

AIRGAS INC
Form 11-K
June 22, 2005

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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 year ended **December 31, 2004**

OR

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

For the transition period from _____ to _____

Commission file numbers: 33-25419, 33-64058 and 333-75256

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

Airgas, Inc. 401(k) 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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REQUIRED INFORMATION

(1) Financial Statements:

The following financial statements, including the Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm, of the Airgas, Inc. 401(k) Plan, are submitted herewith:

Statements of Net Assets Available for Benefits as of December 31, 2004 and 2003

Statements of Changes in Net Assets Available for Benefits for the years ended December 31, 2004 and 2003

Notes to Financial Statements

Schedule 1 Supplemental Schedule of Assets (Held at End of Year) as of December 31, 2004

The schedule for which provision is made in the applicable accounting regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission is included in the aforementioned financial statements of the Airgas, Inc. 401(k) Plan.

(2) Exhibits:

23 Consent of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm

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SIGNATURES

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

AIRGAS, INC. 401(k) PLAN
(Name of Plan)

BY: /s/ Roger F. Millay

Roger F. Millay
Senior Vice President and
Chief Financial Officer

BY: /s/ Dwight T. Wilson

Dwight T. Wilson
Senior Vice President - Human Resources

DATED: June 22, 2005

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AIRGAS, INC. 401(k) PLAN

Financial Statements and
Supplemental Schedule

December 31, 2004 and 2003

AIRGAS, INC. 401(k) PLAN

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Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm

The Plan Administrator
Airgas, Inc. 401(k) Plan:

We have audited the accompanying statements of net assets available for benefits of the Airgas, Inc. 401(k) Plan as of December 31, 2004 and 2003, and the related statements of changes in net assets available for benefits for the years then ended. 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 net assets available for benefits of the Airgas, Inc. 401(k) Plan at December 31, 2004 and 2003, and the changes in net assets available for benefits for the years then ended, in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles.

Our audits were performed for the purpose of forming an opinion on the basic financial statements taken as a whole. The supplemental schedule of assets (held at end of year) as of December 31, 2004, is presented for the purpose of additional analysis and is not a required part of the basic financial statements but is supplementary information required by the Department of Labor's *Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure Under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974*. This supplemental schedule is the responsibility of the Plan's management. The supplemental schedule has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audits of the basic financial statements and, in our opinion, is fairly stated in all material respects in relation to the basic financial statements taken as a whole.

/S/KPMG LLP

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
June 20, 2005

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AIRGAS, INC. 401(k) PLAN

Statements of Net Assets Available for Benefits

December 31, 2004 and 2003

	2004	2003
Investments, at fair value	\$ 222,761,217	\$ 183,522,241
Receivables:		
Employee contributions	1,606,634	1,115,708
Employer contributions	447,877	323,721
Total receivables	2,054,511	1,439,429
Participant loans receivable	8,023,928	7,192,399
Net assets available for benefits	\$ 232,839,656	\$ 192,154,069

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

Table of Contents**AIRGAS, INC. 401(k) PLAN**

Statements of Changes in Net Assets Available for Benefits

Years ended December 31, 2004 and 2003

	2004	2003
Additions:		
Additions to net assets attributable to:		
Investment income:		
Net appreciation in fair value of investments	\$ 20,003,994	\$ 27,901,198
Interest and dividends	4,941,220	3,370,159
Total investment income, net	24,945,214	31,271,357
Contributions:		
Employee	16,006,470	14,494,689
Employer	4,468,971	4,624,090
Rollovers and other	9,522,800	1,645,975
Total contributions	29,998,241	20,764,754
Deductions:		
Benefits paid to participants	(13,962,743)	(13,460,935)
Administrative fees	(295,125)	(258,880)
Total deductions	(14,257,868)	(13,719,815)
Net additions	40,685,587	38,316,296
Net assets available for benefits:		
Beginning of year	192,154,069	153,837,773
End of year	\$ 232,839,656	\$ 192,154,069

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

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AIRGAS, INC. 401(k) PLAN

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2004 and 2003

(1) Description of the Plan

The following description of the Airgas, Inc. 401(k) Plan (the Plan) provides general information only. Participants should refer to the Plan document for more complete information.

(a) General

The Plan is a defined contribution plan covering substantially all employees of Airgas, Inc. and subsidiaries (the Company). Included in the assets of the Plan are contribution rollovers from benefit plans of acquired companies, where applicable. The Plan is subject to the provisions of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA). The Vanguard Fiduciary Trust Company serves as the trustee for the Plan.

(b) Contributions

Employee

The Plan permits a participant to defer up to 50% of eligible compensation, subject to the maximum dollar limitation. In no event will individual participant contributions exceed the maximum allowable contributions as prescribed by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), which were \$13,000 and \$12,000 for the years ended December 31, 2004 and 2003, respectively. The amount of deferred compensation is treated as a salary reduction and is not subject to federal income tax until withdrawn from the Plan. The employee contribution receivables at December 31, 2004 and 2003 represent payroll withholdings withheld through the end of each calendar year, which were received by the Plan in the subsequent year.

Contributions in 2004 and 2003 reflect approximately \$9.5 million and \$1.6 million, respectively, of rollover contributions from employees associated with companies acquired.

Employer

Contributions to the Plan by the Company are made on a matched basis at a rate of 50% of participant deferred compensation. The employer match is applied on employee contributions of up to 4% of eligible compensation (i.e., maximum employer match is 2% of eligible compensation). Although employees may participate in the Plan immediately upon joining the Company, Plan participants are not eligible for Company matching contributions until they have completed one year of service with the Company. The employer contribution receivables at December 31, 2004 and 2003 represent Company matching contributions through the end of each calendar year, which were received by the Plan in the subsequent year.

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AIRGAS, INC. 401(k) PLAN

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2004 and 2003

In addition to the required Company match, the Company elected to make discretionary profit sharing contributions as determined by the Board of Directors of \$663,000 for the year ended December 31, 2003. Each subsidiary allocates its profit sharing to individual participants based on their proportionate compensation. The Company did not make discretionary contributions to the Plan in 2004.

(c) Participant Accounts

Contributions are invested as directed by each participant in 12 separate investment funds. Each participant may designate, by written notice to the Plan administrator, how the contributions to his or her account are to be allocated among the 12 funds. Participants are required to allocate contributions to the funds in increments of 1% of total contributions. In the event a participant fails to submit a written notice of allocation, contributions will be invested in the Retirement Savings Trust. In addition to the above initial election, participants may elect, by calling the Trustee, to transfer monies among the investment funds in 1% increments of the total funds credited to their account. Interest, dividends and other income (losses) earned by the investment funds, net of administrative fees, are reinvested in the same fund. Such amounts are allocated to participants based upon the proportion of a participant's balance to the total fund balance.

(d) Participant Loans

The Plan administrator may, upon the application of a participant, direct the Trustee to make a loan to such a participant. The maximum the participant may borrow is limited to the lesser of 50% of the participant's Plan account balance or \$50,000. The minimum loan amount is \$1,000 and loans are secured by 50% of the participant's Plan account balance. Participant loans bear interest at a rate equal to prime plus 2% and provide for periodic repayment over a reasonable period of time not to exceed five years for general-purpose loans and 30 years for principal residence loans. The interest rates on outstanding employee loans ranged from 6% to 12% at both December 31, 2004 and 2003.

When a participant defaults on a loan obtained from the Plan, the Plan administrator will report the amount of default to the Internal Revenue Service as a distribution from the Plan. The Plan participant may then be subject to taxes and penalties related to the distribution.

(e) Vesting

Participants are immediately vested in all contributions. In addition, all earnings (losses) on such investments are fully vested.

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AIRGAS, INC. 401(k) PLAN

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2004 and 2003

(f) Payment of Benefits

Upon retirement, death or termination of service, participants or beneficiaries are entitled to a distribution equal to the total value of their accounts. Such distributions are generally payable in cash.

Participants experiencing serious financial hardships may be entitled to a distribution upon approval by the Plan administrator.

(g) Administrative Expenses

All administrative expenses have been paid by the Plan.

(2) Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

(a) Basis of Accounting

The accompanying financial statements of the Plan have been prepared on the accrual basis of accounting and present net assets available for benefits and changes in those assets.

(b) Investments

Investments in the Airgas Common Stock Fund are valued at market value based upon closing market prices at the Plan year-end. The fair values of the Vanguard funds are based on the net asset values per share at year-end.

Purchases and sales of investments are recorded on a trade-date basis. The average cost method is followed in determining the cost of investments sold. Interest income is accrued when earned. Dividend income is recorded on the ex-dividend date. Capital gain distributions are included in dividend income.

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AIRGAS, INC. 401(k) PLAN

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2004 and 2003

Investment options as of December 31, 2004 and 2003, were as follows:

The *Airgas Common Stock Fund* invests in Airgas, Inc. common stock to provide the possibility of long-term growth through increases in the value of the stock. The stock value per share was \$26.51 and \$21.48 at December 31, 2004 and 2003, respectively. At December 31, 2004, 3,265 Plan participants were invested in the fund.

The *Vanguard Explorer Fund* seeks to provide long-term growth of capital by investing in a diversified group of small-company stocks with prospect for above-average growth. The value per share was \$74.57 and \$65.62 at December 31, 2004 and 2003, respectively. At December 31, 2004, 1,957 Plan participants were invested in the fund.

The *Vanguard International Growth Fund* seeks to provide long-term growth of capital by investing in stock of high-quality, seasoned companies based outside the United States. Stocks are selected from more than 15 countries. The value per share was \$18.86 and \$16.13 at December 31, 2004 and 2004, respectively. At December 31, 2004, 1,714 Plan participants were invested in the fund.

The *Vanguard U.S. Growth Fund* seeks to provide long-term growth of capital by investing in large, high-quality, seasoned U.S. companies with records of exceptional growth and above-average prospects for future growth. The value per share was \$16.18 and \$15.16 at December 31, 2004 and 2003, respectively. At December 31, 2004, 2,974 Plan participants were invested in the fund.

The *Vanguard 500 Index Fund* seeks to provide long-term growth of capital and income from dividends by holding each of the 500 stocks that make up the unmanaged Standard & Poor's 500 Composite Stock Price Index, a widely recognized benchmark of U.S. market performance. The value per share was \$111.64 and \$102.67 at December 31, 2004 and 2003, respectively. At December 31, 2004, 2,901 Plan participants were invested in the fund.

The *Vanguard Wellington Fund* seeks to provide income and long-term growth of capital, without undue risk to capital, by investing approximately 65% of its assets in stocks and the remaining 35% in bonds. The value per share was \$30.19 and \$28.81 at December 31, 2004 and 2003, respectively. At December 31, 2004, 2,603 Plan participants were invested in the fund.

The *Vanguard LifeStrategy Growth Fund* seeks to provide long-term growth of capital and income by investing in four Vanguard funds: a domestic stock fund, an international stock fund, a bond fund and an asset allocation fund. The Portfolio's asset allocation ranges are expected to be 65% to 90% stocks, 10% to 35% bonds and 0% to 25% cash investments. The value per share was \$20.04 and \$18.16 at December 31, 2004 and 2003, respectively. At December 31, 2004, 1,562 Plan participants were invested in the fund.

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AIRGAS, INC. 401(k) PLAN

Notes to Financial Statement

December 31, 2004 and 2003

The *Vanguard LifeStrategy Moderate Growth Fund* seeks to provide income and long-term growth of capital and income by investing in four Vanguard funds: a domestic stock fund, an international stock fund, a bond fund and an asset allocation fund. The Portfolio's asset allocation ranges are expected to be 45% to 70% stocks, 30% to 55% bonds and 0% to 25% cash investments. The value per share was \$17.91 and \$16.61 at December 31, 2004 and 2003, respectively. At December 31, 2004, 1,309 Plan participants were invested in the fund.

The *Vanguard LifeStrategy Conservative Growth Fund* seeks to provide income and moderate long-term growth of capital and income by investing in five Vanguard funds: a domestic stock fund, international stock fund, two bond funds and an asset allocation fund. The Portfolio's asset allocation ranges are expected to be 25% to 50% stocks, 50% to 75% bonds and 0% to 25% cash investments. The value per share was \$15.26 and \$14.54 at December 31, 2004 and 2003, respectively. At December 31, 2004, 800 Plan participants were invested in the fund.

The *Vanguard LifeStrategy Income Fund* seeks to provide a high level of income by investing in four Vanguard funds: a stock fund, two bond funds and an asset allocation fund. The Portfolio's asset allocation ranges are expected to be 5% to 30% stocks, 70% to 95% bonds and 0% to 25% cash investments. The value per share was \$13.53 and \$13.20 at December 31, 2004 and 2003, respectively. At December 31, 2004, 680 Plan participants were invested in the fund.

The *Vanguard Total Bond Market Index Fund* seeks to provide a high level of interest income by attempting to match the performance of the unmanaged Lehman Brothers Aggregate Bond Index, a widely recognized measure of the entire taxable U.S. bond market. The value per share was \$10.27 and \$10.31 at December 31, 2004 and 2003, respectively. At December 31, 2004, 1,540 Plan participants were invested in the fund.

The *Vanguard Retirement Savings Trust* seeks stability of principal and a high level of current income consistent with a two-year to three-year average maturity. The trust is a tax-exempt collective trust invested primarily in investment contracts issued by insurance companies and commercial banks, and similar types of fixed-principal investments. The trust intends to maintain a constant net asset value of \$1 per share. At December 31, 2004, 3,885 Plan participants were invested in the trust.

(c) Use of Estimates

The preparation of the financial statements in accordance with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles requires the Plan administrator to make estimates that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts included in the statement of changes in net assets available for Plan benefits. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

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Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2004 and 2003

(3) Investments

The following investments represent 5% or more of the net assets available for benefits at December 31, 2004 and 2003:

	2004	2003
Airgas Common Stock Fund	\$ 58,822,288	\$ 47,388,044
Vanguard U.S. Growth Fund	23,014,885	21,528,606
Vanguard 500 Index Fund	23,256,738	19,142,023
Vanguard Wellington Fund	29,079,366	23,809,901
Vanguard Retirement Savings Trust	34,289,284	30,951,288
Vanguard Explorer Fund	13,538,653	10,288,953

During the years ended December 31, 2004 and 2003, the net appreciation in the fair value of investments (including realized gains and losses) was as follows:

	2004	2003
Airgas Common Stock Fund	\$ 11,244,951	\$ 9,680,352
Mutual Funds	8,759,043	18,220,846
Net appreciation in fair value of investments	\$ 20,003,994	\$ 27,901,198

(4) Tax Status

The IRS has determined and informed the Company by a letter dated December 31, 2002, that the Plan is designed in accordance with applicable sections of the *Internal Revenue Code* and is therefore exempt from federal income taxes. The Plan has been amended since receiving the determination letter. However, the Plan administrator believes that the Plan is designed and is currently being operated in compliance with the applicable requirements of the *Internal Revenue Code* and continues to be exempt from federal income taxes.

(5) Related-Party Transactions

The Plan investments are managed by an affiliate of Vanguard Fiduciary Trust Company, who acts as trustee for the Plan. Investment transactions of the Plan qualify as party-in-interest transactions, but are not prohibited transactions.

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AIRGAS, INC. 401(k) PLAN

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2004 and 2003

(6) Plan Termination

Although it has not expressed any intent to do so, the Company has the right under the Plan to discontinue its contributions at any time and to terminate the Plan subject to the provisions of ERISA. Upon termination of the Plan, participants would remain fully vested in all amounts credited to their accounts under the Plan.

(7) Defaulted Loans

During the year ended December 31, 2004, there were 163 participants who were in default of their loans, 21 of which were active employees. Loans in the amount of \$525,813 were in default and included in participant loans as of December 31, 2004.

During the year ended December 31, 2003, there were 196 participants who were in default of their loans, five of which were active employees. Loans in the amount of \$725,548 were in default and included in participant loans as of December 31, 2003.

Subsequent to a remedy period that provides for the repayment of defaulted loans, uncollectible defaulted loans are treated as taxable distributions from the Plan to the respective participants.

(8) Acquisitions

From time to time, the Company acquires other businesses, whose employees are eligible for participation in the Plan in accordance with the Plan Document. On July 30, 2004, the Company purchased the U.S. packaged gas business of The BOC Group, Inc. Approximately 1,000 employees associated with the acquired business were eligible to participate in the Plan.

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Supplemental Schedule of Assets (Held at End of Year)

December 31, 2004

Number of Shares	Investments *	Fair Value
	Common stock:	
2,218,872	Airgas Common Stock Fund	\$ 58,822,288
	Mutual funds:	
181,556	Vanguard Explorer Fund	13,538,653
400,984	Vanguard International Growth Fund	7,562,565
1,422,428	Vanguard U.S. Growth Fund	23,014,885
208,319	Vanguard 500 Index Fund	23,256,738
963,211	Vanguard Wellington Fund	29,079,366
559,023	Vanguard LifeStrategy Growth Fund	11,202,838
439,767	Vanguard LifeStrategy Moderate Growth Fund	7,876,242
272,292	Vanguard LifeStrategy Conservative Growth Fund	4,155,188
200,998	Vanguard LifeStrategy Income Fund	2,719,508
705,322	Vanguard Total Bond Market Index Fund	7,243,662
34,289,284	Vanguard Retirement Savings Trust, 4.27%	34,289,284
	Employee loans, 6.0% to 12.0%	8,023,928
	Total assets held for investment purposes	\$ 230,785,145

* - All investment transactions of the Plan qualify as party-in-interest transactions.
See accompanying Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm.