

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 12, 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 July 12, 2002, The Williams Companies, Inc. ("Williams") announced it is considering selling its interstate natural gas pipeline system in the central United States. The company said that parties have expressed strong interest in the business. The potential buyers for the system, known as Central, were not disclosed and terms of a potential sale are not known at this time.

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 July 12, 2002, publicly reporting the matters discussed 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: July 12, 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 July 12, 2002, publicly reporting the matters discussed herein.

[WILLIAMS LOGO]

NEWS RELEASE

NYSE: WMB

LEADING ENERGY SOLUTIONS

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DATE: July 12, 2002
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WILLIAMS CONSIDERS SELLING ITS CENTRAL-U.S. GAS PIPELINE;
WILL RETAIN SYSTEMS IN HIGH-GROWTH MARKETS

TULSA, Okla. - Williams (NYSE:WMB) today announced it is considering selling its interstate natural gas pipeline system in the central United States in another definitive step toward strengthening its financial flexibility and developing a more tightly focused portfolio of energy businesses.

The company said that parties have expressed strong interest in the business. The potential buyers for the system, known as Central, were not disclosed and terms of a potential sale are not known at this time.

"This would mark another major accomplishment toward enhancing Williams' financial strength and flexibility, allowing us to more tightly focus our future capital investments," said Steve Malcolm, chairman, president and CEO of Williams. "We remain committed to the interstate natural gas pipeline industry and will focus our efforts there in systems that serve faster-growing markets."

Doug Whisenant, president and CEO of Williams' interstate natural gas pipeline unit, said, "We are focusing our future capital investment in our Northwest Pipeline, Texas Gas and Transco pipeline systems, which serve some of the largest and fastest-growing markets in North America. The markets served by Central are stable and growing at a steady, but slower, pace. The stable performance of this business would be ideal for certain potential buyers."

Williams' 6,000-mile Central system transports natural gas from Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas, Wyoming and Colorado to markets in the Midcontinent. The system's design capacity is 2.3 billion cubic feet per day, with

an annual throughput of 337.5 trillion British thermal units. The line has a seasonal storage capacity of 43 Bcf. Central has headquarters in Owensboro, Ky., and has 368 employees located across its office and field locations.

ABOUT WILLIAMS (NYSE: WMB)

Williams moves, manages and markets a variety of energy products, including natural gas, liquid hydrocarbons, petroleum and electricity. Based in Tulsa, Okla., Williams' operations span the energy value chain from wellhead to burner tip. Company 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.