

MGE ENERGY INC  
Form DEF 14A  
April 01, 2004  
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OMB APPROVAL	
OMB Number:	3235-0059
Expires:	August 31, 2004
Estimated average burden hours per response	14.73

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

**SCHEDULE 14A**

**Proxy Statement Pursuant to Section 14(a) of the Securities**  
**Exchange Act of 1934 (Amendment No. \_\_ )**

Filed by the Registrant

Filed by a Party other than the Registrant

Check the appropriate box:

Preliminary Proxy Statement

**CONFIDENTIAL, FOR USE OF THE COMMISSION ONLY (AS PERMITTED BY RULE 14a-6(e)(2))**

- x Definitive Proxy Statement
- .. Definitive Additional Materials
- .. Soliciting Material Pursuant to §240.14a-12

**MGE Energy, Inc.**

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(Name of Registrant as Specified In Its Charter)

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(Name of Person(s) Filing Proxy Statement, if other than the Registrant)

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- x No fee required.
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SEC 1913 (02-02)

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**NOTICE OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS  
OF MGE ENERGY, INC.**

**Date:** Tuesday, May 11, 2004

**Time:** 11:00 a.m., local time

**Place:** Marriott Madison West  
1313 John Q. Hammons Drive  
Middleton, Wisconsin

To elect three Class III directors to terms of office expiring at the 2007 Annual Meeting of Shareholders; and

To transact such other business as may properly come before the meeting.

Shareholders of record at the close of business on March 5, 2004, are entitled to vote at the meeting.

The matters to be acted upon at the meeting are described in the accompanying proxy statement.

By order of the Board of Directors

TERRY A. HANSON

Vice President, Chief Financial

Officer and Secretary

April 2, 2004

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**QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

***Q: When and where will the annual meeting take place?***

A: The meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 11, 2004, at 11:00 a.m., local time, at the Marriott Madison West, 1313 John Q. Hammons Drive, Middleton, Wisconsin.

***Q: Do I need a ticket to attend the meeting?***

A: No; however, if you plan to attend the meeting, please fill out the enclosed reservation form and return it with your proxy card so we may have an indication of the number of shareholders planning to attend the meeting. If your shares are held through a broker or its nominee and you would like to attend the meeting, please see [Voting How Street Name Holders May Vote](#) on page 2.

***Q: Why am I receiving this proxy statement?***

A: We are sending this document to you because our Board of Directors is seeking your proxy to vote your shares at the meeting.

***Q: Why did I receive more than one copy of this proxy statement?***

A: If you own our common stock in more than one account, such as individually and also jointly with your spouse, you may receive more than one copy of this document. To assist us in saving money and to provide you with better shareholder service, we encourage you to have any duplicate accounts registered in the same name and address. You may do this by contacting our Shareholder Services Department toll-free at (800) 356-6423 if calling from within the Continental United States, and at (608) 252-4744 if calling from the Madison area.

***Q: What is MGE Energy, Inc.?***

A: We are an investor-owned public utility holding company formed in August of 2002. Our headquarters are in Madison, Wisconsin, and we are the parent company of Madison Gas and Electric Company (MGE), our principal subsidiary.

***Q: What is the purpose of the meeting?***

A: The purpose of the meeting is:

To elect three Class III directors to terms of office expiring at the 2007 Annual Meeting of Shareholders; and

To transact such other business as may properly come before the meeting.



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**VOTING**

**Number of Votes Per Share**

Each share of common stock issued and outstanding as of the record date for the meeting is entitled to one vote at the meeting, except as described below for shareholders who own more than a specified percentage of the common stock.

The record date for the meeting is March 5, 2004. Holders of record as of such date can vote in person at the meeting or by proxy. By giving us your proxy, you are authorizing the individuals named on the proxy card (the proxies) to vote your shares in the manner you indicate. On April 2, 2004, we began mailing this proxy statement to all shareholders of record at the close of business on March 5, 2004. On that date, there were 18,457,740 shares of our common stock issued and outstanding.

Our Articles of Incorporation contain a provision limiting the voting power of any shareholder who acquires more than 10 percent of our outstanding voting stock. In addition, under the Wisconsin Business Corporation Law, the voting power of shares held by any person in excess of 20 percent of the voting power in the election of directors is limited to 10 percent of the full voting power of the excess shares. To our knowledge, neither of these limitations currently applies to any shareholder.

**How Street Name Holders May Vote**

If you own shares through a broker, the registered holder of those shares is your broker or its nominee. If you receive our proxy materials from your broker, you should vote your shares by following the procedures specified by your broker. Your broker will tabulate the votes it has received from its customers and submit a proxy card to us reflecting those votes. If you plan to attend the annual meeting and vote your shares in person, you should contact your broker to obtain a broker's proxy card and our Shareholder Services (1-800-356-6423) to make a reservation for the meeting.

**How Registered Holders May Vote**

If you personally hold a certificate for your shares, or have shares held by us in the Dividend Reinvestment and Direct Stock Purchase Plan, then you are the registered holder. Shares you have accumulated in the Dividend Reinvestment and Direct Stock Purchase Plan are held by the administrator under the nominee name of Madge & Co. Those shares, including your certificate shares, will be voted in accordance with the direction given by you on your proxy.

As a convenience to you, we are providing you with the option to vote by proxy via the Internet or via toll-free touch-tone telephone. Refer to your proxy card for more information and instructions. If you prefer, you may cast your vote by returning your signed and dated proxy card. Instructions regarding all three methods of voting are included on the proxy card. If you sign and return the proxy card without specifying any instructions and without indicating expressly that you are not voting some or all of your shares, your shares will be voted for the election of all three director nominees. The signature on the proxy card should correspond exactly with the name of the shareholder as it appears on the proxy

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card. Where stock is registered in the name of two or more persons, each of them should sign the proxy card. If you sign a proxy card as an attorney, officer, personal representative, administrator, trustee, guardian, or similar capacity, please indicate your full title in that capacity.

### **Holders Needed to Establish a Quorum**

A quorum is necessary to hold a valid meeting of shareholders. If holders of a majority of the outstanding common stock are present in person or by proxy, a quorum will exist. In order to assure the presence of a quorum, please vote via the Internet, telephone, or sign and return your proxy card promptly in the enclosed

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postage-paid envelope even if you plan to attend the meeting. Abstentions and broker nonvotes are counted as present for establishing a quorum. A broker nonvote occurs when a broker votes on one or more matters on the proxy card, but not on others because the broker does not have the authority to do so.

## **The Vote Necessary for Action to be Taken**

In voting for the election of directors, you may vote for the election of all of the nominees or you may withhold your votes as to all or specific nominees. The three persons receiving the greatest number of votes will be elected to serve as Class III directors. Accordingly, withholding authority to vote for a director and broker nonvotes with respect to the election of directors will not affect the outcome of the election of directors.

## **Revocation of Proxies**

If you are a registered holder of our common stock, you may revoke your proxy by giving written revocation to our Corporate Secretary at any time before your proxy is voted, by executing a later-dated proxy card that is voted at the meeting, or by attending the meeting and voting your shares in person. If your shares are held by a broker, you must contact your broker to revoke your proxy. Attendance at the meeting will not automatically revoke your proxy.

## **Electronic Access to Proxy Materials and Annual Report**

Shareholders can elect to view future proxy statements and annual reports over the Internet instead of receiving paper copies in the mail. If you received a paper copy of the proxy statement and annual report and would prefer to access these via the Internet in the future, call Shareholder Services at 1-800-356-6423 (toll-free) or complete and mail the electronic access sign-up form enclosed with your proxy materials.

## **ELECTION OF DIRECTORS**

As described below, upon the retirement of Mr. Mebane at the 2004 Annual Meeting, the Board of Directors will consist of eight directors divided into three classes, with one class having two directors and two classes having three directors, with one class being elected each year for a term of three years. Accordingly, it is proposed that the three nominees listed below be elected to serve as Class III directors for three-year terms, to expire at the 2007 Annual Meeting and upon the election and qualification of their successors.

All of our directors serve concurrently as directors of Madison Gas and Electric Company. Our Board of Directors has determined that all of our directors, other than Messrs. Mebane and Wolter, are independent as defined in the applicable Nasdaq Stock Market, Inc., listing standards.

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Mr. Blaney, Mr. Mohs, and Mr. Hastings are currently Class III directors whose terms expire at the 2004 Annual Meeting of Shareholders and who have been nominated for reelection.

Each of the nominees has indicated a willingness to serve if elected, and the Board has no reason to believe that any nominee will be unavailable. If any nominee should become unable to serve, it is presently intended that your proxy will be voted for a substitute nominee designated by the Board. Under the Company's retirement guidelines for directors, directors who have served as the chief executive officer or who have been retained as a salaried consultant shall resign from the Board no later than the date and time of the Annual Meeting of Shareholders following their 70<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Mr. Mebane, age 70, who has been a director since 1984, has informed the Board of his intention to retire from the Board and its committees at the 2004 Annual Meeting. Mr. Mebane is currently a Class I director whose term would expire at the 2005 Annual Meeting. Shareholders are not being asked to fill the vacancy created by the retirement of Mr. Mebane.

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The following table sets forth information about the nominees and the current directors who will continue in office after the meeting.

<b>Names (Ages)* and Business Experience</b>	<b>MGE**</b>	<b>Director</b>	<b>Since</b>
<b>Nominees (Class III) Term Expiring in 2007</b>			
<b>Richard E. Blaney (67)</b> , Madison, Wisconsin			1974
Retired President of Richard Blaney Seeds Inc., sellers of hybrid seed corn, with which he was associated for more than 10 years; President of Blaney Farms, Inc., for prior 20 years.			
<b>Frederic E. Mohs (67)</b> , Madison, Wisconsin			1975
Partner in the law firm of Mohs, MacDonald, Widder & Paradise, of which he has been a member since 1968; also Regent of the UW System, director of the UW Hospitals and Clinics, and member of the Board of Trustees of the University of Wisconsin Research Park.			
<b>F. Curtis Hastings (58)</b> , Madison, Wisconsin			1999
Chairman of J. H. Findorff & Son, Inc., commercial and industrial general contractors and design builders, with which he has been associated for 33 years; also director of National Guardian Life Insurance Co.			
<b>Members of the Board of Directors Continuing in Office</b>			
<b>Class II Term Expiring in 2006</b>			
<b>H. Lee Swanson (66)</b> , Cross Plains, Wisconsin			1988
Chairman of the Board and President, SBCP Bancorp, Inc., and Chairman of the Board of the State Bank of Cross Plains, with which he has been associated for more than 38 years; also director of the Federal Home Loan Bank of Chicago; also director and trustee of Cornell College.			
<b>John R. Nevin (61)</b> , Madison, Wisconsin			1998
Executive Director, Center for Product Management,			
Executive Director, Grainger Center for Supply Chain Management, and Grainger Wisconsin Distinguished			
Professor, School of Business, University of Wisconsin-Madison,			

where he has been a faculty member for 33 years.

**Gary J. Wolter (49)**, Madison, Wisconsin

2000

Chairman of the Board of Directors, President and Chief

Executive Officer of MGEE and MGE, of which he has been an

officer since 1989 and an employee since 1984; also

director of Meriter Hospital and Meriter Health Services

and member of the Board of Trustees of the University of

Wisconsin Research Park.

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	<b>MGE**</b>
	<b>Director</b>
<b>Members of the Board of Directors Continuing in Office</b>	<b>Since</b>
<b><i>Class I Term Expiring in 2005</i></b>	
<b>Regina M. Millner (60)</b> , Madison, Wisconsin Attorney, analyst and broker for more than 25 years; President, RMM Enterprises, Inc., which specializes in complex real estate projects and provides legal, consulting, and brokerage services for private clients and governmental agencies; also director of Meriter Hospital and Meriter Health Services.	1996
<b>Donna K. Sollenberger (55)</b> , Verona, Wisconsin President and Chief Executive Officer of UW Hospitals and Clinics since December, 1999; Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of City of Hope National Medical Center, Los Angeles, California, January, 1997, to December, 1999; Vice President for Hospitals and Clinics at M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, Texas, 1991-96.	2000

\* Ages as of April 2, 2004.

\*\* Directors of MGE Energy, Inc., since becoming the holding company of Madison Gas and Electric Company in August, 2002.

**Table of Contents****Beneficial Ownership of Common Stock**

The following table lists the beneficial ownership of our common stock as of March 5, 2004 (except as otherwise noted) of each director and nominee, the individuals named in the summary compensation table, the directors and executive officers as a group, and each person known by us to be the beneficial owner of more than 5 percent of the outstanding shares of our common stock. In each case, the indicated owner has sole voting power and sole investment power with respect to the shares shown except as noted.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Number of Shares</u> <u>Beneficially Owned</u>	<u>Percent of</u> <u>Outstanding</u> <u>Common Stock</u>
Richard E. Blaney	1,866	*
Kristine A. Euclide	946	*
F. Curtis Hastings	2,111	*
Terry A. Hanson	5,286(1)(2)	*
Lynn K. Hobbie	3,103(1)(2)	*
Mark T. Maranger	1,278	*
Regina M. Millner	933	*
Frederic E. Mohs	12,270(3)	*
John R. Nevin	1,139	*
Donna K. Sollenberger	1,138	*
H. Lee Swanson	6,000	*
Gary J. Wolter	8,376(1)(2)	*
All directors and executive officers as a group (16 persons)	58,710(2)	*
Systematic Financial Management, L.P	994,210(4)	5.4%
Glenpoint East, 7th Floor 300 Frank W. Burr Blvd Teaneck, NJ 07666		

\* Less than 1 percent.

- (1) T. Hanson, L. Hobbie, and G. Wolter are directors of Madison Gas and Electric Foundation, Inc., and as such have shared voting and investment power in an additional 12,000 shares of our common stock held by the Foundation. The Foundation was formed by, and receives contributions primarily from, MGE, which contributions are used for charitable purposes.
- (2) Includes common stock held under two employee stock ownership plans for the account of executive officers of MGE with respect to which those persons have sole voting but no investment power: T. Hanson, 562 shares; L. Hobbie, 48 shares; G. Wolter, 117 shares; and directors and executive officers as a group, 5,023 shares.
- (3) Includes 628 shares of common stock with respect to which Mr. Mohs is trustee of a trust for the benefit of his children.
- (4) Information contained on Schedule 13G filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission for year ended December 31, 2003. Percent shown in table is based on 18,343,913 outstanding shares of common stock as of December 31, 2003.

**Section 16(a) Beneficial Ownership Reporting Compliance**

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Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 requires our directors, executive officers, and persons who own more than ten percent of our common stock to file reports of ownership and changes in ownership with the SEC. Those persons are also required to furnish us with copies of all such reports.

Based solely on our review of the copies of the reports received by us and written representations from certain reporting persons, we note that our directors and executive officers (we do not have any greater than ten

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percent shareholders) filed all required reports during or with respect to the year ended December 31, 2003, on a timely basis.

**Meetings and Committees of the Board of Directors**

We have an Audit Committee, a Compensation Committee, an Executive Committee, and a Personnel Committee.

The following table sets forth the current membership of each committee and the number of meetings held during 2003:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Audit</u> <u>Committee</u>	<u>Compensation</u> <u>Committee</u>	<u>Executive</u> <u>Committee</u>	<u>Personnel</u> <u>Committee</u>
Richard E. Blaney	X	X	X	
F. Curtis Hastings	X			X
Regina M. Millner	X			X
Frederic E. Mohs	X	X	X	X
John R. Nevin	X			X
Donna K. Sollenberger	X			X
H. Lee Swanson	X	X	X	
Gary J. Wolter			X	
Number of Meetings	2	2	0	0

The Boards of Directors of MGEE and MGE each met 12 times during 2003. Each director attended at least 75 percent of the aggregate number of meetings of the Boards and the committees on which the director served.

The function of our Audit Committee is to meet with our internal auditors and independent public accountants and discuss with them the scope and results of their audits, accounting practices, and the adequacy of our internal controls. Our Board of Directors has determined that Mr. Swanson is an audit committee financial expert, as defined by applicable SEC rules. Mr. Swanson and the other members of the Audit Committee are independent as defined in applicable Nasdaq Stock Market, Inc., listing standards.

The function of the Compensation Committee is to review the salaries, fees, and other benefits of officers and directors and recommend compensation adjustments to the Board. Each of the committee members is independent as defined in applicable Nasdaq Stock Market, Inc., listing standards.

The Executive Committee acts in lieu of the full Board and between meetings of the Board. The Executive Committee has the powers of the Board in the management of our business and affairs, except action with respect to dividends to shareholders, election of principal officers, or the filling of vacancies on the Board or committees created by the Board.

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The Personnel Committee is responsible for recommending to our full Board of Directors nominees for election as directors and officers. The committee operates under authority of a Board resolution under which it is charged with responsibility for making those recommendations. It does not have a charter. The committee reviews the composition of our Board and considers the environment in which we operate to determine the qualifications and areas of expertise needed by Board candidates. It considers, among other things, the standing in the community of a prospective candidate; the background and experience of the candidate, including the number of other public, private, and not-for-profit boards on which the candidate serves; other business and professional commitments of the candidate; and our needs for certain skills and experience. It also expects candidates to act in an ethical manner and with integrity in applying their best business judgment when acting on behalf of the Company and its shareholders. Finally, under our Bylaws a director must be a shareholder of the Company. The committee works with our management to identify and attract qualified candidates. Neither the committee or the Company uses the services of a third party to assist in the identification or evaluation process.

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Each of the committee members is independent as defined in applicable Nasdaq Stock Market, Inc., listing standards.

The Personnel Committee also considers qualified director candidates suggested by our shareholders. Shareholders can suggest candidates by writing to MGE Energy, Inc., Post Office Box 1231, Madison, Wisconsin 53701, attention Corporate Secretary. Submissions should describe the candidate's background, experience, and ownership of our shares and otherwise address the factors considered by the committee as described in the preceding paragraph.

## **Policy Regarding Annual Meeting Attendance**

Our policy is to encourage our directors to attend the Annual Meeting of Shareholders. For the past five years, all of our directors were present at each of the annual meetings.

## **Audit Committee Report**

The Audit Committee oversees our financial reporting process on behalf of our Board. The Audit Committee consists of seven independent directors. Its duties and responsibilities are set forth in the Audit Committee Charter adopted by the Board. The Audit Committee Charter was last published in our April 11, 2003 proxy statement as Exhibit A.

In the course of fulfilling its responsibilities, the Audit Committee has:

Reviewed and discussed with management the audited financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2003;

Discussed with the representatives of our independent accountants, PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP (PwC), all matters required to be discussed by Statement on Auditing Standards No. 61, *Communication with Audit Committees*;

Received the written disclosures and the letter from PwC required by Independence Standards Board Standard No. 1, *Independence Discussions with Audit Committees*;

Discussed with PwC their independence from the Company and management; and

Considered whether the provision by PwC of nonaudit services is compatible with maintaining their independence.

Based on the foregoing, the Audit Committee recommended to the Board that the audited financial statements referred to above be included in our annual report on Form 10-K and the annual report to shareholders for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2003.

Richard E. Blaney	John R. Nevin
F. Curtis Hastings	Donna K. Sollenberger
Regina M. Millner	H. Lee Swanson
Frederic E. Mohs	

**Director Compensation**

Directors who are not employees of MGE receive an annual retainer of \$14,500, plus \$1,000 for each Board meeting attended and \$350 for each Audit, Compensation, Executive, or Personnel Committee meeting attended. Mr. Wolter receives no additional compensation for serving as a director. The chairperson of the Audit Committee receives an additional \$4,000 retainer.

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The following table sets forth compensation information for 2001, 2002, and 2003 for our Chief Executive Officer and our four other most highly compensated executive officers serving as such on December 31, 2003, whose salary exceeded \$100,000 for 2003.

**SUMMARY COMPENSATION TABLE**

Name and Principal Position	Year	Annual Compensation			Long-Term Compensation			All Other Compensation (\$)(6)
		Salary (\$)	Bonus (\$)	Other Annual Compensation (\$)(4)	Awards (\$)(5)	Underlying Options (#)	Payouts (\$)	
Gary J. Wolter (CEO) (1)	2003	376,492	140,000	5,578	0	0	0	18,836
Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer	2002	362,252	65,000	2,624	0	0	0	16,566
	2001	307,292	45,000	1,631	28,812	0	0	10,102
Mark T. Maranger	2003	190,644	42,000	0	0	0	0	5,819
Senior Vice President	2002	184,200	35,000	0	0	0	0	5,603
	2001	131,428	25,000	0	12,005	0	0	2,750
Kristine A. Euclide	2003	170,616	61,000	513	0	0	0	6,424
Vice President and General Counsel	2002	159,652	45,000	104	0	0	0	4,625
	2001	19,963	15,000	0	0	0	0	50
Lynn K. Hobbie (2)	2003	170,412	47,000	0	0	0	0	8,511
Senior Vice President	2002	164,648	35,000	0	0	0	0	5,017
	2001	156,020	30,000	0	12,005	0	0	4,731
Terry A. Hanson (3)	2003	170,080	47,000	560	0	0	0	5,830
Vice President, Chief Financial Officer and Secretary	2002	164,328	35,000	200	0	0	0	11,007
	2001	156,164	30,000	89	12,005	0	0	10,391

- (1) Senior Vice President Administration and Secretary until February 1, 2000, when he was promoted to President and Chief Executive Officer. Promoted to Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer on February 1, 2002.
- (2) Vice President Marketing until February 1, 2000, when she was promoted to Senior Vice President.
- (3) Vice President Finance until May 1, 2000, when he was promoted to Vice President and Chief Financial Officer. Promoted to Vice President, Chief Financial Officer and Secretary on October 1, 2001.

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- (4) Amounts shown are above-market interest rates credited to deferred compensation accounts.
- (5) The amounts in the table reflect the market value on the date of grant of restricted stock awarded under restricted stock award agreements. The aggregate number of shares of restricted stock held as of December 31, 2003, by Mr. Wolter is 1,200, by Mr. Maranger is 500, by Ms. Hobbie is 500, and by Mr. Hanson is 500. The aggregate market value of the restricted stock as of December 31, 2003, is \$37,740 for Mr. Wolter and \$15,725 each for Mr. Maranger, Ms. Hobbie, and Mr. Hanson. The restricted stock vests if the executive remains employed until September 1, 2004. Holders of shares of restricted stock are entitled to receive dividends on those shares at the same rate and at the same time as on the common stock.
- (6) Amounts shown for all other compensation for 2003 are company contributions to a 401(k) defined contribution plan, \$100 for value attributable to a holiday gift, and pay for unused vacation. The 401(k) company contribution for 2003 was \$6,000 for Mr. Wolter, \$5,719 for Mr. Maranger, \$4,455 for Ms. Euclide, \$5,208 for Ms. Hobbie, and \$4,771 for Mr. Hanson. Pay for unused vacation in 2003 was \$12,736 for Mr. Wolter, \$1,869 for Ms. Euclide, \$3,203 for Ms. Hobbie, and \$959 for Mr. Hanson.

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### **Report on Executive Compensation**

#### *Compensation Philosophy*

The principal goal of the compensation program is to pay employees, including executive officers, at levels which are:

Reflective of how well we are achieving our corporate mission;

Consistent with our current financial condition, earnings, rates and total shareholder return, and the projected Consumer Price Index;

Reflective of individual performance and experience; and

Competitive in the marketplace.

We strive to administer our compensation program in a fair and consistent manner.

We periodically hire outside consultants to do compensation studies. Executive salaries are established within a range that reflects competitive salary levels for similar positions in similar-sized gas and electric utilities, similar-sized companies outside of the utility industry, and other Wisconsin utilities. The utilities used for salary comparison are not the same companies included in the performance graph peer group in this proxy statement. When examining compensation peer groups, it was determined more appropriate to consider similar-sized utilities, other similar-sized companies, and other Wisconsin utilities.

The midpoint (or middle) of an executive's salary range is approximately equal to the median salary level of the surveyed utilities. An executive's position in the range reflects his or her performance over a period of years in that position, the executive's experience in that position, and our performance.

Specific individual or company performance targets are not set. Instead, an executive's salary within the salary range is determined by subjectively evaluating the individual's performance and experience and our performance.

While our current compensation program has functional adequacy to retain and fairly compensate executives, the Compensation Committee and the full Board review the objectives of the executive compensation program on a continuing basis. Each year, the Compensation Committee reviews and recommends to the Board annual salaries, salary grades and ranges, and the overall salary program design for executives.

From time to time the Compensation Committee considers awarding bonuses to executives in the form of cash and/or stock. These bonuses may be made for extraordinary company or individual performance, because of a desire to retain an executive by making that executive's

compensation more competitive, to align the long-term interests of executives with shareholders, and for other reasons.

***Executive Compensation***

Performance factors such as earnings, rates, shareholder return, and other available financial criteria were used in determining the CEO's and other executive officers' positions in his or her salary range. Other criteria such as gas and electric reliability, customer service, and responsiveness to industry change were also examined.

Officer salaries were set effective May 1, 2003, and a cash bonus was granted to officers after year-end based on 2003 performance. Among the significant achievements considered in setting the salary and bonuses of the CEO and other senior executives were the following: 2003 earnings were the highest in Company history; our gas incentive program provided benefit to both customers and shareholders; Standard and Poor's rated us the highest combination gas and electric utility in the country; Phase I of the automated meter reading project covering gas and electric residential and small commercial customers was completed; we negotiated agreements

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for an option to participate in Power the Future generating units; gas and electric reliability statistics were favorable relative to other utilities; we refinanced debt and obtained additional financing on favorable terms; we negotiated agreements, obtained approvals, and began construction of a cogeneration facility; natural gas was purchased at lower cost than other major Wisconsin gas utilities for the 2002-2003 heating season; and we continued to strengthen community relationships.

In May of 2003, the CEO's annual salary was set at \$380,784. The CEO was awarded a bonus of \$140,000 based on 2003 performance. The CEO's total compensation for 2003 remains below the midpoint of the market total compensation for both general industry and similar-sized utilities in the compensation study.

Richard E. Blaney

Frederic E. Mohs, Chair

H. Lee Swanson

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**Company Performance**

The following graph shows a five-year comparison of cumulative total returns for us, Russell 2000, and the EEI Investor-Owned Electrics Index, weighted according to each company's market capitalization as of the beginning of each year.

**MGE Energy, Inc.**

**Financial Performance**

**Cumulative Five-Year Total Return Comparison**

Assumes \$100 invested on Dec. 31, 1998, in each of the Company's Common Stock, Russell 2000, and the EEI Index.

Total return assumes reinvestment of dividends

	<u>MGEE</u>	<u>Russell 2000</u>	<u>EEI Index</u>
1998	\$ 100	\$ 100	\$ 100
1999	\$ 94	\$ 121	\$ 81
2000	\$ 113	\$ 118	\$ 120
2001	\$ 140	\$ 121	\$ 110
2002	\$ 149	\$ 96	\$ 94
2003	\$ 183	\$ 141	\$ 116

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**MGE Energy, Inc.**

**Financial Performance**

**MGEE versus Wisconsin Peer Group**

NOTE: This graph is for comparison purposes only. It is to show how our Five-Year Total Return compares to the other Investor-Owned Wisconsin utilities.

Assumes \$100 invested on December 31, 1998, in each of the Company's Common Stock and the Wisconsin Utility Peer Group Average.

The Wisconsin Peer Group average is weighted based on market capitalization at the beginning of the year.

Total return assumes reinvestment of dividends

	<u>MGEE</u>	<u>WI Peer Group</u>
1998	\$ 100	\$ 100
1999	\$ 94	\$ 76
2000	\$ 113	\$ 98
2001	\$ 140	\$ 101
2002	\$ 149	\$ 94
2003	\$ 183	\$ 132

Wisconsin Peer Group:

Wisconsin Energy Corp.

Alliant Energy Corp.

WPS Resources Corp.

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**Pension Plan and Supplemental Retirement Plan**

MGE has a noncontributory qualified defined benefit pension plan covering its salaried employees. The amount of pension is based upon years of service and high 60-month average earnings in the ten years prior to retirement.

The following table indicates the estimated maximum retirement benefits payable (unreduced for survivor protection) at the normal retirement age of 65 for specified compensation and years of service classifications. All compensation shown in the salary and bonus columns of the summary compensation table is included in compensation under the pension plan, subject to any statutory restrictions imposed by the Internal Revenue Code. Information in this table is based on the pension plan formula for years of service credit earned in 1986 and subsequent years. The retirement benefits are not subject to any reduction for Social Security benefits received by the employees or for any other offset amounts.

**Pension Plan Table(1)**

<b>High Five-Year Average Annual Salary</b>	<b>Annual Pension at Normal Retirement Age of 65 After Years of Service Indicated Below(2)</b>				
	<b>10 Years</b>	<b>15 Years</b>	<b>20 Years</b>	<b>25 Years</b>	<b>30 Years or More</b>
\$125,000	\$ 17,500	\$ 26,250	\$ 35,000	\$ 43,750	\$ 52,500
\$150,000	\$ 21,000	\$ 31,500	\$ 42,000	\$ 52,500	\$ 63,000
\$175,000	\$ 24,500	\$ 36,750	\$ 49,000	\$ 61,250	\$ 73,500
\$200,000	\$ 28,000	\$ 42,000	\$ 56,000	\$ 70,000	\$ 84,000

- (1) The retirement benefits reflect limits imposed by the Internal Revenue Code on benefit amounts and covered compensation.
- (2) The pension plan table does not reflect service credit prior to 1986 when the pension plan required employee contributions. The normal retirement pension for employees with service credits prior to 1986 will exceed the amounts shown in the pension plan table, depending on their years of pre-1986 service and contributions made to the pension plan.

The estimated annual retirement benefit payable at normal retirement age of 65 under the pension plan formula (assuming continuation of 2003 compensation levels through retirement and taking into account employee contributions and service credits for 1985 and prior years) is \$107,726 to Mr. Wolter, \$35,369 to Mr. Maranger, \$43,160 to Ms. Euclide, \$87,143 to Ms. Hobbie, and \$95,432 to Mr. Hanson.

The full credited years of service under the pension plan are 20 for Mr. Wolter, three for Mr. Maranger, two for Ms. Euclide, 18 for Ms. Hobbie, and 18 for Mr. Hanson.

Officers of MGE are covered under separate nonqualified supplemental retirement agreements which provide a supplemental retirement benefit to the pension plan. Under the terms of the agreements covering Mr. Wolter, Ms. Hobbie, and Mr. Hanson, the supplemental retirement benefit is a designated percentage ranging from 55% to 70% of the final 60-month average earnings less the benefit payable from the pension plan.

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Under the terms of the agreements covering Mr. Maranger and Ms. Euclide, the supplemental retirement benefit is a designated percentage ranging from 20% to 40% of the final 60-month average earnings in addition to the benefit payable from the pension plan. In all of the agreements, the designated percentage is based on the officer's age at retirement. The estimated supplemental annual retirement benefit payable at normal retirement age of 65 under the supplemental retirement agreements (assuming continuation of 2003 compensation levels through retirement) for MGE's executive officers is \$253,818 to Mr. Wolter, \$93,058 to Mr. Maranger, \$92,646 to Ms. Euclide, \$65,046 to Ms. Hobbie, and \$56,524 to Mr. Hanson.

### **Deferred Compensation Plan**

Officers of MGE are permitted to defer a portion of their current salary under a nonqualified deferred compensation plan initiated in 1984. Four officers contributed to the plan during 2003. Participants in the plan

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are entitled to receive deferred compensation upon termination of active employment. Deferred compensation under this plan does not constitute compensation as defined under the pension plan described above, but is considered compensation under the supplemental retirement agreements.

MGE has entered into a trust agreement for the purpose of assuring the payment of its obligations under the supplemental retirement agreements and deferred compensation plan. Under the trust agreement, in the event of a change in control or potential change in control of MGE, MGE will be obligated to deliver to the trustee cash or marketable securities having a value equal to the present value of the amounts which MGE is obligated to pay under the supplemental retirement agreements and the deferred compensation plan and the costs of maintaining the trust.

Change in control is defined generally as the acquisition by any person, subject to certain exceptions, of beneficial ownership of 20 percent or more of our common stock; a change in the majority of the Board of Directors; certain mergers or similar transactions involving MGE's assets where, among other conditions, the current shareholders do not constitute at least 60 percent of the shareholders of the resulting or acquiring entity; or a liquidation of MGE.

## **Severance Plans**

MGE has entered into individual severance agreements with certain key employees, including Mr. Wolter, Mr. Maranger, Ms. Euclide, Ms. Hobbie, and Mr. Hanson. Under these agreements, the employee is entitled to a severance payment following a change in control of MGE as defined above if, within 24 months after the change in control, employment with MGE is terminated by (i) MGE, (ii) the employee for good reason, or (iii) the employee for any reason during the 30-day period commencing one year after the date of change in control. Each agreement has a three-year initial term, but on the first anniversary of execution and each anniversary thereafter, the agreement is extended for an additional year, unless either MGE or the employee gives notice not to extend the agreement or a change in control of MGE has occurred. Severance payments to Mr. Wolter, Ms. Hobbie, or Mr. Hanson will be equal to three times the employee's annual base salary plus three times the highest bonus paid during any of the five years preceding a change in control. Severance payments to Mr. Maranger will be equal to one times his annual base salary plus one times the highest bonus paid during any of the five years preceding a change in control. Severance payments to Ms. Euclide will be equal to two times her annual base salary plus two times the highest bonus paid during any of the five years preceding a change in control. If the employee receives severance benefits following a change in control, health, life, and disability benefits are continued for up to one, two, or three years (depending on the individual agreement), and the employee will also be grossed up for any excise taxes the employee may incur. In circumstances not involving a change in control of MGE, Mr. Wolter, Mr. Maranger, Ms. Euclide, Ms. Hobbie, and Mr. Hanson, like other salaried employees, are entitled under MGE's general severance plan to a payment equal to two weeks of compensation plus the employee's weekly compensation multiplied by the number of years of employment, not to exceed 24.

## **OTHER INFORMATION**

### **Expenses of Solicitation**

We will bear the cost of soliciting proxies for the annual meeting. Proxies will be solicited by mail and may be solicited personally by our directors, officers, or employees who will not receive special compensation for such services. We have retained Morrow & Co., Inc., to solicit proxies at a fee of \$6,000 plus expenses.

### **Shareholder Proposals for 2005 Annual Meeting**

## Edgar Filing: MGE ENERGY INC - Form DEF 14A

Shareholder proposals intended to be presented at the 2005 Annual Meeting of Shareholders must be received in writing at our principal executive offices, 133 South Blair Street, Post Office Box 1231, Madison, Wisconsin 53701-1231, Attn: Secretary prior to December 3, 2004, in order to be considered for inclusion in our proxy statement and proxy related to that meeting. Any proposal submitted must be in compliance with Rule 14a-8 of Regulation 14A of the SEC.

Our Bylaws set forth additional requirements and procedures regarding the submission by shareholders of matters for consideration at the 2005 Annual Meeting of Shareholders, including a requirement that those

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proposals be given to the Secretary not later than the close of business on the 75th day and not earlier than the close of business on the 100th day prior to the first anniversary of the preceding year's annual meeting. Accordingly, a shareholder proposal intended to be considered at the 2005 Annual Meeting of Shareholders must be received by the Secretary at the address set forth above after the close of business on January 31, 2005, and on or prior to the close of business on February 25, 2005.

**Contacting our Directors**

A shareholder who desires to contact members of our Board of Directors may do so by sending an e-mail to [directors@mgeenergy.com](mailto:directors@mgeenergy.com) or by writing to: Board of Directors, MGE Energy, Inc., Post Office Box 1231, Madison, Wisconsin 53701-1231. The correspondence should identify the shareholder and his, her, or its address and shareholdings. That correspondence is received by people in our Corporate Secretary's office. We will forward matters within the Board's purview to them. Other matters, such as issues relating to customer service, employment, or commercial transactions, will be directed to the appropriate areas within the Company for handling. Comments or concerns regarding financial reporting, legal compliance, or other ethical issues should be directed to Ethicspoint at [www.ethicspoint.com](http://www.ethicspoint.com) or phone 1-866-384-4277, a third party we have selected for receiving and handling such communications from shareholders as well as our employees. Communications to Ethicspoint may be sent anonymously. Ethicspoint will forward those communications directly to the Chairman of our Audit Committee.

**Independent Accountants**

Our Board of Directors has selected PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP to audit our consolidated financial statements for 2003. PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, our independent public accountant in 2003, is expected to have a representative present at the 2004 Annual Meeting who may make a statement and will be available to respond to appropriate questions.

	<u>2002 Fees</u>	<u>2003 Fees</u>
<b>Independent Accountant Fees Disclosure</b>		
Audit Fees		
Audit of Financial Statements	\$ 186,200	\$ 199,000
Review of SEC filings and comfort letters	\$ 114,900	\$ 43,700
<b>Total Audit Fees</b>	<b>\$ 301,100</b>	<b>\$ 242,700</b>
Audit Related Fees		
Financial accounting and reporting standards consultation	\$ 4,500	\$ 14,000
<b>Total Audit Related Fees</b>	<b>\$ 4,500</b>	<b>\$ 14,000</b>
Tax Fees		
Tax advice on financial accounting issues	\$ 33,100	\$ 6,400
Review of federal and state income tax returns	\$ 18,100	\$ 14,900
<b>Total Tax Fees</b>	<b>\$ 51,200</b>	<b>\$ 21,300</b>
All Other Fees		
Financial analysis for UW Co-generation Project	\$ 386,900	\$ 198,400
Business resumption and computer security analysis	\$ 203,600	\$ 0

<b>Total All Other Fees</b>	<b>\$ 590,500</b>	<b>\$ 198,400</b>
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The Audit Committee approves each engagement of the independent accountants to render any audit or non-audit services before the accountants are engaged to render those services. The Chair of the Audit Committee or other designated Audit Committee member may represent the entire Audit Committee for purposes of this approval. Any services approved by the Chair or other designated Audit Committee member are reported to the full Audit Committee at the next scheduled Audit Committee meeting. No de minimis exceptions to this approval process are allowed under the Audit Committee Charter; and thus, none of the services described in the preceding table were approved pursuant to Rule 2-01(c)(7)(i)(C) of Regulation S-X.

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**TRANSACTION OF OTHER BUSINESS**

Our Board of Directors does not intend to present any business for action by our shareholders at the meeting except the matters referred to in this document. If any other matters should be properly presented at the meeting, it is the intention of the persons named in the accompanying form of proxy to vote thereon in accordance with the recommendations of our Board of Directors.

Please complete and sign the accompanying form of proxy whether or not you expect to be present at the meeting and promptly return it in the enclosed postage paid envelope.

By Order of the Board of Directors,

GARY J. WOLTER

Chairman of the Board,

President and Chief Executive Officer

Dated: April 2, 2004

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THE SHARES REPRESENTED BY THIS PROXY WILL BE

VOTED AS SPECIFIED WITH RESPECT TO PROPOSAL  
NUMBER (1). IF NO SPECIFICATION IS MADE, THE SHARES

WILL BE VOTED FOR ALL.

\_\_\_\_\_

Please sign exactly as name(s) appears above and date this proxy. If joint account, each should sign. Executors, Administrators, Trustees, etc., indicate the capacity in which you are signing.

This proxy revokes any previous proxies given. (continued on reverse side)

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**2004 Annual Shareholder Meeting Reservation**

If you plan to attend the Annual Meeting, please sign and return with your proxy vote. **(If you do not plan to attend, do not return this portion of the form.)**

.. I/we will attend the annual meeting.

\_\_\_\_\_

Shareholder Attending

\_\_\_\_\_

Shareholder Attending

\_\_\_\_\_

Guest

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