
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) July 16, 2009

OCCIDENTAL PETROLEUM CORPORATION

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware
(State or other jurisdiction
of incorporation)

1-9210
(Commission
File Number)

95-4035997
(I.R.S. Employer
Identification No.)

10889 Wilshire Boulevard
Los Angeles, California
(Address of principal executive offices)

90024
(ZIP code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code:
(310) 208-8800

Check the appropriate box below if the Form 8-K is intended to simultaneously satisfy the filing obligation of the Registrant under any of the following provisions (see General Instruction A.2. below):

- 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))

Section 5 – Corporate Governance and Management

Item 5.02. Election of Directors

On July 16, 2009, the Board of Directors of Occidental Petroleum Corporation increased the size of its Board from 12 to 13 directors in order to elect former U.S. Secretary of Commerce Carlos M. Gutierrez, 55, to the Board. Prior to his government service, Secretary Gutierrez was Chairman and CEO of Kellogg Company. He currently serves as a director of United Technologies and Corning Inc. A copy of the press release of Occidental announcing Secretary Gutierrez's election is attached as Exhibit 99.1 and is incorporated herein by reference.

The Board has determined that Secretary Gutierrez is independent under the New York Stock Exchange listing standards and Occidental's Director Independence Standards. There is no arrangement or understanding between Secretary Gutierrez and any other persons pursuant to which Secretary Gutierrez was selected as a director, and there are no related party transactions involving Secretary Gutierrez that are reportable under Item 404(a) of Regulation S-K.

Secretary Gutierrez has not been appointed to any Board Committees.

Section 9 – Financial Statements and Exhibits

Item 9.01. Financial Statements and Exhibits

(d) Exhibits

99.1 Press release dated July 16, 2009.

SIGNATURE

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.

OCCIDENTAL PETROLEUM CORPORATION
(Registrant)

DATE: July 20, 2009

/s/ ROY PINECI

Roy Pineci, Vice President, Controller
and Principal Accounting Officer

EXHIBIT INDEX

99.1 Press release dated July 16, 2009.



For Immediate Release: July 16, 2009

FORMER U.S. COMMERCE SECRETARY CARLOS M. GUTIERREZ ELECTED TO
OCCIDENTAL PETROLEUM BOARD OF DIRECTORS

LOS ANGELES, July 16, 2009 -- Occidental Petroleum Corporation (NYSE:OXY) announced today that former U.S. Secretary of Commerce Carlos M. Gutierrez, 55, has been elected to its Board of Directors. Prior to his government service, Secretary Gutierrez was Chairman and CEO of Kellogg Company. His election brings the Oxy Board to 13 members, 12 of whom are independent outside directors.

Secretary Gutierrez served as head of the Commerce Department from 2005 to January, 2009, where he led a large, diverse Cabinet agency of over 38,000 employees with a \$6.5 billion budget, responsible for promoting American business around the globe. He was with Kellogg Company (NYSE:K) for 30 years, serving as CEO from 1999 and Chairman of the Board from 2000 to 2005.

Secretary Gutierrez is a member of the boards of United Technologies Corporation (NYSE:UTX) and Corning Incorporated (NYSE:GLW). He serves also on the boards of trustees of the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars and the University of Miami, previously serving on the boards of Colgate-Palmolive Company and the Grocery Manufacturers of America as well as Co-Trustee of the W.K. Kellogg Foundation Trust. He studied Business Administration at the Monterrey Institute of Technology in Queretaro, Mexico.

ABOUT OXY

Occidental Petroleum Corporation is an international oil and gas exploration and production company with operations in the United States, Middle East/North Africa and Latin America regions. Oxy is the fourth largest U.S. oil and gas company, based on equity market capitalization. Oxy's wholly owned subsidiary,

OxyChem, manufactures and markets chlor-alkali products and vinyls. Occidental is committed to safeguarding the environment, protecting the safety and health of employees and neighboring communities and upholding high standards of social responsibility in all of the company's worldwide operations.

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