

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): July 24, 2000

The Williams Companies, Inc.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware

(State or other
jurisdiction of
incorporation)

1-4174

(Commission
File Number)

73-0569878

(I.R.S. Employer
Identification No.)

One Williams Center, Tulsa, Oklahoma

(Address of principal executive offices)

74172

(Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: 918/573-2000

Not Applicable

(Former name or former address, if changed since last report)

Item 5. Other Events.

The Williams Companies, Inc., (the "Company") announced that its Board of Directors had authorized management to pursue a course of action that, if successful and approved by the Board, would lead to a complete separation of the Company's energy and communications businesses.

Item 7. Financial Statements and Exhibits.

The Company files the following exhibit as part of this report:

Exhibit 99. Copy of the Company's press release, dated July 24, 2000, publicly announcing the information reported herein.

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

THE WILLIAMS COMPANIES, INC.

Date: July 24, 2000

/s/ SHAWNA L. GEHRES

Name: Shawna L. Gehres
Title: Corporate Secretary

INDEX TO EXHIBITS

EXHIBIT
NO.

DESCRIPTION

99

Copy of the Company's press release, dated July 24, 2000,
publicly announcing the information reported herein.

NEWS RELEASE

[WILLIAMS LOGO]

NYSE:WMB

Date: July 24, 2000

Contact: Jim Gipson	Rick Rodekohr	Richard George
Williams (media inquiries)	Williams (investor inquiries)	Williams (investor inquiries)
(918) 573-2111	(918) 573-2087	(918) 573-3679
jim.gipson@williams.com	rick.rodekohr@williams.com	richard.george@williams.com

WILLIAMS BOARD OKs PRELIMINARY STEPS TO SEPARATE ENERGY,
COMMUNICATIONS BUSINESSES

TULSA, OKLA. -- The board of directors of Williams (NYSE:WMB) on Sunday authorized management to pursue a course of action that, if successful and approved by the board, would lead to a complete separation of the company's energy and communications businesses.

Keith E. Bailey, chairman, president and chief executive officer, said that while the specific course of action has not been determined, it is envisioned the process would take no more than 18 months. He said any change from the current ownership structure would be contingent upon a number of factors, including ensuring favorable tax treatment for Williams' shareholders.

"We believe these steps are the best way to ensure that both our energy and communications businesses have the efficient and effective access to the capital necessary to pursue the substantial growth opportunities that each enjoys," he said. "Obviously, the ability to do that is consistent with the best long-term interest of our shareholders."

Last October, Williams sold a portion of Williams Communications (NYSE:WCG) in public and private equity offerings. Williams retains ownership of approximately 85 percent of Williams Communications.

Bailey said the company would not immediately have further comment on this issue beyond the information contained in this news release.

ABOUT WILLIAMS

Williams, through its subsidiaries, connects businesses to energy and communications. The company delivers innovative, reliable products and services through its extensive networks of energy-distributing pipelines and high-speed fiber-optic cables. Williams information is available at www.williams.com.

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Portions of this document may constitute "forward-looking statements" as defined by federal law. Although the company believes any such statements are based on reasonable assumptions, there is no assurance that actual outcomes will not be materially different. Any such statements are made in reliance on the "safe harbor" protections provided under the Private Securities Reform Act of 1995. Additional information about issues that could lead to material changes in performance is contained in the company's annual reports filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission.