

ALLEGHANY CORP /DE  
Form 8-K  
December 17, 2010

**Table of Contents**

**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): December 13, 2010**

**Alleghany Corporation**

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware

1-9371

51-0283071

(State or other jurisdiction  
of incorporation)

(Commission File Number)

(IRS Employer  
Identification No.)

7 Times Square Tower, 17<sup>th</sup> Floor, New York, New  
York

10036

(Address of principal executive offices)

(Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: (212) 752-1356

Check the appropriate box below if the Form 8-K filing is intended to simultaneously satisfy the filing obligation of the registrant under any of the following provisions:

- Written communications pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act (17 CFR 230.425)
  - Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14a-12)
  - Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d-2(b) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14d-2(b))
  - Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13e-4(c) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.13e-4(c))
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**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

Item 5.02 Departure of Directors or Certain Officers; Election of Directors; Appointment of Certain Officers; Compensatory Arrangements of Certain Officers

Item 7.01 Regulation FD Disclosure

Item 9.01 Financial Statements and Exhibits

**SIGNATURES**

Exhibit Index

EX-10.1

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**Table of Contents**

**Item 5.02 Departure of Directors or Certain Officers; Election of Directors; Appointment of Certain Officers; Compensatory Arrangements of Certain Officers.**

(e) The Alleghany Corporation Retirement Plan (the Plan ) generally provides, for designated employees of Alleghany Corporation (the Company ), including all of its current executive officers, retirement benefits in the form of an annuity for the participant s life (and a 100% spousal survivor annuity) or, alternatively, actuarially equivalent forms of benefits, including a lump sum. Under the Plan, a participant must have completed five years of service with the Company or a subsidiary of the Company before he or she is vested in, and thus has a right to receive, any retirement benefits following his or her termination of employment. Prior to December 31, 2010, the annual retirement benefit under the Plan, if paid in the form of a joint and survivor life annuity to a married participant on reaching age 65 with 15 or more years of service, is equal to 66.67% of the participant s average compensation, defined as the highest average annual base salary and annual cash bonus over a consecutive three-year period during the last ten years of employment (the Old Formula ).

On December 13, 2010, pursuant to authority delegated by the Board of Directors (the Board ) of the Company to the Compensation Committee of the Board (the Compensation Committee ), the Compensation Committee amended and restated the Plan effective January 1, 2011 (the Amended and Restated Plan ). The Amended and Restated Plan provides that, for any participant retiring on or after January 1, 2011, the participant s average compensation used to determine his or her annual retirement benefit will no longer include annual cash bonuses. Accordingly, the annual retirement benefit under the Amended and Restated Plan, if paid in the form of a joint and survivor life annuity to a married participant on reaching age 65 with 15 or more years of service, is equal to 66.67% of the participant s highest average annual base salary over a consecutive three-year period during the last ten years of employment (the New Formula ). Notwithstanding the foregoing, in the event that the annual retirement benefit accrued by a participant as of December 31, 2010 under the Old Formula is larger than the annual retirement benefit calculated under the New Formula at retirement, the participant will receive the annual retirement benefit accrued as of December 31, 2010 under the Old Formula.

The foregoing description of the Amended and Restated Plan is qualified in its entirety by reference to the Amended and Restated Plan, a copy of which is filed herewith as Exhibit 10.1 and incorporated herein by reference.

**Item 7.01 Regulation FD Disclosure**

On December 14, 2010, Weston M. Hicks, President and chief executive officer of the Company, adopted a written stock trading plan in accordance with Rule 10b5-1(c) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the Trading Plan ), in order to diversify his investment portfolio. The Trading Plan was adopted during an authorized trading period of the Company and when Mr. Hicks was not in possession of material non-public information regarding the Company. Under the Trading Plan, an authorized third-party broker will sell up to a maximum of 15,000 shares of common stock, par value \$1.00 per share (the Common Stock ), of the Company currently owned by Mr. Hicks. Sales of the Common Stock will be at

**Table of Contents**

monthly intervals commencing March 7, 2011, subject to a specified minimum price threshold. The Trading Plan will expire on March 6, 2012 unless terminated or completed prior to that date. Mr. Hicks has undertaken to publicly report transactions under the Trading Plan in filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission in accordance with applicable securities laws, rules and regulations.

The information in this Item 7.01 shall not be deemed to be filed for the purposes of Section 18 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the Exchange Act ) or otherwise subject to the liabilities of that section, nor shall it be incorporated by reference into a filing under the Securities Act of 1933 or the Exchange Act, except as shall be expressly set forth by specific reference in such a filing.

**Item 9.01 Financial Statements and Exhibits.**

(d) Exhibits.

10.1 Alleghany Corporation Retirement Plan (as Amended and Restated Effective January 1, 2011).

**Table of Contents**

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 hereunto duly authorized.

Date: December 17, 2010

ALLEGHANY CORPORATION

By: /s/ Roger B. Gorham

Name: Roger B. Gorham

Title: Senior Vice President

(and chief financial officer)

**Table of Contents**

**Exhibit Index**

| Exhibit<br>Number | Description  |
|-------------------|--|
| 10.1              | Alleghany Corporation Retirement Plan (as Amended and Restated Effective January 1, 2011). |