

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 19, 2002

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

On March 19, 2002, The Williams Companies, Inc. (NYSE:WMB) announced it had closed a two-part debt transaction of \$1.5 billion. Williams sold the securities in a private placement as follows: \$850 million of 30-year notes with a interest rate of 8.75% and \$650 million of 10-year notes with a interest rate of 8.125%. Williams will use the proceeds to repay outstanding short-term debt, provide working capital and for general corporate purposes.

Item 7. Financial Statements and Exhibits.

Williams files the following exhibit as part of this report:

Exhibit 99.1 Copy of Williams' press release dated March 19, 2002, publicly announcing the matters reported herein.

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 20, 2002

/s/ Suzanne H. Costin

Name: Suzanne H. Costin
Title: Corporate Secretary

INDEX TO EXHIBITS

EXHIBIT NUMBER -----	DESCRIPTION -----
99.1	Copy of Williams' press release dated March 19, 2002, publicly announcing the matters reported herein.

[WILLIAMS LOGO]

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NEWS RELEASE

NYSE: WMB

Date: March 19, 2002

WILLIAMS CLOSES TWO-PART \$1.5 BILLION DEBT SALE

TULSA, Okla. - Williams (NYSE:WMB) today closed on a two-part debt transaction of \$1.5 billion. The energy infrastructure and marketing company sold the securities in a private placement as follows:

- o \$850 million of 30-year notes with a interest rate of 8.75%.
- o \$650 million of 10-year notes with a interest rate of 8.125%.

Williams will use the proceeds to repay outstanding short-term debt, provide working capital and for general corporate purposes.

ABOUT WILLIAMS (NYSE: WMB)

Williams, through its subsidiaries, connects businesses to energy, delivering innovative, reliable products and services. 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.