

China Natural Gas, Inc.
Form 8-K
January 31, 2008

UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, DC 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): January 29, 2008

CHINA NATURAL GAS, INC.
(Exact Name of Registrant as Specified in its Charter)

Delaware
(State or Other Jurisdiction of Incorporation)

000-31539
(Commission
File Number)

98-0231607
(IRS Employer
Identification No.)

19th Floor, Building B, Van Metropolis
Tang Yan Road, Hi-Tech Zone
Xian, 710065, Shaanxi Province
China
(Address of Principal Executive Offices) (Zip Code)

86-29-88323325
(Registrant's Telephone Number, Including Area Code)

(Former Name or Former Address, if Changed Since Last Report)

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))
-

Item 1.01. Entry into a Material Definitive Agreement.

On December 30, 2007, as previously reported, China Natural Gas, Inc. (the “Company”) entered into a Securities Purchase Agreement (as amended, the “Purchase Agreement”) with Abax Lotus Ltd. (the “Investor”). The Purchase Agreement was subsequently amended on January 29, 2008, pursuant to which the Company (i) agreed to issue to the Investor 5.00% Guaranteed Senior Notes due 2014 (the “Senior Notes”) in aggregate principal amount of RMB 145,000,000 (approximately \$20,000,000), (ii) agreed to issue to the Investor Senior Notes in aggregate principal amount of RMB 145,000,000 (approximately \$20,000,000) on or before March 3, 2008 subject to the Company meeting certain closing conditions, (iii) granted the Investor an option to purchase up to RMB 73,000,000 (approximately \$10,000,000) in principal amount of its Senior Notes and (iv) agreed to issue to the Investor seven-year warrants exercisable for up to 2,900,000 shares of the Company’s common stock (the “Warrants”) at an initial exercise price equal to \$7.3652 per share, subject to certain adjustments.

On January 29, 2008, the Company completed the sale of RMB 145,000,000 in principal amount of the Senior Notes and the issuance of the warrants pursuant to the Purchase Agreement. At the closing, the Company entered into:

An indenture for the 5.00% Guaranteed Senior Notes due 2014;

An investor rights agreement;

- A registration rights agreement covering the shares of common stock issuable upon exercise of the warrants;
- An information rights agreement that grants to the Investor, subject to applicable law, the right to receive certain information regarding the Company, and
- A share pledge agreement whereby the Company granted to the Collateral Agent (on behalf of the holders of the Senior Notes) a pledge on 65% of the Company’s equity interest in Shaanxi Xilan Natural Gas Equipment Co., Ltd., a PRC corporation and wholly-owned subsidiary of the Company.
- An account pledge and security agreement whereby the Company granted to the Collateral Agent a security interest in the account where the proceeds from the Senior Notes are deposited.

In addition, Qinan Ji, Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of the Board of the Company, executed non-competition agreements for the benefit of the Investor.

The Senior Note in the amount of RMB 145,000,000 was issued pursuant to an indenture between the Company and DB Trustees (Hong Kong) Limited, as trustee, at the closing. The Senior Notes will be due in January 2014 and will initially bear interest at the stated interest rate of 5.00% per annum, subject to increase in the event of certain circumstances described herein.

The Warrants were issued pursuant to a warrant agreement between the Company, Deutsche Bank AG, Hong Kong Branch, as the warrant agent and Deutsche Bank Luxembourg S.A. as warrant registrar.

The Company also paid the Investor an arrangement fee of \$1.6 million.

Material Terms of Senior Notes

Maturity and Redemption

The Senior Notes will mature on January 30, 2014. The Company is required to make mandatory prepayments on the Senior Notes on the following dates and in the following amounts, expressed as a percentage of the aggregate principal amount of Notes that will be outstanding on the first such payment date:

| <u>Date</u> | <u>Prepayment Amount</u> |
|------------------|--------------------------|
| July 30, 2011 | 8.3333% |
| January 30, 2012 | 8.3333% |
| July 30, 2012 | 16.6667% |
| January 30, 2013 | 16.6667% |
| July 30, 2013 | 25.0000% |

During the twelve month period commencing January 30 of the years set forth below, the Company may redeem the Senior Notes at the following percentage of the principal amount:

| <u>Year</u> | <u>Percent of Principal</u> |
|---------------------|---------------------------------|
| 2009 | 108.0% |
| 2010 | 106.0% |
| 2011 | 104.0% |
| 2012 | 102.0% |
| 2013 and thereafter | 100.0% |

Upon the happening of certain events defined in the indenture, the Company must offer the holders of the Senior Notes the right to require the Company to purchase the Senior Notes in an amount equal to 105% of the aggregate principal amount purchased plus accrued and unpaid interest on the Senior Notes purchased.

Payment of Additional Interest

The indenture requires the Company to pay additional interest at the rate of 3.0% per annum of the Senior Notes if the Company has not obtained a listing of its common stock on the Nasdaq Global Market, the Nasdaq Capital Market or the New York Stock Exchange by January 29, 2009 and maintained such listing continuously thereafter as long as the Senior Notes are outstanding. Pursuant to the registration rights agreement (described herein), the Company has agreed to pay additional interest at the rate of 1.0% per annum of the Senior Notes principal amount outstanding for each 90-day period in which the Company has failed to comply with the registration obligations under the registration rights agreement.

Covenants

The indenture limits the Company's ability to incur debt and liens, make dividend payments and stock repurchases, make investments, reinvest proceeds from asset sales and enter into transactions with affiliates, among other things. The indenture also requires the Company to maintain certain financial ratios.

Investor Rights Agreement

The Company also entered into an investor rights agreement, pursuant to which, as long as an investor holds at least 10% of the aggregate principal amount of the Senior Notes issued and outstanding or at least 3% of the Company's issued and outstanding common stock pursuant to the warrants on an as-exercised basis ("Minimum Holding"), the Company has agreed not to undertake certain corporate actions without prior Investor approval. In addition, so long as an Investor owns the Minimum Holding, such Investor shall have a right of first refusal for future debt securities offerings by the Company and the Company is subject to certain transfer restrictions on its securities and certain other properties.

From the Closing Date and as long as the Investor continues to hold more than 10% of the outstanding shares of common stock on an as-converted, fully-diluted basis, the Investor shall be entitled to appoint one of the Company's board of directors (the "Investor Director"). The Investor Director shall be entitled to serve on each committee of the

board, except that, the Investor Director shall not serve on the audit committee unless it is an independent director. Mr. Ji has agreed to vote his shares for the election of the Investor Director.

3

The Company is required to prepare and file a registration statement covering the sales of all of the shares of common stock issuable upon exercise of the warrants (the "Warrant Shares"), subject to any limitation required by applicable of Rule 415 of the SEC pursuant to the Securities Act of 1933 and to have the registration statement declared effective by June 27, 2008. In the event that the registration statement has not been declared effective by the SEC on or before June 27, 2008 or if effectiveness of the registration statement is suspended at any time other than pursuant to a suspension notice, for each 90-day period during which the registration default remains uncured, the Company shall be required to pay additional interest at the rate of one percent (1%) of the Senior Notes.

A copy of the Company's press release announcing the closing of this transaction is attached hereto as Exhibit 99.10.

Warrants

The exercise price of the Warrants is adjusted on the first anniversary of issuance and thereafter, at every six month anniversary beginning in the fiscal year 2009 if the volume weighted average price, or VWAP, (as defined therein) for the 15 trading days prior to the applicable reset date is less than the then applicable exercise price, in which case the exercise price shall be adjusted downward to the then current VWAP; provided, however, that in no event shall the exercise price be adjusted below \$3.6826 per share.

If the Company's consolidated net profit after tax does not reach the stated level for 2007 or 2008, the exercise price of the warrants shall be adjusted by multiplying the current exercise price by a fraction, the numerator of which is the sum of (i) the number of shares of the Company's common stock outstanding immediately prior to such adjustment and (ii) 87,000, and the denominator of which is the number of shares of the Company's common stock outstanding immediately prior to such adjustment. Pursuant to the terms of the warrant agreement, a holder cannot exercise the Warrants to the extent that the number of shares of Common Stock beneficially owned by the holder would, following such exercise, exceed 9.9% of the outstanding shares of common stock at the time of exercise.

The foregoing descriptions do not purport to be a complete description of the terms of the documents, and this description is qualified in its entirety by the terms of the definitive documents or forms thereof which are attached as exhibits to this Current Report on Form 8-K, and which are incorporated by reference.

A copy of the press release is attached hereto as Exhibit 99.10 and incorporated by reference.

Item 2.03 Creation of a Direct Financial Obligation or an Obligation under an Off-Balance Sheet Arrangement of a Registrant

The description of the issuance and terms of the Senior Notes and the Warrants and the entering into of the related security arrangements under the security documents is set forth above in Item 1.01 and is hereby incorporated by reference into this Item 2.03.

Item 3.02 Unregistered Sales of Equity Securities

The description of the issuance and terms of the Senior Notes and the Warrants and the entering into of the related arrangement and agreements is set forth above in Item 1.01 and is hereby incorporated by reference into this Item 3.02.

The issuance of the Warrants will be done in reliance on Regulation S of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended. As discussed above, the Warrant Shares are entitled to certain registration rights pursuant to the registration rights agreement.

Item 9.01 Financial Statements and Exhibits.

Exhibits

- 99.1 Securities Purchase Agreement, dated December 30, 2007
- 99.2 Amendment to the Securities Purchase Agreement, dated January 29, 2008, by and among the Company, its subsidiaries and Abax Lotus Ltd.
- 99.3 Indenture, dated January 29, 2008, by and among the Company and DB Trustees (Hong Kong) Limited, as trustee, relating to the 5.00% Guaranteed Senior Notes due 2014
- 99.4 Warrant Agreement, dated January 29, 2008, by and among the Company, Mr. Qinan Ji, Deutsche Bank AG, Hong Kong Branch as Warrant Agent and Deutsche Bank Luxembourg S.A. as Warrant Agent
- 99.5 Equity Registration Rights Agreement, dated January 29, 2008, by and between the Company and Abax Lotus Ltd.
- 99.6 Investor Rights Agreement, dated January 29, 2008, by and among the Company, its subsidiaries, Mr. Qinan Ji, and Abax Lotus Ltd.
- 99.7 Information Rights Agreement, dated January 29, 2008. from the Company to Abax Lotus Ltd.
- 99.8 Onshore Share Pledge Agreement, dated January 29, 2008, over 65% of the Company's equity interest in Shaanxi Xilan Natural Gas Equipment Co., Ltd., between the Company and DB Trustees (Hong Kong) Limited, as security agent
- 99.9 Account Pledge and Security Agreement, dated January 29, 2008, by and between the Company and DB Trustees (Hong Kong) Limited as Security Agent
- 99.10 Press release of China Natural Gas, Inc. dated January 30, 2008

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.

CHINA NATURAL GAS, INC.
(Registrant)

Date: January 31, 2008

By: /s/ Qinan Ji

Chief Executive Officer