

PIONEER NATURAL RESOURCES CO
Form 8-K
August 27, 2009
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): August 26, 2009

PIONEER NATURAL RESOURCES COMPANY

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware
(State or other jurisdiction of
incorporation)

1-13245
(Commission
File Number)

75-2702753
(I.R.S. Employer
Identification Number)

5205 N. O'Connor Blvd., Suite 200, Irving, Texas
(Address of principal executive offices)

75039
(Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: **(972) 444-9001**

Not applicable

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

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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 14d-2(b) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14d-2(b))
 - Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13e-4(c) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.13e-4(c))
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PIONEER NATURAL RESOURCES COMPANY

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Item 1.01. Entry into a Material Definitive Agreement.

On August 26, 2009, Pioneer Natural Resources Company (the “Company”) entered into new indemnification agreements with its directors and executive officers (each an “Indemnitee”). The current executive officers are Scott D. Sheffield, Timothy L. Dove, Mark S. Berg, Chris J. Cheatwood, Richard P. Dealy, William F. Hannes, Danny L. Kellum, David McManus, Jay P. Still and Frank W. Hall. The current directors (in addition to Mr. Sheffield) are Thomas D. Arthur, Edison C. Buchanan, Andrew F. Cates, R. Hartwell Gardner, Andrew D. Lundquist, Charles E. Ramsey, Jr., Scott J. Reiman, Frank A. Risch and Jim A. Watson. The new agreements replace the indemnification agreements that all the directors and other executive officers previously had with the Company.

The Company reviews its forms regularly and decided to enter into new indemnification agreements principally to update its forms. A description of the new forms of indemnification agreement is contained in this report and is qualified in its entirety by reference to the form of agreement that is filed as an exhibit to this report and incorporated herein by reference.

Each indemnification agreement requires the Company to indemnify each Indemnitee to the fullest extent permitted by the Delaware General Corporation Law. This means, among other things, that the Company must indemnify the director or executive officer against expenses (including attorneys’ fees), judgments, fines and amounts paid in settlement that are actually and reasonably incurred in an action, suit or proceeding by reason of the fact that the person is or was a director, officer, employee or agent of the Company or is or was serving at the request of the Company as a director, officer, employee or agent of another corporation or other entity if the Indemnitee meets the standard of conduct provided under Delaware law. Also as permitted under Delaware law, the indemnification agreements require the Company to advance expenses in defending such an action provided that the director or executive officer undertakes to repay the amounts if the person ultimately is determined not to be entitled to indemnification from the Company. The Company will also make the Indemnitee whole for taxes imposed on the indemnification payments and for costs in any action to establish Indemnitee’s right to indemnification, whether or not wholly successful.

In general, the disinterested directors on the board of the Company or a committee of disinterested directors have the authority to determine an Indemnitee’s right to indemnification, but the Indemnitee can require that independent legal counsel make this determination if a change in control or potential change in control has occurred. In addition, the Indemnitee can require the Company to establish a trust fund with a third-party trustee sufficient to satisfy the indemnification obligations and expenses if a change in control or potential change in control has occurred.

The indemnification agreements require the Company to continue director and officers’ liability insurance coverage for an Indemnitee for six years after the Indemnitee ceases to be an officer or director, and they obligate the Company to procure up to a six-year run-off policy in the event of a change in control or termination of the person in the year following a change in control of the Company. The indemnification agreements also limit the period in which the Company can bring an action against the Indemnitee to three years for breaches of fiduciary duty and to one year for other types of claims.

Definitions of “potential change in control,” “change in control” and certain other terms used in this report are set forth in the form of indemnification agreement that is filed as an exhibit to this report and incorporated herein by reference.

Item 9.01. Financial Statements and Exhibits.

(d) Exhibits

10.1 — Indemnification Agreement between the Company and Scott D. Sheffield, together with a schedule identifying other substantially identical agreements between the Company and each of its executive officers and non-employee directors identified on the schedule and identifying the material differences between each of those agreements and the filed Indemnification Agreement.

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SIGNATURES

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.

PIONEER NATURAL RESOURCES COMPANY

By: /s/ Mark H. Kleinman
Mark H. Kleinman
Vice President, Corporate Secretary and Chief Compliance
Officer

Dated: August 27, 2009

EXHIBIT INDEX

**Exhibit
Number**

Exhibit Title

10.1(a) Indemnification Agreement between the Company and Scott D. Sheffield, together with a schedule identifying other substantially identical agreements between the Company and each of its executive officers and non-employee directors identified on the schedule and identifying the material differences between each of those agreements and the filed Indemnification Agreement.

_____ (a) Filed herewith.