AETNA INC /PA/ Form 4 December 06, 2004

UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION Washington, D.C. 20549

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF

SECURITIES

OMB APPROVAL OMB

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Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16.

Form 4 or Form 5 obligations may continue.

See Instruction

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, Section 17(a) of the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935 or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person *

1(b).

HANCOCK ELLEN M Issuer Symbol AETNA INC /PA/ [AET] (Check all applicable) (First) (Middle) (Last) 3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year) X_ Director 10% Owner Other (specify Officer (give title P.O. BOX 169 12/03/2004 below)

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading

(Street) 4. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year)

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line)

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to

X Form filed by One Reporting Person Form filed by More than One Reporting Person

D

RIDGEFIELD, CT 06877 (City) (State)

1.Title of 2. Transaction Date 2A. Deemed 4. Securities 5. Amount of 6. Ownership 7. Nature of Security (Month/Day/Year) Execution Date, if TransactionAcquired (A) or Securities Form: Direct Indirect (Instr. 3) Code Disposed of (D) Beneficially (D) or Beneficial Indirect (I) (Month/Day/Year) (Instr. 8) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5) Owned Ownership Following (Instr. 4) (Instr. 4) Reported

(A) Transaction(s) or (Instr. 3 and 4)

Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned

Code V Amount (D) Price Common 2,000 Stock

(Zip)

Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially owned directly or indirectly.

Persons who respond to the collection of SEC 1474 information contained in this form are not (9-02)required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Table II - Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned (e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)

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1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 3)	Conversion or Exercise Price of	3. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	4. Transaction Code (Instr. 8)	5. Number of orDerivative Securities Acquired (A)	Expiration Date U			Title and Amount of derlying Securities str. 3 and 4)	
	Derivative Security			or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5)					
			Code V	(A) (D)	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of Shares	
PHANTOM STOCK UNITS (1)	<u>(2)</u>	12/03/2004	A	25.267	<u>(1)</u>	<u>(1)</u>	COMMON STOCK	25.267	

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships						
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other			
HANCOCK ELLEN M P. O. BOX 169 RIDGEFIELD, CT 06877	X						

Signatures

ELLEN M. HANCOCK, BY PAIGE L. FALASCO, ATTORNEY IN FACT

12/06/2004

**Signature of Reporting Person

Date

Explanation of Responses:

- * If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, see Instruction 4(b)(v).
- ** Intentional misstatements or omissions of facts constitute Federal Criminal Violations. See 18 U.S.C. 1001 and 15 U.S.C. 78ff(a).
 - UNITS ACCRUED UNDER THE AETNA INC. NON-EMPLOYEE DIRECTOR COMPENSATION PLAN (THE "PLAN")
- (1) PURSUANT TO DEFERRAL OF DIRECTOR FEES. SUBJECT TO TERMS OF PLAN, UNITS MAY BE SETTLED IN AETNA COMMON STOCK, IN CASH OR A COMBINATION OF BOTH UPON REPORTING PERSON'S RETIREMENT.
- (2) UNITS CONVERT TO COMMON STOCK ON A ONE FOR ONE BASIS.
- (3) INCLUDES 6.762 UNITS ACCRUED UNDER THE PLAN PURSUANT TO REINVESTMENT OF DIVIDEND EQUIVALENTS.

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, *see* Instruction 6 for procedure. Potential persons who are to respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB number.

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