

FIRST MERCHANTS CORP
 Form 4
 December 17, 2013

FORM 4 UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
 Washington, D.C. 20549

OMB APPROVAL
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Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5 obligations may continue. See Instruction 1(b).

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF SECURITIES

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

(Print or Type Responses)

| | | | | |
|---|---------|----------|--|--|
| 1. Name and Address of Reporting Person * | | | 2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol | 5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer |
| HARDWICK MARK K | | | FIRST MERCHANTS CORP [FRME] | (Check all applicable) |
| (Last) | (First) | (Middle) | 3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year) | <input type="checkbox"/> Director <input type="checkbox"/> 10% Owner |
| 200 E JACKSON STREET | | | 12/16/2013 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Officer (give title below) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (specify below) |
| (Street) | | | 4. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year) | Chief Financial Officer / Executive Vice President |
| MUNCIE, IN 47305 | | | | 6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line) |
| (City) | (State) | (Zip) | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Form filed by One Reporting Person |
| | | | | <input type="checkbox"/> Form filed by More than One Reporting Person |

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

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

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

Persons who respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB control number. SEC 1474 (9-02)

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

| 1. Title of Derivative | 2. Conversion | 3. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year) | 3A. Deemed Execution Date, if | 4. Transaction | 5. Number of Derivative | 6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date | 7. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities | 8. Pr |
|------------------------|---------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------|-------------------------|---|--|-------|
|------------------------|---------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------|-------------------------|---|--|-------|

