

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): January 7, 2004

ASHLAND INC.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Kentucky

(State or other jurisdiction of incorporation)

1-2918

(Commission File Number)

61-0122250

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

50 E. RiverCenter Boulevard, Covington, Kentucky
(Address of principal executive offices)

41012-0391
(Zip Code)

P.O. Box 391, Covington, Kentucky
(Mailing Address)

41012-0391
(Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code (859) 815-3333

Item 5. Other Events

On January 7, 2004, Ashland Inc. ("Ashland") announced that Garry M. Higdem, P.E., formerly with Granite Construction (Watsonville, CA), has been named to succeed David J. D'Antoni as President of Ashland Paving And Construction, Inc., the parent corporation of the APAC group of companies, and a wholly-owned subsidiary of Ashland. Higdem will report to James J. O'Brien, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Ashland. Higdem will hold the titles of Senior Vice President of Ashland, and President, Ashland Paving And Construction, Inc. The appointment is effective Monday, January 12, 2004.

The APAC group of companies operates in 14 Southern and Midwestern states. APAC's assets consist of 96 aggregate production facilities, including 35 permanent operating quarry locations; 65 ready-mix concrete plants; 239 hot-mix asphalt plants; and more than 15,000 pieces of mobile equipment.

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 thereunto duly authorized.

ASHLAND INC.

(Registrant)

Date: January 7, 2004

/s/ J. Marvin Quin

Name: J. Marvin Quin
Title: Senior Vice President and
Chief Financial Officer

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