

AIRGAS INC
Form 11-K
March 29, 2016
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UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM 11-K

(Mark One)

ANNUAL REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2015

OR

TRANSITION REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

For the transition period from _____ to _____

Commission file number: 333-170139

A. Full title of the plan and the address of the plan, if different from that of the issuer named below:

Amended and Restated
Airgas, Inc. 2003 Employee Stock Purchase Plan

B. Name of the issuer of the securities held pursuant to the plan and the address of its principal executive office:

Airgas, Inc.
259 North Radnor-Chester Road
Suite 100
Radnor, PA 19087-5283

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AMENDED and RESTATED
AIRGAS, INC. 2003 EMPLOYEE STOCK PURCHASE PLAN

ANNUAL REPORT ON FORM 11-K

December 31, 2015

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Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm

The Governance and Compensation Committee of the
Airgas, Inc. Board of Directors:

We have audited the accompanying statements of financial position of the Amended and Restated Airgas, Inc. 2003 Employee Stock Purchase Plan (the Plan) as of December 31, 2015 and 2014, and the related statements of changes in participants' equity for each of the years in the three-year period ended December 31, 2015. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Plan's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audits.

We conducted our audits in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States). Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Plan as of December 31, 2015 and 2014, and the changes in participants' equity for each of the years in the three-year period ended December 31, 2015, in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles.

/s/ KPMG LLP

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
March 29, 2016

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AMENDED and RESTATED
AIRGAS, INC. 2003 EMPLOYEE STOCK PURCHASE PLAN

STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION

	December 31, 2015	December 31, 2014
ASSETS		
Participants' payroll deductions receivable from Airgas, Inc.	\$5,321,137	\$4,635,933
PARTICIPANTS' EQUITY		
Participants' equity	\$5,321,137	\$4,635,933

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

Table of ContentsAMENDED and RESTATED
AIRGAS, INC. 2003 EMPLOYEE STOCK PURCHASE PLAN

STATEMENTS OF CHANGES IN PARTICIPANTS' EQUITY

	Years Ended December 31,		
	2015	2014	2013
Participants' contributions	\$ 19,857,774	\$ 18,133,385	\$ 17,441,278
Cost of 220,933 shares in 2015, 202,801 shares in 2014 and 226,621 shares in 2013 of Airgas, Inc. common stock issued to participants under the terms of the Plan (including \$242,696 in 2015, \$192,313 in 2014 and \$128,728 in 2013 of cash refunded to employees as required by Internal Revenue Service contribution limitations)	(19,172,570) (17,835,699) (17,410,861
Net change in participants' equity	685,204	297,686	30,417
Participants' equity, balance at beginning of period	4,635,933	4,338,247	4,307,830
Participants' equity, balance at end of period	\$5,321,137	\$4,635,933	\$4,338,247

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

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AMENDED and RESTATED

AIRGAS, INC. 2003 EMPLOYEE STOCK PURCHASE PLAN

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(1) Description of the Plan

The following description of the Amended and Restated Airgas, Inc. 2003 Employee Stock Purchase Plan (the “Plan”) provides general information only. Participants should refer to the Plan prospectus for more complete information. The purpose of the Plan is to encourage and assist employees of Airgas, Inc. and its subsidiaries (the “Company”) to acquire an equity interest in the Company through the purchase of shares of the Company’s common stock (the “Common Stock”) at a discount. Generally, employees may elect to have up to 15% of their annual gross compensation (including base salary, commissions and overtime) withheld to purchase the Company’s Common Stock at 85% of its market value. The maximum market value of shares purchased by a Plan participant in any calendar year is limited to \$25,000. Market value as defined under the Plan is the lesser of the closing market price of the Common Stock as of an employee’s enrollment date in the Plan or the closing market price on the quarterly purchase date. The quarterly purchase date is the first business day of each calendar quarter. Employees lock in a purchase price under the Plan for up to 12 months. If the closing market price of the Common Stock on the quarterly purchase date is less than an employee’s existing 12-month purchase price, the employee is considered to re-enroll in the Plan and is granted a new purchase price for the remainder of the 12-month period. In addition, Plan participants are automatically re-enrolled in the Plan on the first business day of April of each year and are granted a new enrollment purchase price.

Employees may not sell shares purchased under the Plan until after the first trading day on the New York Stock Exchange (“NYSE”) that occurs at least one year after the purchase date. An exception to this provision relates to employee separation of service from the Company, namely that employees are permitted to sell shares purchased under the Plan at the earlier of the close of business on the last day of employment with the Company, or the close of business one year after the employee’s purchase date. Additionally, the limitation on the sale will not apply if the closing price of the Common Stock on the NYSE for five consecutive trading days during the restricted period is less than the purchase price for those shares. Following the completion of the one-year period or expiration of the restriction, if earlier, shares may be sold at any time.

At any time, the Airgas, Inc. Board of Directors (the “Board”) may amend, alter or terminate the Plan and/or outstanding options to purchase Common Stock under the Plan (see Note 2). The Governance and Compensation Committee (the “Committee”) of the Board serves as the Plan Administrator. A maximum of 5,500,000 shares of Common Stock may be issued under the Plan. From the Plan’s inception (July 29, 2003) through December 31, 2015, 4,528,049 shares have been issued under the Plan.

The accompanying financial statements have been prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. The Plan is accounted for on the accrual basis of accounting. Purchases and sales of shares of Common Stock are recorded on a trade date basis.

The Plan is not subject to the provisions of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974.

(2) Merger Agreement

On November 17, 2015, the Company announced that it had entered into a definitive agreement for the acquisition of the Company by L’Air Liquide, S.A. (“Air Liquide”) in a merger (the “Merger”) pursuant to an Agreement and Plan of Merger, dated November 17, 2015, by and among the Company, Air Liquide and AL Acquisition Corporation, an indirect wholly owned subsidiary of Air Liquide (the “Merger Agreement”). As consideration for the Merger, each outstanding share of the Common Stock of the Company, will automatically be converted into the right to receive \$143 in cash. In accordance with the terms of the Merger Agreement, the January 2016 quarterly purchase represented the final purchase under the Plan, with no further grants of options to purchase the Common Stock under the Plan. In addition, the restriction on the sale of shares described above (see Note 1) shall not apply to the cancellation of shares of Common Stock in exchange for the Merger consideration.

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AMENDED and RESTATED

AIRGAS, INC. 2003 EMPLOYEE STOCK PURCHASE PLAN

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)

The closing of the Merger is subject to customary closing conditions, including the adoption of the Merger Agreement by the affirmative vote of the holders of at least a majority of all outstanding shares of the Common Stock, which occurred on February 23, 2016, and the receipt of antitrust approval, which is yet to be received. Under the terms of the Merger Agreement, the Board and/or the Committee shall terminate the Plan immediately prior to the close of the Merger.

(3) Purchase and Distribution of Shares

Purchases are made by the Plan quarterly. Shares purchased are deposited into individual brokerage firm accounts maintained for the participants. ETRADE Financial Corporate Services serves as the custodian of the participant brokerage accounts.

(4) Participants' Payroll Deductions Receivable

At December 31, 2015 and 2014, participants' payroll deductions receivable from Airgas, Inc. represents a receivable for participant contributions, which were subsequently collected and used to purchase shares on behalf of Plan participants on the first business day of the next calendar year. The carrying value of the participants' payroll deductions receivable from Airgas, Inc. approximates fair value.

(5) Administrative Expenses of the Plan

All administrative expenses of the Plan are paid by the Company. Any brokerage fees for the purchase of shares on behalf of Plan participants are paid by the Company, but brokerage fees for the sale of shares by participants are paid by the participants.

(6) Federal Income Tax

The Plan qualifies as an "employee stock purchase plan" under Sections 421 and 423 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended. Under existing federal income tax laws, the Plan is not subject to federal income tax. However, when any shares of stock purchased through the Plan are sold by a participant, income taxes on any gain or loss must be recognized by that participant.

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require Plan management to evaluate tax positions taken by the Plan and recognize a tax liability (or asset) if the Plan has taken an uncertain tax position that more likely than not would not be sustained upon examination by the Internal Revenue Service. The Plan Administrator has analyzed the tax positions taken by the Plan, and has concluded that as of December 31, 2015, there are no uncertain tax positions taken or expected to be taken that would require recognition of a liability (or asset) or disclosure in the financial statements.

(7) Use of Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of participants' equity and changes therein. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

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SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the Plan Administrator has duly caused this annual report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned hereunto duly authorized.

AMENDED AND RESTATED AIRGAS, INC. 2003 EMPLOYEE STOCK PURCHASE PLAN
(Name of Plan)

BY: Governance and Compensation Committee
of the Airgas, Inc. Board of Directors
as Plan Administrator

/s/ Richard C. Ill

Richard C. Ill

/s/ Ted B. Miller, Jr.

Ted B. Miller, Jr.

/s/ Paula A. Sneed

Paula A. Sneed

/s/ David M. Stout

David M. Stout

/s/ Lee M. Thomas

Lee M. Thomas

DATED: March 29, 2016

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EXHIBIT INDEX

Exhibit

23 Consent of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm