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

FORM 8-K

CURRENT REPORT

Pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

Date of Report (Date of earliest event reported): April 11, 2006

PLAINS EXPLORATION & PRODUCTION COMPANY
(Exact name of registrant as specified in charter)

Delaware
(State of Incorporation)

33-0430755
(I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)

001-31470
(Commission File No.)

**700 Milam, Suite 3100
Houston, Texas 77002**
(Address of Principal Executive Offices)
(Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: (713) 579-6000

Check the appropriate box below if the Form 8-K filing is intended to simultaneously satisfy the filing obligation of the registrant under any of the following provisions:

- Written communications pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act (17 CFR 230.425)
 - Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14a-12)
 - Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d2-2(b) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14d-2(b))
 - Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d2-2(b) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.13e-4(c))
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Item 5.02 Departure of Directors or Principal Officers; Election of Directors; Appointment of Principal Officers

Plains Exploration & Production Company (the “Company”) has previously announced that Stephen A. Thorington will retire as Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of the Company. In order to ensure a smooth transition, the Company and Mr. Thorington have agreed to make his retirement effective April 11, 2006. Mr. Thorington will continue to be available to assist the Company in making an orderly transition to a new Chief Financial Officer.

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the Company has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned hereunto duly authorized.

PLAINS EXPLORATION & PRODUCTION COMPANY

Date: April 18, 2006

/s/ John F. Wombwell

John F. Wombwell

Executive Vice President, General Counsel and
Corporate Secretary