

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) June 17, 2003

ALBEMARLE CORPORATION  
(Exact Name of Registrant as Specified in Charter)

Virginia ----- (State or Other Jurisdiction of Incorporation)	1-12658 ----- (Commission File Number)	54-1692118 ----- (IRS Employer Identification No.)
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330 South Fourth Street, Richmond, Virginia ----- (Address of Principal Executive Offices)	23219 ----- (Zip Code)
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Registrant's telephone number, including area code - (804) 788-6000  
Registrant's website address: www.albemarle.com

Former name or former address, if changed since last report - N/A

Item 5 Other Events and Regulation FD Disclosure.

On June 17, 2003, the Company issued a press release, a copy of which is attached hereto as Exhibit 99.1.

Exhibit

99.1 Albemarle Corporation press release dated June 17, 2003.

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 authorized.

Date: June 19, 2003

ALBEMARLE CORPORATION

/s/ ROBERT G. KIRCHHOEFER

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Robert G. Kirchhoefer  
Treasurer and Chief Accounting Officer

4

EXHIBIT INDEX

Exhibit No.

99.1

Albemarle Corporation press release dated June 17, 2003.

Sarah McCoy  
804.788.6091  
Michael Whitlow  
804.788.6091

Albemarle Corporation To Acquire Phosphorus Flame Retardants  
in Agreement with Rhodia SA

Richmond, Va., June 17, 2003 - Albemarle Corporation (NYSE: ALB) and Rhodia SA (Paris) have reached an agreement for Albemarle to acquire Rhodia's global organo-phosphorus and ammonium polyphosphate flame retardants business for applications in rigid and flexible polyurethane foams. Annual global revenue for these products is approximately \$65 million.

The transaction, which is expected to be completed in the next three to six weeks, is subject to regulatory approvals.

As part of the transaction, Albemarle will acquire Rhodia's production site in Avonmouth, United Kingdom. Rhodia also will supply Albemarle with Antiblaze(TM) flame retardants and intermediates from its plants in Charleston, S.C., and Oldbury and Widnes in the United Kingdom.

"This acquisition significantly strengthens Albemarle's position in polyurethane foam applications," said Luc Van Muylem, global business director for flame retardants at Albemarle. "The Antiblaze flame retardant product portfolio allows Albemarle to be a significant provider of flame retardants for the polyurethane foam industry as our customers are developing products to meet the challenges of safer furniture and other products. It also complements the NcendX(TM) phosphorus-based flame retardants capability Albemarle has developed for thermoplastic applications, such as electronic enclosures."

Albemarle has established global leadership positions in bromine-based and mineral flame retardants. "With the addition of the new phosphorus capabilities, our offering is unmatched by anyone in the industry. We are combining versatility of our product and technology portfolio, with excellent geographical positioning and scale of our production bases, as well as strong global technical application support capabilities," said Van Muylem.

Albemarle Corporation, headquartered in Richmond, Virginia, is a leading producer of specialty chemicals for consumer electronics; pharmaceuticals; agricultural, automotive and industrial products; and construction and packaging materials. The company's two business segments, Polymer Chemicals and Fine Chemicals - which includes custom manufacturing services for the life sciences market - serve customers in more than 80 countries, generating revenue of approximately \$1 billion. To learn more about the Company, go to [www.Albemarle.com](http://www.Albemarle.com)