

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 24, 2003

ALBEMARLE CORPORATION

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(Exact Name of Registrant as Specified in Charter)

Virginia	1-12658	54-1692118
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(State or Other Jurisdiction of Incorporation)	(Commission File Number)	(IRS Employer Identification No.)

330 South Fourth Street, Richmond, Virginia 23219  
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(Address of Principal Executive Offices) (Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code - (804) 788-6000  
Registrant's website address: [www.albemarle.com](http://www.albemarle.com)

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

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Item 5 Other Events and Regulation FD Disclosure.

On July 24, 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 July 24, 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: July 24, 2003

ALBEMARLE CORPORATION

/s/ ROBERT G. KIRCHHOEFER

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Robert G. Kirchhoefer  
Treasurer and Chief  
Accounting Officer

## EXHIBIT INDEX

Exhibit No.

99.1 Albemarle Corporation press release dated July 24, 2003.

Sarah McCoy  
804.788.6091  
Michael Whitlow  
804.788.6116

Albemarle Completes Acquisition of Rhodia's Polyurethane  
Flame Retardants Business

Richmond, Va., July 24, 2003 - Albemarle Corporation (NYSE: ALB) has completed the acquisition of the phosphorus-based polyurethane flame retardants businesses of Rhodia. These products are used in rigid and flexible polyurethane foam applications. Albemarle has also acquired Rhodia's ammonium polyphosphate product range, which has applications in textiles, timber and coatings.

This addition to Albemarle's polymer business segment is expected to generate sales of about \$65 million in its first year. Albemarle is acquiring a production site in Avonmouth in the United Kingdom, and will be supplied with flame retardants and intermediates manufactured at Rhodia's sites in Charleston S.C., and in Oldbury and Widnes in the United Kingdom. About 75 employees will join Albemarle as part of this transaction.

"This is an important acquisition in our strategy to become the leading flame retardants supplier in the industry," said Luc Van Muylem, Albemarle's global business director. "With this extensive new offering in the polyurethane area to add to our portfolio, we are offering our global consumers the best value and performance in all major flame retardant technologies."

According to Albemarle, the addition of the polyurethane flame retardants will greatly improve its ability to compete in the market for flame resistant furniture foams, an important safety issue receiving regulatory and legislative attention throughout the world. Furniture that complies with California Bureau of Home Furnishings Technical Bulletin 117 standards is being promoted by fire marshals and consumer groups in North America as one way to prevent death and injury in home fires.

The acquisition also brings a range of "non-halogenated" flame retardants to the portfolio, an area of focus for Albemarle in recent product development and acquisitions. Albemarle has a strong, leadership position in both bromine-based and mineral-based flame retardants, with global marketing supported by cost efficient production.

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)