhold notice to the holders of the Debt Securities of any series of any default affecting such series, except payment on holders' Debt Securities when due, if it

-13- considers withholding notice to be in the interests of the holders of the Debt Securities of such series.

CONSOLIDATION, MERGER OR SALE OF ASSETS Each indenture provides that CMS Energy may consolidate with or merge into, or sell, lease or convey its property as an entirety or substantially as an entirety to, any other corporation if the new corporation assumes the obligations of

CMS Energy under the Debt Securities and the indentures and is organized and existing under the laws of the United States of America, any U.S. state or the District of Columbia. **MODIFICATION OF THE INDENTURE** Each indenture permits CMS Energy and the relevant trustee to enter into supplemental indentures without the consent of the holders of the Debt Securities to establish the form and terms of any series of securities under the indentures. Each indenture also permits CMS Energy and the relevant trustee, with the consent of the holders of at least a majority in total principal amount of the Debt Securities of all series then outstanding and affected (voting as one class), to change in any manner the provisions of the applicable indenture or modify in any manner the rights of the holders of the Debt Securities of each such affected series. CMS Energy and the relevant trustee may not, without the consent of the holder of each Debt Security affected, enter into any supplemental indenture to: - change the time of payment of the principal; - reduce the principal amount of such Debt Security; - reduce the rate or change the time of payment of interest on such Debt Security; - reduce the amount payable on any securities issued originally at a discount upon acceleration or provable in bankruptcy; or - impair the right to institute suit for the enforcement of any payment on any Debt Security when due. In addition, no such modification may reduce the percentage in principal amount of the Debt Securities of the affected series, the consent of whose holders is required for any such modification or for any waiver provided for in the applicable indenture. Prior to the acceleration of the maturity of any Debt Security, the holders, voting as one class, of a majority in total principal amount of the Debt Securities with respect to which a default or event of default shall have occurred and be continuing may on behalf of the holders of all such affected Debt Securities waive any past default or event of default and its consequences, except a default or an event of default in respect of a covenant or provision of the applicable indenture or of any Debt Security which cannot be modified or amended without the consent of the holder of each Debt Security affected. **DEFEASANCE, COVENANT DEFEASANCE AND DISCHARGE** Each indenture provides that, at the option of CMS Energy: - CMS Energy will be discharged from all obligations in respect of the Debt Securities of a particular series then outstanding (except for certain obligations to register the transfer of or exchange the Debt Securities of such series, to replace stolen, lost or mutilated Debt Securities of such series, to maintain paying agencies and to maintain the trust described below); or - CMS Energy need not comply with certain restrictive covenants of the relevant indenture (including those described under "Consolidation, Merger or Sale of Assets"). If CMS Energy in each case irrevocably deposits in trust with the relevant trustee money, and/or securities backed by the full faith and credit of the United States which, through the payment of the principal thereof and the interest thereon in accordance with their terms, will provide money in an amount sufficient to pay all the principal and interest on the Debt Securities of such series on the stated maturities of such Debt Securities in accordance with the terms thereof. To exercise this option, CMS Energy is required to deliver to the relevant trustee an opinion of independent counsel to the effect that: -14- - the exercise of such option would not cause the holders of the Debt Securities of such series to recognize income, gain or loss for United States federal income tax purposes as a result of such defeasance, and such holders will be subject to United States federal income tax on the same amounts, in the same manner and at the same times as would have been the case if such defeasance had not occurred; and - in the case of a discharge as described above, such opinion is to be accompanied by a private letter ruling to the same effect received from the Internal Revenue Service, a revenue ruling to such effect pertaining to a comparable form of transaction published by the Internal Revenue Service or appropriate evidence that since the date of the applicable indenture there has been a change in the applicable federal income tax law. In the event: - CMS Energy exercises its option to effect a covenant defeasance with respect to the Debt Securities of any series as described above, - the Debt Securities of such series are thereafter declared due and payable because of the occurrence of any event of default other than an event of default caused by failing to comply with the covenants which are defeased, - the amount of money and securities on deposit with the relevant trustee would be insufficient to pay amounts due on the Debt Securities of such series at the time of the acceleration resulting from such event of default, CMS Energy would remain liable for such amounts. **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. **SENIOR DEBENTURES** The Senior Debentures will be issued under the senior debt indenture and will rank on an equal basis with all other unsecured debt of CMS Energy except subordinated debt. **SUBORDINATED DEBENTURES** The Subordinated Debentures will be issued under the subordinated debt indenture and will rank subordinated and junior in right of payment, to the extent set forth in the subordinated debt indenture, to all "Senior Indebtedness" (as defined below) of CMS Energy. If CMS Energy defaults in the payment of any distributions on any Senior Indebtedness when it becomes due and payable after any applicable grace period, then,

unless and until the default is cured or waived or ceases to exist, CMS Energy cannot make a payment on account of or redeem or otherwise acquire the Subordinated Debentures. The subordinated debt indenture provisions described in this paragraph, however, do not prevent CMS Energy from making sinking fund payments in Subordinated Debentures acquired prior to the maturity of Senior Indebtedness or, in the case of default, prior to such default and notice thereof. If there is any insolvency, bankruptcy, liquidation or other similar proceeding relating to CMS Energy, its creditors or its property, then all Senior Indebtedness must be paid in full before any payment may be made to any holders of Subordinated Debentures. Holders of Subordinated Debentures must return and deliver any payments received by them, other than in a plan of reorganization or through a defeasance trust as described above, directly to the holders of Senior Indebtedness until all Senior Indebtedness is paid in full. "Senior Indebtedness" means distributions on the following, whether outstanding on the date of execution of the subordinated debt indenture or thereafter incurred, created or assumed: - indebtedness of CMS Energy for money borrowed by CMS Energy or evidenced by debentures (other than the Subordinated Debentures), notes, bankers' acceptances or other corporate debt securities or similar instruments issued by CMS Energy; -15- - obligations of CMS Energy with respect to letters of credit; - all indebtedness of others of the type referred to in the two preceding clauses assumed by or guaranteed in any manner by CMS Energy or in effect guaranteed by CMS Energy; or - renewals, extensions or refundings of any of the indebtedness referred to in the preceding three clauses unless, in the case of any particular indebtedness, renewal, extension or refunding, under the express provisions of the instrument creating or evidencing the same or the assumption or guarantee of the same, or pursuant to which the same is outstanding, such indebtedness or such renewal, extension or refunding thereof is not superior in right of payment to the subordinated debt securities. The subordinated debt indenture does not limit the total amount of Senior Indebtedness that may be issued. As of March 31, 2001, Senior Indebtedness of CMS Energy totaled approximately \$8.1 billion. CERTAIN COVENANTS If Debt Securities are issued to a Trust or a trustee of such Trust in connection with the issuance of Trust Preferred Securities by such Trust, CMS Energy will covenant that it will not, and it will not cause any of its subsidiaries to, (i) declare or pay any dividends or distributions on, or redeem, purchase, acquire, or make a liquidation payment with respect to, any of CMS Energy's capital stock or (ii) make any payment of principal, interest or premium, if any, on or repay or repurchase or redeem any debt securities (including guarantees of indebtedness for money borrowed) of CMS Energy that rank pari passu (in the case of Subordinated Debentures) with or junior (in the case of Senior and Subordinated Debentures) to that Debt Security (other than (a) any dividend, redemption, liquidation, interest, principal or guarantee payment by CMS Energy where the payment is made by way of securities (including capital stock) that rank pari passu with or junior to the securities on which such dividend, redemption, interest, principal or guarantee payment is being made, (b) payments under the Guarantees, (c) purchases of CMS Energy Common Stock related to the issuance of CMS Energy Common Stock under any of CMS Energy's benefit plans for its directors, officers or employees, (d) as a result of a reclassification of CMS Energy's capital stock or the exchange or conversion of one series or class of CMS Energy's capital stock for another series or class of CMS Energy's capital stock and (e) the purchase of fractional interests in shares of CMS Energy's capital stock pursuant to the conversion or exchange provisions of such capital stock or the security being converted or exchanged) if at such time (i) there shall have occurred any event of which CMS Energy has actual knowledge that (a) with the giving of notice or the lapse of time, or both, would constitute an event of default under the indentures and (b) in respect of which CMS Energy shall not have taken reasonable steps to cure, (ii) CMS Energy shall be in default with respect to its payment of any obligations under the Guarantees or (iii) CMS Energy shall have given notice of its selection of an Extension Period as provided in the indentures with respect to the Debt Securities and shall not have rescinded such notice, or such Extension Period, or any extension thereof, shall be continuing. CMS Energy will also covenant (i) for so long as Trust Preferred Securities are outstanding, not to convert the Debt Securities except pursuant to a notice of conversion delivered to the Conversion Agent (as defined in the indentures) by a holder of Trust Preferred Securities, (ii) to maintain directly or indirectly 100% ownership of the Common Securities, provided that certain successor which are permitted pursuant to the indentures may succeed to CMS Energy's ownership of the Common Securities, (iii) not to voluntarily terminate, wind-up or liquidate such Trust, except (a) in connection with a distribution of the Debt Securities to the holders of the Trust Preferred Securities in liquidation of such Trust or (b) in connection with certain mergers, consolidations or amalgamations permitted by the Trust Agreement, (iv) to maintain the reservation for issuance of the number of shares of CMS Energy Common Stock that would be required from time to time upon the conversion of all the Debt Securities then outstanding, (v) to use its reasonable efforts, consistent with the terms and provisions of the Trust Agreement, to cause such Trust to remain

classified as a grantor trust and not as an association taxable as a corporation for United States federal income tax purposes and (vi) to deliver shares of CMS Energy Common Stock upon an election by the holders of the Trust Preferred Securities to convert such Trust Preferred Securities into CMS Energy Common Stock. As part of the Guarantees, CMS Energy will agree that it will honor all obligations described therein relating to the conversion or exchange of the Trust Preferred Securities into or for CMS Energy Common Stock, Senior Debentures or Subordinated Debentures. **CONVERSION RIGHTS** If the prospectus supplement provides, the Holders of Debt Securities may convert such Debt Securities into CMS Energy Common Stock, as defined herein (see "Description of Securities -- Common Stock"), at the option of the Holders at the principal amount thereof, or of such portion thereof, at any time during the period specified in the prospectus supplement, at the conversion price or conversion rate specified in the prospectus supplement; except that, with respect to any Debt Securities (or portion thereof) -16- called for redemption, such conversion right shall terminate at the close of business on the fifteenth day prior to the date fixed for redemption of such Debt Security, unless CMS Energy shall default in payment of the amount due upon redemption thereof. The conversion privilege and conversion price or conversion rate will be adjusted in certain events, including if CMS Energy: - pays a dividend or makes a distribution in shares of CMS Energy Common Stock; - subdivides its outstanding shares of CMS Energy Common Stock into a greater number of shares; - combines its outstanding shares of CMS Energy Common Stock into a smaller number of shares; - pays a dividend or makes a distribution on its CMS Energy Common Stock other than in shares of its CMS Energy Common Stock; - issues by reclassification of its shares of CMS Energy Common Stock any shares of its capital stock; - issues any rights or warrants to all holders of shares of its CMS Energy Common Stock entitling them (for a period expiring within 45 days, or such other period as may be specified in the prospectus supplement) to purchase shares of CMS Energy Common Stock (or Convertible Securities as defined in the indentures) at a price per share less than the Average Market Price (as defined in the indentures) per share for such CMS Energy Common Stock; or - distributes to all holders of shares of its CMS Energy Common Stock any assets or Debt Securities or any rights or warrants to purchase securities, provided that no adjustment shall be made under the last two bullet points above if the adjusted conversion price would be higher than, or the adjusted conversion rate would be less than, the conversion price or conversion rate, as the case may be, in effect prior to such adjustment. CMS Energy may reduce the conversion price or increase the conversion rate, temporarily or otherwise, by any amount but in no event shall such adjusted conversion price or conversion rate result in shares of CMS Energy Common Stock being issuable upon conversion of the Debt Securities if converted at the time of such adjustment at an effective conversion price per share less than the par value of the CMS Energy Common Stock at the time such adjustment is made. No adjustments in the conversion price or conversion rate need be made unless the adjustment would require an increase or decrease of at least one percent (1%) in the initial conversion price or conversion rate. Any adjustment which is not made shall be carried forward and taken into account in any subsequent adjustment. The foregoing conversion provisions may be modified to the extent set forth in the prospectus supplement. **TRUST PREFERRED SECURITIES GENERAL** Each Trust may issue, from time to time, Trust Preferred Securities having terms described in the applicable prospectus supplement. The Trust Agreement of each Trust will authorize the establishment of no more than one series of Trust Preferred Securities, having such terms, including distributions, redemption, voting, liquidation rights and such other preferred, deferred or other special rights or such rights or restrictions as shall be set forth therein or otherwise established by the relevant Trust Trustees. Reference is made to the prospectus supplement relating to the Trust Preferred Securities for specific terms, including: - the distinctive designation and the number of Trust Preferred Securities to be offered which will represent undivided beneficial interests in the assets of the Trust; - the annual distribution rate and the dates or date upon which such distributions will be paid, provided, however distributions on the Trust Preferred Securities will be paid quarterly in arrears to holders of Trust Preferred Securities as of a record date on which the Trust Preferred Securities are outstanding; - whether holders' can convert the Trust Preferred Securities into shares of CMS Energy Common Stock; - whether distributions on Trust Preferred Securities would be deferred during any deferral of interest payments on the Debt Securities, provided, however that no such deferral, including extensions, if any, may exceed 20 consecutive quarters nor extend beyond the stated maturity date of the Debt Securities, and at the end of any such deferrals, CMS Energy shall make -17- all interest payments then accrued or deferred and unpaid (including any compounded interest); - the amount of any liquidation preference; - the obligation, if any, of the Trust to redeem Trust Preferred Securities through the exercise of CMS Energy of an option on the corresponding Debt Securities and the price or prices at which, the period or periods within which and the terms and conditions upon which Trust

Preferred Securities shall be purchased or redeemed, in whole or in part, pursuant to such obligation; - the period or periods within which and the terms and conditions, if any, including the price or prices or the rate or rates of conversion or exchange and the terms and conditions of any adjustments thereof, upon which the Trust Preferred Securities shall be convertible or exchangeable at the option of the holder of the Trust Preferred Securities or other property or cash; - the voting rights, if any, of the Trust Preferred Securities in addition to those required by law and in the Trust Agreement, or set forth under a Guarantee (as defined below); - the additional payments, if any, which the Trust will pay as a distribution as necessary so that the net amounts reserved by the Trust and distributable to the holders of the Trust Preferred Securities, after all taxes, duties, assessments or governmental charges of whatever nature (other than withholding taxes) have been paid will not be less than the amount that would have been reserved and distributed by the Trust, and the amount the holders of the Trust Preferred Securities would have reserved, had no such taxes, duties, assessments or governmental charges been imposed; - the terms and conditions, if any, upon which the Debt Securities may be distributed to holders of Trust Preferred Securities; and - any other relative rights, powers, preferences, privileges, limitations or restrictions of the Trust Preferred Securities not inconsistent with the Trust Agreement or applicable law. All Trust Preferred Securities offered hereby will be irrevocably guaranteed by CMS Energy, on a senior or subordinated basis, as applicable, and to the extent set forth below under "The Guarantees." Any applicable federal income tax considerations applicable to any offering of the Trust Preferred Securities will be described in the prospectus supplement relating thereto. The aggregate number of Trust Preferred Securities which the Trust shall have authority to issue will be pursuant to the terms of the Trust Agreement.

EFFECT OF OBLIGATIONS UNDER THE DEBT SECURITIES AND THE GUARANTEES As set forth in the Trust Agreement, the sole purpose of the Trust is to issue the Trust Securities evidencing undivided beneficial interests in the assets of each of the Trusts, and to invest the proceeds from such issuance and sale to acquire directly the Debt Securities from CMS Energy. As long as payments of interest and other payments are made when due on the Debt Securities, such payments will be sufficient to cover distributions and payments due on the Trust Securities because of the following factors: - the aggregate principal amount of Debt Securities will be equal to the sums of the aggregate stated liquidation amount of the Trust Securities; - the interest rate and the interest and other payment dates on the Debt Securities will match the distribution rate and distribution and other payment dates for the Trust Securities; - CMS Energy shall pay all, and the Trust shall not be obligated to pay, directly or indirectly, all costs, expenses, debt and obligations of the Trust (other than with respect to the Trust Securities); and - the Trust Agreement further provides that CMS Energy Trustees shall not take or cause or permit the Trust to, among other things, engage in any activity that is not consistent with the purposes of the Trust. Payments of distributions (to the extent funds therefore are available) and other payments due on the Trust Preferred Securities (to -18- the extent funds therefor are available) are guaranteed by CMS Energy as and to the extent set forth under "The Guarantees" below. If CMS Energy does not make interest payments on the Debt Securities purchased by the Trust, it is expected that the Trust will not have sufficient funds to pay distributions on the Trust Preferred Securities. The Guarantees do not apply to any payment of distributions unless and until the Trust has sufficient funds for the payment of distributions and other payments on the Trust Preferred Securities only if and to the extent that CMS Energy has made a payment of interest or principal on the Debt Securities held by the Trust as its sole asset. The Guarantees, when taken together with CMS Energy's obligations under the Debt Securities and the Indenture and its obligations under the Trust Agreement, including its obligations to pay costs, expenses, debts and liabilities of the Trust (other than with respect to the Trust securities), provide a full and unconditional guarantee of amounts on the Trust Preferred Securities. If CMS Energy fails to make interest or other payments on the Debt Securities when due (taking account of any extension period), the Trust Agreement provides a mechanism whereby the holders of the Trust Preferred Securities may direct a Property Trustee to enforce its rights under the Debt Securities. If a Property Trustee fails to enforce its rights under the Debt Securities, a holder of Trust Preferred Securities may institute a legal proceeding against CMS Energy to enforce a Property Trustee's rights under the Debt Securities without first instituting any legal proceeding against a Property Trustee or any other person or entity. Notwithstanding the foregoing, if an event of default has occurred and is continuing under the Trust Agreement, and such event is attributable to the failure of CMS Energy to pay interest or principal on the Debt Securities on the date such interest or principal is otherwise payable (or in the case of redemption on the redemption date), then a holder of Trust Preferred Securities may institute legal proceedings directly against CMS Energy to obtain payment. If CMS Energy fails to make payments under the Guarantees, the Guarantees provide a mechanism whereby the holders of the Trust Preferred Securities may direct a Guarantee Trustee to enforce its rights thereunder. Any holder of Trust

Preferred Securities may institute a legal proceeding directly against CMS Energy to enforce a Guarantee Trustee's rights under a Guarantee without first instituting a legal proceeding against the Trust, the Guarantee Trustee, or any other person or entity. THE GUARANTEES Set forth below is a summary of information concerning the Guarantees which will be executed and delivered by CMS Energy for the benefit of the holders, from time to time, of the Trust Preferred Securities. Each Guarantee will be qualified as an indenture under the Trust Indenture Act of 1939. Either The Bank of New York, or Bank One Trust Company, National Association, each an independent trustee, will act as indenture trustee under the Guarantees for the purpose of compliance with the provisions of the Trust Indenture Act of 1939. This summary does not purport to be complete and is subject in all respects to the provisions of, and is qualified in its entirety by reference to, the Guarantees, which is filed as an exhibit to the Registration Statement of which this prospectus forms a part. GENERAL CMS Energy will irrevocably agree to pay in full, on a senior or subordinated basis, as applicable, to the extent set forth herein, the Guarantee Payments (as defined below) to the holders of the Trust Preferred Securities, as and when due, regardless of any defense, right of set-off or counterclaim that the Trust may have or assert other than the defense of payment. The following payments with respect to the Trust Preferred Securities, to the extent not paid by or on behalf of the Trust (the "Guarantee Payments"), will be subject to a Guarantee: (i) any accumulated and unpaid distributions required to be paid on the Trust Preferred Securities, to the extent that the Trust has funds on hand available therefor at such time; (ii) the redemption price with respect to any Trust Preferred Securities called for redemption to the extent that the Trust has funds on hand available therefor at such time; or (iii) upon a voluntary or involuntary dissolution, winding up or liquidation of the Trust (unless the Debt Securities are distributed to holders of the Trust Preferred Securities), the lesser of (a) the liquidation distribution, to the extent that the Trust has funds on hand available therefor at such time, and (b) the amount of assets of the Trust remaining available for distribution to holders of Trust Preferred Securities. CMS Energy's obligation to make a Guarantee Payment may be satisfied by direct payment of the required amounts of CMS Energy to the holders of the Trust Preferred Securities or by causing the Trust to pay such amount to such holders. Such Guarantees will be irrevocable guarantees, on a senior or subordinated basis, as applicable, of the Trust's obligations under the Trust Preferred Securities, but will apply only to the extent that the Trust has funds sufficient to make such payments, and are not guarantees of collection. If CMS Energy does not make interest payments on the Debt Securities held by the Trust, the Trust will not be able to pay distributions on the Trust Preferred Securities and will not have funds legally available therefor. CMS Energy has, through the Guarantees, the Trust Agreements, the Senior Debentures, the Subordinated Debentures, the indentures and the Expense Agreement, taken together, fully, irrevocably and unconditionally guaranteed all of the Trust's obligations under the Trust Preferred Securities. No single document standing alone or operating in conjunction with fewer than all of the other documents constitutes such guarantee. It is only the combined operation of these documents that has the effect of providing a full, -19- irrevocable and unconditional guarantee of the Trust's obligations under the Trust Preferred Securities. CMS Energy has also agreed separately to irrevocably and unconditionally guarantee the obligations of the Trust with respect to the Common Securities to the same extent as the Guarantees, except that upon the occurrence and during the continuation of a Trust Agreement Event of Default, holders of Trust Preferred Securities shall have priority over holders of Common Securities with respect to distributions and payments on liquidation, redemption or otherwise. CERTAIN COVENANTS OF CMS ENERGY CMS Energy will covenant in each Guarantee that if and so long as (i) the Trust is the holder of all the Debt Securities, (ii) a Tax Event (as defined in the Guarantee) in respect of the Trust has occurred and is continuing and (iii) CMS Energy has elected, and has not revoked such election, to pay Additional Sums (as defined in the Guarantee) in respect of the Trust Preferred Securities and Common Securities, CMS Energy will pay to the Trust such Additional Sums. CMS Energy will also covenant that it will not, and it will not cause any of its subsidiaries to (i) declare or pay any dividends or distributions on, or redeem, purchase, acquire, or make a liquidation payment with respect to, any of CMS Energy's capital stock or (ii) make any payment of principal, interest or premium, if any, on or repay or repurchase or redeem any debt securities (including guarantees of indebtedness for money borrowed) of CMS Energy that rank pari passu (in the case of Subordinated Debentures with or junior in the case of the Senior and Subordinated Debentures) to the Debt Securities (other than (a) any dividend, redemption, liquidation, interest, principal or guarantee payment by CMS Energy where the payment is made by way of securities (including capital stock) that rank pari passu with or junior to the securities on which such dividend, redemption, interest, principal or guarantee payment is being made, (b) payments under the Guarantees, (c) purchases of CMS Energy Common Stock related to the issuance of CMS Energy Common Stock under any of CMS Energy's benefit

plans for its directors, officers or employees, (d) as a result of a reclassification of CMS Energy's capital stock or the exchange or conversion of one series or class of CMS Energy's capital stock for another series or class of CMS Energy's capital stock and (e) the purchase of fractional interests in shares of CMS Energy's capital stock pursuant to the conversion or exchange provisions of such capital stock or the security being converted or exchanged) if at such time (i) there shall have occurred any event of which CMS Energy has actual knowledge that (a) with the giving of notice or the lapse of time, or both, would constitute an event of default and (b) in respect of which CMS Energy shall not have taken reasonable steps to cure, (ii) CMS Energy shall be in default with respect to its payment of any obligations under the Guarantee or (iii) CMS Energy shall have given notice of its selection of an Extension Period as provided in the indentures with respect to the Debt Securities and shall not have rescinded such notice, or such Extension Period, or any extension thereof, shall be continuing. CMS Energy also will covenant to (i) for so long as Trust Preferred Securities are outstanding, not convert Debt Securities except pursuant to a notice of conversion delivered to the Conversion Agent by a holder of Trust Preferred Securities, (ii) maintain directly or indirectly 100% ownership of the Common Securities, provided that certain successors which are permitted pursuant to the indentures may succeed to CMS Energy's ownership of the Common Securities, (iii) not voluntarily terminate, wind-up or liquidate the Trust, except (a) in connection with a distribution of the Debt Securities to the holders of the Trust Preferred Securities in liquidation of the Trust or (b) in connection with certain mergers, consolidations or amalgamations permitted by the Trust Agreement, (iv) maintain the reservation for issuance of the number of shares of CMS Energy Common Stock that would be required from time to time upon the conversion of all the Debt Securities then outstanding, (v) use its reasonable efforts, consistent with the terms and provisions of the Trust Agreement, to cause the Trust to remain classified as a grantor trust and not as an association taxable as a corporation for United States federal income tax purposes and (vi) deliver shares of CMS Energy Common Stock upon an election by the holders of the Trust Preferred Securities to convert such Trust Preferred Securities into CMS Energy Common Stock. As part of the Guarantees, CMS Energy will agree that it will honor all obligations described therein relating to the conversion or exchange of the Trust Preferred Securities into or for CMS Energy Common Stock, Senior Debentures or Subordinated Debentures. AMENDMENTS AND ASSIGNMENT Except with respect to any changes which do not materially adversely affect the rights of holders of the Trust Preferred Securities (in which case no vote will be required), the Guarantees may not be amended without the prior approval of the holders of not less than a majority in aggregate liquidation amount of such outstanding Trust Preferred Securities. All guarantees and agreements contained in the Guarantees shall bind the successors, assigns, receivers, trustees and representatives of CMS Energy and shall inure to the benefit of the holders of the Trust Preferred Securities then outstanding. -20- TERMINATION OF THE GUARANTEES The Guarantees will terminate and be of no further force and effect upon full payment of the redemption price of the Trust Preferred Securities, upon full payment of the amounts payable upon liquidation of the Trust, upon the distribution, if any, of CMS Energy Common Stock to the holders of Trust Preferred Securities in respect of the conversion of all such holders' Trust Preferred Securities into CMS Energy Common Stock or upon distribution of the Debt Securities to the holders of the Trust Preferred Securities in exchange for all of the Trust Preferred Securities. The Guarantees will continue to be effective or will be reinstated, as the case may be, if at any time any holder of Trust Preferred Securities must restore payment of any sums paid under such Trust Preferred Securities or the Guarantees. EVENTS OF DEFAULT An event of default under a Guarantee will occur upon the failure of CMS Energy to perform any of its payment or other obligations thereunder. The holders of a majority in aggregate liquidation amount of the Trust Preferred Securities have the right to direct the time, method and place of conducting any proceeding for any remedy available to a Guarantee Trustee in respect of a Guarantee or to direct the exercise of any trust or power conferred upon a Guarantee Trustee under the Guarantees. If a Guarantee Trustee fails to enforce a Guarantee, any holder of the Trust Preferred Securities may institute a legal proceeding directly against CMS Energy to enforce its rights under such Guarantee without first instituting a legal proceeding against the Trust, the Guarantee Trustee or any other person or entity. In addition, any record holder of Trust Preferred Securities shall have the right, which is absolute and unconditional, to proceed directly against CMS Energy to obtain Guarantee Payments, without first waiting to determine if the Guarantee Trustee has enforced a Guarantee or instituting a legal proceeding against the Trust, the Guarantee Trustee or any other person or entity. CMS Energy has waived any right or remedy to require that any action be brought just against the Trust, or any other person or entity before proceeding directly against CMS Energy. CMS Energy, as guarantor, is required to file annually with each Guarantee Trustee a certificate as to whether or not CMS Energy is in compliance with all the conditions and covenants applicable to it

under the Guarantees. STATUS OF THE GUARANTEES The Guarantees will constitute unsecured obligations of CMS Energy and will rank equal to or subordinate and junior in right of payment to all other liabilities of CMS Energy, as applicable. The Guarantees will rank pari passu with or senior to, as applicable, any guarantee now or hereafter entered into by CMS Energy in respect of any preferred or preference stock of any affiliate of CMS Energy. The Guarantees will constitute a guarantee of payment and not of collection which means that the guaranteed party may institute a legal proceeding directly against the Guarantor to enforce its rights under the Guarantee without first instituting a legal proceeding against any other person or entity. The Guarantees will be held for the benefit of the holders of the Trust Preferred Securities. The Guarantees will not be discharged except by payment of the Guarantee Payments in full to the extent not paid by the Trust or upon distribution of the Debt Securities to the holders of the Trust Preferred Securities. The Guarantees do not place a limitation on the amount of additional indebtedness that may be incurred by CMS Energy or any of its subsidiaries. DESCRIPTION OF STOCK PURCHASE CONTRACTS AND STOCK PURCHASE UNITS CMS Energy may issue Stock Purchase Contracts, representing contracts obligating holders to purchase from CMS Energy, and CMS Energy to sell to the holders, a specified number of shares of CMS Energy Common Stock at a future date or dates. The price per share of CMS Energy Common Stock may be fixed at the time the Stock Purchase Contracts are issued or may be determined by reference to a specific formula set forth in the Stock Purchase Contracts. The Stock Purchase Contracts may be issued separately or as part of Stock Purchase Units consisting of a Stock Purchase Contract and Senior Debentures, Subordinated Debentures, Trust Preferred Securities or debt obligations of third parties, including U.S. Treasury securities, securing the holders' obligations to purchase the Common Stock under the Stock Purchase Contracts. The Stock Purchase Contracts may require CMS Energy to make periodic payments to the holders of the Stock Purchase Units or visa versa, and such payments may be unsecured or refunded on some basis. The Stock Purchase Contracts may require holders to secure their obligations thereunder in a specified manner. The applicable prospectus supplement will describe the terms of any Stock Purchase Contracts or Stock Purchase Units. The description in the prospectus supplement will not purport to be complete and will be qualified in its entirety by reference to the Stock Purchase Contracts, and, if applicable, collateral arrangements and depository arrangements, relating to such Stock Purchase Contracts or Stock Purchase Units. -21- LEGAL OPINIONS Opinions as to the legality of certain of the Offered Securities will be rendered for CMS Energy by Michael D. Van Hemert, Esq., Deputy General Counsel Assistant Secretary for CMS Energy. Certain matters of Delaware law relating to the validity of the Trust Preferred Securities will be passed upon on behalf of the Trusts by Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP, special Delaware counsel to the Trusts. Certain United States Federal income taxation matters may be passed upon for CMS Energy and the Trust by either Theodore Voqel, tax counsel for CMS Energy, or by special tax counsel to CMS Energy and of the Trust, who will be named in the prospectus supplement. Certain legal matters with respect to Offered Securities will be passed upon by counsel for any underwriters, dealers or agents, each of whom will be named in the related prospectus supplement. EXPERTS The consolidated financial statements and schedules of CMS Energy 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, 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 period ended March 31, Arthur Andersen LLP has applied limited procedures in accordance with professional standards for a review of such information. However, their separate report thereon states 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. This limitation of Section 11 responsibility is because those reports are not a "report" or "part" of the registration statement prepared or certified by the accountants within the meaning of Section 7 and 11 of the Securities Act. Future consolidated financial statements of CMS Energy and the reports thereon of Arthur Andersen LLP also will be incorporated by reference in this prospectus in reliance upon the authority of that firm as experts in giving those reports to the extent that said firm has audited said consolidated financial statements and consented to the use of their reports thereon. PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION CMS Energy and/or the Trusts may sell the Offered Securities: (i) through the solicitation of proposals of underwriters or dealers to purchase the Offered Securities; (ii) through underwriters or dealers on a negotiated basis; (iii) directly to a limited

number of purchasers or to a single purchaser; or (iv) through agents. The prospectus supplement with respect to any Offered Securities will set forth the terms of such offering, including the name or names of any underwriters, dealers or agents; the purchase price of the Offered Securities and the proceeds to CMS Energy and/or the Trust from such sale; any underwriting discounts and commissions and other items constituting underwriters' compensation; any initial public offering price and any discounts or concessions allowed or reallocated or paid to dealers and any securities exchange on which such Offered Securities may be listed. Any initial public offering price, discounts or concessions allowed or reallocated or paid to dealers may be changed from time to time. If underwriters are used in the sale, the Offered Securities will be acquired by the underwriters for their own account and may be resold from time to time in one or more transactions, including negotiated transactions, at a fixed public offering price or at varying prices determined at the time of sale. The Offered Securities may be offered to the public either through underwriting syndicates represented by one or more managing underwriters or directly by one or more firms acting as underwriters. The underwriter or underwriters with respect to a particular underwritten offering of Offered Securities will be named in the prospectus supplement relating to such offering and, if an underwriting syndicate is used, the managing underwriter or underwriters will be set forth on the cover of such prospectus supplement. Unless otherwise set forth in the prospectus supplement relating thereto, the obligations of the underwriters to purchase the Offered Securities will be subject to certain conditions precedent, and the underwriters will be obligated to purchase all the Offered Securities if any are purchased. CMS Energy and/or the Trusts may sell Offered Securities to dealers as principals. The dealers may then resell such Offered Securities to the public at varying prices to be determined by such dealers at the time of resale. The names of the dealers and the terms of the transaction will be set forth in the prospectus supplement relating thereto. CMS Energy and/or the Trusts may sell Offered Securities directly or through agents designated by CMS Energy and/or the Trusts from time to time. Any of CMS Energy's and/or the Trusts' at the market offerings of equity securities will be made through Brinson Patrick Securities Corporation as the sales agents. Any agent involved in the offer or sale of the Offered Securities in respect to which this prospectus is delivered, other than at the market offerings of equity securities, will be named in a prospectus supplement relating thereto. Any commissions payable by CMS Energy and/or the Trusts to any agent will be set forth in the prospectus supplement relating thereto. Unless otherwise indicated in the prospectus supplement, any such agent will be acting on a best efforts basis for the period of its appointment. -22- The Offered Securities may be sold directly by CMS Energy and/or the Trust to institutional investors or others, who may be deemed to be underwriters within the meaning of the Securities Act with respect to any resale thereof. The terms of any such sales will be described in the prospectus supplement relating thereto. The CMS Energy Common Stock may be offered other than through the facilities of a national securities exchange and other than to or through a market maker other than on an exchange. Agents, dealers and underwriters may be entitled under agreements with CMS Energy and/or the Trust to indemnification by CMS Energy and/or the Trust against certain civil liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act, or to contribution with respect to payments which such agents, dealers or underwriters may be required to make in respect thereof. Agents, dealers and underwriters may be customers of, engage in transactions with, or perform services for CMS Energy and/or the Trust in the ordinary course of business. The Offered Securities may also be offered and sold, if so indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement, in connection with a remarketing upon their purchase, in accordance with a redemption or repayment pursuant to their terms, or otherwise, by one or more firms ("remarketing firms"), acting as principals for their own accounts or as agents for CMS Energy and/or the Trusts. Any remarketing firm will be identified and the terms of its agreement, if any, with its compensation will be described in the applicable prospectus supplement. Remarketing firms may be deemed to be underwriters, as such term is defined in the Securities Act, in connection with the Offered Securities remarketed thereby. Remarketing firms may be entitled under agreements which may be entered into with CMS Energy and/or the Trusts to indemnification or contribution by CMS Energy and/or the Trusts against certain civil liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act, and may be customers of, engage in transactions or perform services for CMS Energy and its subsidiaries in the ordinary course of business. The Offered Securities may or may not be listed on a national securities exchange. Reference is made to the prospectus supplement with regard to such matter. No assurance can be given that there will be a market for any of the Offered Securities. -23- CMS ENERGY CORPORATION [CMS ENERGY LOGO]