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): March 23, 2005

The Williams Companies, Inc.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware	1-4174	73-0569878
(State or other jurisdiction of incorporation)	(Commission File Number)	(I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)

One Williams Center, Tulsa, Oklahoma	74172
(Address of principal executive offices)	(Zip Code)

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

Not Applicable
(Former name or former address, if changed since last report)

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:

o Written communications pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act (17 CFR 230.425)

o Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240-14a-12)

o Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d-2(b) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14d-2(b))

o Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13e-4(c) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.13e-4(c))

Item 8.01. Other Events.

On March 23, 2005, The Williams Companies, Inc. (“Williams”) announced plans to accelerate its pace of natural gas development both through deployment of additional rigs and also as a result of the drilling and operational efficiencies of new drilling rigs.

Williams also announced that it is increasing its planned capital spending in Exploration & Production by approximately $430 million over the three years from 2005 to 2007, with $400 million of the increase divided equally between 2006 and 2007. Williams plans to fund the accelerated drilling program with currently available excess cash balances and future free cash flows.

Williams continues to expect it will drill approximately 300 wells in the Piceance Basin this year. The first appreciable increase in drilling activity from the new rigs is planned for 2006 when Williams expects to drill up to 450 wells in the Piceance, increased from its previous plan for approximately 325 wells there. In 2007, Williams now plans to drill up to 500 wells in the Piceance, increased from its previous plan for an estimated 350 wells there.

As a result of the accelerated development plans, Williams increased its guidance for projected segment profit from its exploration and production business by $30 million in 2006 and $50 million in 2007.

A copy of the press release announcing the same is furnished as Exhibit 99.1 to this Current Report on Form 8-K and is incorporated herein.

The press release is being furnished pursuant to Item 8.01, Other Events. The information furnished is not deemed “filed” for purposes of Section 18 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, is not subject to the liabilities of that section and is not deemed incorporated by reference in any filing under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended.

Item 9.01. Financial Statements and Exhibits.

(a) None

(b) None

(c) Exhibits

Exhibit 99.1	Copy of press release dated March 23, 2005, publicly reporting the matters discussed herein, furnished pursuant to Item 8.01.

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

THE WILLIAMS COMPANIES, INC.

Date: March 25, 2005

/s/ Brian K. Shore
Name: Brian K. Shore
Title: Secretary

INDEX TO EXHIBITS

EXHIBIT NUMBER	DESCRIPTION
Exhibit 99.1	Copy of Williams' press release dated March 23, 2005.

Exhibit 99.1

NewsRelease

NYSE: WMB

Date: March 23, 2005

Williams Moves to Accelerate Production Development in Piceance Basin
Signs Agreement for Operation of 10 new rigs

TULSA, Okla. — Williams (NYSE:WMB) announced today that it has entered into a contract with Helmerich & Payne (NYSE:HP) for the operation of 10 new FlexRig4® drilling rigs, each for a term of three years.

This paves the way for Williams to increase the pace of developing its natural gas reserves in the Piceance Basin of western Colorado while utilizing a new rig design that adds efficiency and increased environmental sensitivity to its operations there.

At year-end 2004, Williams' ownership in the Piceance Basin accounted for 61 percent of the company's 3 trillion cubic feet equivalent of total proved domestic reserves and more than half of its estimated 7 Tcfe of proved, probable and possible reserves.

The company plans to accelerate its pace of development both through deployment of additional rigs and also as a result of the drilling and operational efficiencies the rigs are designed to deliver.

Williams continues to expect it will drill approximately 300 wells in the Piceance Basin this year. The first appreciable increase in drilling activity from the new rigs is planned for 2006 when the company expects to drill up to 450 wells in the Piceance, increased from its previous plan for approximately 325 wells there.

In 2007, Williams now plans to drill up to 500 wells in the Piceance, increased from its previous plan for an estimated 350 wells there.

The company today announced it is increasing its planned capital spending in Exploration & Production by approximately $430 million over the three years from 2005 to 2007, with $400 million of the increase divided equally between 2006 and 2007. Williams plans to fund the accelerated drilling program with currently available excess cash balances and future free cash flows.

About three-quarters of the additional capital is planned for drilling. The remainder is targeted for expanding gathering and processing facilities to handle increases in the company's Piceance Basin production.

As a result of the accelerated development plans, Williams today increased its guidance for projected segment profit from its exploration and production business by $30 million in 2006 and $50 million in 2007 .

"Additional drilling helps drive Williams' success," said Steve Malcolm, chairman, president and chief executive officer. "We're capitalizing on an attractive, in-house opportunity to create value for our shareholders from our large inventory of low-risk reserves that consistently deliver attractive returns."

Further details on planned capital spending and the company's updated projections for segment profit and production from this business segment are at the conclusion of this news release.

The vast majority of additional wells are planned in established areas of the Piceance Valley vs. step-out opportunities that Williams is developing in the basin.

Williams expects to begin deploying the new rigs on pace with the contracted delivery schedule — one per month, beginning in November this year.

Williams currently has 13 rigs operating in the Piceance Basin through other vendors. As the new rigs from Helmerich & Payne are added, Williams is expecting to run an average of approximately 20 rigs in the Piceance Basin in 2006 and an average of approximately 22 rigs there in 2007.

Since the new rigs will be built for optimal performance in Piceance Basin drilling conditions, the company expects to be able to drill more wells per rig in a given time frame.

A key feature of the new rigs is that they are designed to dramatically reduce both the number and the size of surface locations needed to drill wells. The rigs are designed to drill up to 22 wells — in an underground spoke formation — from a single surface location that is half the size of traditional drilling sites. As a result, much of Williams' increased drilling activity will not be as visible on the surface.

"The surface location for these new rigs takes up half the space of a typical rig, yet enables us to drill almost three times the number of wells per pad," said Ralph Hill, who leads the company's Exploration & Production business.

"It's very important to us to pursue our goals responsibly in a way that respects local interests. We care very much about our long-standing relationships in Garfield and Rio Blanco counties," Hill said.

"Locking up these rigs with an established contractor helps increase the safety and efficiency of our operations while sharply increasing production in an environmentally sensitive manner," Hill added.

Williams has made provisions to handle transportation of additional production to market via a previously announced contract for up to 350 million cubic feet of daily capacity on a Wyoming Interstate Company pipeline expansion that is scheduled to go into service in early 2006 and via other firm transportation commitments.

About Williams (NYSE:WMB)

Williams, through its subsidiaries, primarily finds, produces, gathers, processes and transports natural gas. The company also manages a wholesale power business. Williams' operations are concentrated in the Pacific Northwest, Rocky Mountains, Gulf Coast, Southern California and Eastern Seaboard. More information is available at www.williams.com.

Updated Guidance for Exploration & Production

Dollars in millions, except for prices

	2005	2006	2007
Segment profit*	$ 400 - 475	$ 480 - 555	$ 550 - 675
Capital spending**	$ 530 - 605	$ 725 - 825	$ 725 - 875
Production (MMcfe/d)	600 - 700	720 - 820	825 - 925
Hedges (NYMEX Equivalent)			
Fixed-Price			
Volume (MMcfe/d)	286	298	172
Price (Mcfe)	$ 4.44	$ 4.39	$ 4.20
Collar			
Volume (MMcfe/d)	50	50	-
Price (Mcfe)	$ 7.50-10.49 1Q	$ 6.50-8.25	-
	$ 6.75-8.50 2Q-YE		

* Pricing for sale of unhedged production volumes in this projection is based on information the company presented during its Feb. 23, 2005, earnings conference call: (NYMEX equivalent) $6.34 per thousand cubic feet equivalent in 2005; $5.96 in 2006; $5.75 in 2007.

** Capital spending includes drilling and other costs for new facilities that support production, such as gathering and processing. Of the increased amounts of capital spending announced today, these are the approximate amounts allocated for additional drilling: $0 in 2005; $115 million in 2006; $200 million in 2007.

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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.