

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) APRIL 20, 1998

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

ITEM 5. OTHER EVENTS

Occidental Petroleum Corporation reported on April 20, 1998 net income of \$177 million (\$.50 per share) for the first quarter of 1998, compared with net income of \$179 million (\$.48 per share) for the first quarter of 1997. The first quarter of 1998 included an after-tax benefit of \$38 million (\$.11 per share), reported as discontinued operations, reflecting the closing of the sale of the natural gas transmission and marketing subsidiary, MidCon. Earnings before special items were \$89 million for the first quarter of 1998, compared with \$127 million for the same period in 1997.

The first quarter 1998 reported earnings of \$177 million included pretax net gains of \$105 million resulting from the sale of certain nonstrategic oil and gas properties included in the previously announced \$4.7 billion asset redeployment program. Sales were \$1.7 billion for the first quarter of 1998, compared with \$1.9 billion for the same period in 1997.

Oil and gas divisional earnings before special items were \$127 million for the first quarter of 1998, compared with \$247 million for the first quarter of 1997. Results for the first quarter of 1998 were \$232 million after including pretax gains of \$105 million related to the sale of nonstrategic assets located in Venezuela and the United States. The decrease in earnings before special items reflects primarily the negative impact of lower worldwide crude oil and natural gas prices, partially offset by increased crude oil production in the United States and Eastern Hemisphere.

Chemical divisional earnings for the first quarter of 1998 were \$158 million, compared with \$92 million for 1997. The improvement in 1998 earnings resulted primarily from lower feedstock prices and higher caustic soda margins, partially offset by lower ethylene, propylene and commodity resin prices.

Interest expense in the first quarter of 1998 was \$112 million, compared with \$101 million for the first quarter of 1997. The increase in interest expense during the first quarter is primarily attributable to temporarily higher debt levels to fund a portion of the Elk Hills acquisition in early February 1998.

In June 1997, the Financial Accounting Standards Board issued SFAS No. 131 -- "Disclosures about Segments of an Enterprise and Related Information." Occidental has elected to adopt this statement early and will now report equity earnings or losses from unconsolidated subsidiaries in the respective business segment rather than, as previously reported, as a Corporate item. Accordingly, 1997 results have been restated.

SUMMARY OF DIVISIONAL NET SALES AND EARNINGS
(Millions, except per-share amounts)

Periods Ended March 31	First Quarter	
	1998	1997(b)
DIVISIONAL NET SALES		
Oil and gas	\$ 740	\$ 842
Chemical	960	1,075
	\$ 1,700	\$ 1,917
DIVISIONAL EARNINGS		
Oil and gas	\$ 232	\$ 247
Chemical	158	92
	390	339
UNALLOCATED CORPORATE ITEMS		
Interest expense, net	(112)	(101)
Income taxes(a)	(126)	(85)
Other	(13)	(26)
INCOME FROM CONTINUING OPERATIONS	139	127
Discontinued operations, net	38	52
NET INCOME	177	179
Preferred dividends	(4)(c)	(23)
EARNINGS APPLICABLE TO COMMON STOCK	\$ 173	\$ 156
BASIC EARNINGS PER COMMON SHARE		
Income from continuing operations	\$.39	\$.32
Discontinued operations, net	.11	.16
BASIC EARNINGS(LOSS) PER COMMON SHARE	\$.50(c)	\$.48
DILUTED EARNINGS PER COMMON SHARE		
Income from continuing operations	\$.38	\$.31
Discontinued operations, net	.11	.15
DILUTED EARNINGS(LOSS) PER COMMON SHARE	\$.49(c)	\$.46
AVERAGE COMMON SHARES OUTSTANDING	344.5(c)	329.7

(a) Includes an adjustment to corporate taxes, as quarterly consolidated taxes are computed in accordance with APB Opinion No. 28 and hence are based on projections of total-year income and taxes. Also, includes an offset for credits in lieu of U.S. federal income taxes allocated to the divisions. Divisional earnings have benefited from credits allocated by \$3 million and \$7 million at oil and gas and chemical, respectively, in the first quarter of 1998 and by \$4 million and \$6 million at oil and gas and chemical, respectively, in the first quarter of 1997.

(b) 1997 results have been restated to reflect the adoption of SFAS 131, "Disclosures about Segments of an Enterprise and Related Information" and to reflect MidCon as a discontinued operation.

(c) The earnings per share calculation includes the effect of 16.6 million shares of preferred stock being converted into 37.2 million shares of common stock in the first quarter.

SUMMARY OF OPERATING STATISTICS

Periods Ended March 31 =====	First Quarter	
	1998 =====	1997 =====
NET OIL, GAS AND LIQUIDS PRODUCTION PER DAY		
United States		
Crude oil and condensate (thousands of barrels)	81	58
Natural gas liquids (thousands of barrels)	6	12
Natural gas (millions of cubic feet)	628	593
Other Western Hemisphere		
Crude oil and condensate (thousands of barrels)	93	122
Eastern Hemisphere		
Crude oil and condensate (thousands of barrels)	131	94
Natural gas (millions of cubic feet)	138	126
CAPITAL EXPENDITURES (millions)	\$ 280 =====	\$ 262 =====
DEPRECIATION, DEPLETION AND AMORTIZATION OF ASSETS (millions)	\$ 230 =====	\$ 204 =====

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: April 21, 1998

S. P. Dominick, Jr.

S. P. Dominick, Jr., Vice President
and Controller
(Chief Accounting and Duly Authorized
Officer)