### Edgar Filing: HOWARD ROBERT L - Form 4

| HOWARD Form 4  | KOBERT L   |                   |  |  |           |          |  |   |                          |   |  |
|--|--|-------------------|--|--|-----------|----------|--|---|--------------------------|---|--|
| December 10  | ), 2012  |                   |  |  |           |          |  |   |                          |   |  |
| FORM 4<br>UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION<br>Washington, D.C. 20549 |  |                   |  |  |           |          |  | APPROVAL<br>3235-0287   |                          |   |  |
| if no long<br>subject to<br>Section 1<br>Form 4 of<br>Form 5                         |  | GES IN I<br>SECUR | Estimate<br>burden h<br>response   | •  |           |          |  |   |                          |   |  |
| obligation<br>may cont<br><i>See</i> Instru<br>1(b).                                 | inue. Section 17(  | a) of the 1       | Public Ut  |  | ling Con  | ipany    | y Act  | ge Act of 1934<br>of 1935 or Sect<br>940                                      |                          |   |  |
| (Print or Type F   | Responses)   |                   |  |  |           |          |  |   |                          |   |  |
| HOWARD ROBERT L Symbol   |  |                   |  | er Name <b>and</b> Ticker or Trading<br>HWESTERN ENERGY CO |           |          |  | 5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to<br>Issuer<br>(Check all applicable) |                          |   |  |
| (Last) (First) (Middle) 3. Data<br>(Mont   |  |                   |  | e of Earliest Transaction<br>n/Day/Year)<br>n/2012         |           |          |  | X_ Director10% Owner<br>Officer (give titleOther (specify<br>below) below)    |                          |   |  |
|  |  |                   | endment, Date Original<br>nth/Day/Year)  |  |           |          | 6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check<br>Applicable Line)<br>_X_ Form filed by One Reporting Person<br>Form filed by More than One Reporting<br>Person |   |                          |   |  |
| (City)   | (State)  | (Zip)             | Tabl   | e I - Non-D  | erivative | Secur    | ities A  | cquired, Disposed   | of, or Benefic           | ially Owned                                 |  |
| 1.Title of<br>Security<br>(Instr. 3)   | 2. Transaction Date 2A. Deemed<br>(Month/Day/Year) Execution Date, if<br>any |                   | 3. 4. Securities<br>TransactionAcquired (A) or<br>Code Disposed of (D)<br>(Instr. 8) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5)<br>(A)<br>or<br>Code V Amount (D) Price |  |           |          | 5. Amount of<br>Securities<br>Beneficially<br>Owned<br>Following<br>Reported<br>Transaction(s)<br>(Instr. 3 and 4)   | 6.<br>Ownership<br>Form: Direct<br>(D) or<br>Indirect (I)<br>(Instr. 4)       | 7. Nature of<br>Indirect |   |  |
| Common   | 12/06/2012 <u>(1)</u>  |                   |  | A  | 2,400     | (D)<br>A | \$ 0   | 113,470   | D                        |   |  |
| Stock<br>Common<br>Stock   |  |                   |  |  |           |          |  | 45,000  | I                        | By 2011<br>Family<br>Limited<br>Partnership |  |

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

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#### number.

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

| 1. Title of<br>Derivative<br>Security<br>(Instr. 3) | 2.<br>Conversion<br>or Exercise<br>Price of<br>Derivative<br>Security | 3. Transaction Date<br>(Month/Day/Year) | 3A. Deemed<br>Execution Date, if<br>any<br>(Month/Day/Year) | 4.<br>Transactic<br>Code<br>(Instr. 8) | Securiti | vative<br>es<br>ed<br>ed of | 6. Date Exercisable and<br>Expiration Date<br>(Month/Day/Year) |                    | 7. Title and Amount of<br>Underlying Securities<br>(Instr. 3 and 4) |  |
|---|---|---|---|--|----------|-----------------------------|--|--------------------|---|--|
|   |   |   |   | Code V                                 | (A)      | (D)                         | Date Exercisable   | Expiration<br>Date | Title   | Amount<br>or<br>Number<br>of<br>Shares |
| Stock<br>Options<br>(Right to<br>Buy)               | \$ 34.5   | 12/06/2012 <u>(1)</u>                   |   | А                                      | 4,870    |                             | 12/06/2013 <u>(2)</u>  | 12/06/2019         | Common<br>Stock   | 4,870                                  |
| Stock<br>Options<br>(Right to<br>Buy)               | \$ 36.87  |   |   |  |          |                             | 12/08/2012   | 12/08/2018         | Common<br>Stock   | 4,450                                  |
| Stock<br>Options<br>(Right to<br>Buy)               | \$ 36.22  |   |   |  |          |                             | 12/09/2011   | 12/09/2017         | Common<br>Stock   | 4,550                                  |
| Stock<br>Options<br>(Right to<br>Buy)               | \$ 40.73  |   |   |  |          |                             | 12/10/2010   | 12/10/2016         | Common<br>Stock   | 3,960                                  |
| Stock<br>Options<br>(Right to<br>Buy)               | \$ 30.68  |   |   |  |          |                             | 12/11/2009   | 12/11/2015         | Common<br>Stock   | 5,270                                  |
| Stock<br>Options<br>(Right to<br>Buy)               | \$ 27.18  |   |   |  |          |                             | 12/13/2008   | 12/13/2014         | Common<br>Stock   | 6,000                                  |
| Stock<br>Options<br>(Right to<br>Buy)               | \$ 20.335   |   |   |  |          |                             | 12/11/2007   | 12/11/2013         | Common<br>Stock   | 6,000                                  |

## **Reporting Owners**

| Reporting Owner Name / Address  | Relationships |            |          |       |  |  |
|---|---------------|------------|----------|-------|--|--|
|   | Director      | 10% Owner  | Officer  | Other |  |  |
| HOWARD ROBERT L<br>SUITE 125<br>2350 N. SAM HOUSTON PARKWAY EAST<br>HOUSTON, TX 77032 | Х             |            |          |       |  |  |
| Signatures  |               |            |          |       |  |  |
| /s/ Melissa D. McCarty, Attorney-in-fact for Mr.<br>Howard                            |               | 12/10/2012 |          |       |  |  |
| **Signature of Reporting Person   |               | Date       | <b>;</b> |       |  |  |
| Evalenction of Decrements   |               |            |          |       |  |  |

# **Explanation of Responses:**

- \* If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, see Instruction 4(b)(v).
- \*\* Intentional misstatements or omissions of facts constitute Federal Criminal Violations. See 18 U.S.C. 1001 and 15 U.S.C. 78ff(a).
- (1) Restricted stock and nonqualified stock options granted in consideration of services as a director.
- (2) Nonqualified stock options become exercisable in three equal installments beginning on the first anniversary of the grant date specified in Column 3 or immediately upon death, disability, retirement at age 65, or a change in control.

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