

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 27, 2000

MINE SAFETY APPLIANCES COMPANY

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Pennsylvania

0-2504

25-0668780

(State or other jurisdiction
of incorporation)

(Commission
File Number)

(IRS Employer
Identification No.)

121 Gamma Drive
RIDC Industrial Park
O'Hara Township
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

15238

(Address of Principal Executive Offices)

(Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: (412) 967-3000

Item 5. Other Events.

The following document is filed as an exhibit to this Report.

99.1 Press release Mine Safety Appliances Company dated June 27, 2000.

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.

MINE SAFETY APPLIANCES COMPANY
(Registrant)

By /s/ James E. Herald

James E. Herald
Vice President - Finance

Date: June 27, 2000

FROM: Ketchum
Six PPG Place - Pittsburgh, Pa. 15222-5488
Contact: Mark Deasy - (412) 456-3843

FOR: MSA (Mine Safety Appliances Company)

Ticker: MSA (AMEX)
Contact: James E. Herald, VP - Finance & CFO
Phone: (412) 967-3000
E-Mail: vpfinance@msanet.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MSA SELLS STOCK TO PENSION PLAN

June 27, 2000, PITTSBURGH -- John T. Ryan III, chairman and chief executive officer of Mine Safety Appliances Company (MSA), announced today the sale of 1.1 million shares of common stock to the MSA pension plan at a price of \$24.00 per share. Proceeds of the sale will be used to reduce debt incurred to fund the purchase of 1.9 million shares of stock from the estate and family of Mrs. Helen Ruth Henderson. Mrs. Henderson, who passed away last summer, was the daughter of Mr. George H. Deike, Sr., a co-founder of MSA.

The company announced the purchase of the Henderson shares on June 20, 2000. At that time the company noted it was exploring the possible sale of shares to its pension plan.

There were approximately 12.7 million shares outstanding as of May 31, 2000. The combined effect of these two transactions has been to reduce the total shares outstanding to 11.9 million, a reduction of 6.3%. The combined financial impact is expected to be accretive to earnings per share and return on shareholders' equity.

MSA is the world's leading provider of quality products and services that protect people's health, safety and the environment. The company has annual sales of about \$500 million, manufacturing operations throughout the United States and 29 international affiliates.

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