

OCWEN FINANCIAL CORP
Form 8-K
October 04, 2017

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): September 29, 2017

OCWEN FINANCIAL CORPORATION

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Florida 1-13219 65-0039856
(State or other jurisdiction of incorporation) (Commission File Number) (IRS Employer Identification No.)

1661 Worthington Road, Suite 100

West Palm Beach, Florida 33409

(Address of principal executive offices)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: (561) 682-8000

Not applicable.

(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))

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is an emerging growth company as defined in Rule 405 of the Securities Act of 1933 (§230.405 of this chapter) or Rule 12b-2 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (§240.12b-2 of this chapter).

Emerging growth company

If an emerging growth company, indicate by check mark if the registrant has elected not to use the extended transition period for complying with any new or revised financial accounting standards provided pursuant to Section 13(a) of the Exchange Act.

Item 8.01 Other Events.

Ocwen Financial Corporation (Ocwen or the Company) provides the following update.

State Regulatory Matters

As previously disclosed, Ocwen is seeking timely resolutions to the regulatory actions taken against us on April 20, 2017 or shortly thereafter by mortgage and banking regulatory agencies from 30 states and the District of Columbia and two state attorneys general that alleged deficiencies in our compliance with laws and regulations relating to our servicing and lending activities.

As previously disclosed, on September 28, 2017, Ocwen entered into agreements with 10 states to resolve the regulatory actions brought by these states, and two additional states have previously either withdrawn or allowed their respective cease and desist orders to expire.

Between September 29, 2017 and October 3, 2017, Ocwen entered into additional agreements with New Mexico, Virginia and West Virginia to resolve the regulatory actions brought by these states. These agreements generally contain key terms which are similar to the aforementioned agreements Ocwen previously disclosed and which are summarized below (the Multi-State Common Settlement Terms):

- Ocwen will not acquire any new residential mortgage servicing rights until April 30, 2018.

Ocwen will develop a plan of action and milestones regarding its transition from the servicing system it currently uses, REALServicing®, to an alternate servicing system and will not board any new loans onto the REALServicing system. This restriction on boarding new loans does not apply to loans that are already serviced on the REALServicing system, including those that are subsequently modified or those that are subsequently converted to an arrangement whereby Ocwen acts as sub-servicer.

In the event that Ocwen chooses to merge with or acquire an unaffiliated company or its assets in order to effectuate a transfer of loans from the REALServicing system, Ocwen must give the applicable regulatory agency prior notice to the signing of any final agreement and the opportunity to object. If no objection is received, the provisions of the first bullet point above shall not prohibit the transaction, or limit the transfer of loans from the REALServicing system onto the merged or acquired company's alternate servicing system. In the event that an unaffiliated company merges with or acquires Ocwen or Ocwen's assets, the provisions of the first bullet point above shall not prohibit the transaction, or limit the transfer of loans from the REALServicing system onto the merging or acquiring company's alternate servicing system.

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Ocwen will engage a third party auditor to perform an analysis with respect to its compliance with certain federal and state laws relating to escrow by testing approximately 9,000 loan files relating to loans secured by residential real property in various states and the District of Columbia.

Ocwen will develop and submit for review corrective action plans for any errors that are identified by the third party auditor and will remediate any individual accounts impacted by such errors.

Ocwen will develop and submit for review a plan to enhance its consumer complaint handling processes.

Ocwen will provide financial condition reporting on a confidential basis as part of each state's supervisory framework for the next three years.

In all of the above-described agreements, Ocwen neither admitted nor denied liability.

None of the agreements contain any monetary fines or penalties, although Ocwen will incur costs complying with the terms of these settlements, including in connection with the escrow analysis and transition to a new servicing system. These agreements are generally documented as consent orders or consent agreements that resolve the specific cease and desist or other order brought by the applicable regulatory agency. Each agreement applies to the same Ocwen entities as were named in the initiating cease and desist or other order.

As of October 3, 2017, the total number of states where we have reached a resolution is 15.

Ocwen continues to seek timely resolutions with the remaining 16 regulatory agencies and two state attorneys general. If Ocwen is successful in reaching such resolutions, they may contain some or all of the terms outlined above and may also contain additional terms. There can be no assurance that Ocwen will be able to reach resolutions with the remaining regulatory agencies and state attorneys general.

In the event that Ocwen does not comply with the terms of these agreements or if Ocwen is otherwise found to have breached applicable laws and regulations, this could lead to (i) administrative fines and penalties and litigation, (ii) loss of our licenses and approvals to engage in our servicing and lending businesses, (iii) governmental investigations and enforcement actions, (iv) civil and criminal liability, including class action lawsuits and actions to recover incentive and other payments made by governmental entities, (v) breaches of covenants and representations under our servicing, debt or other agreements, (vi) damage to our reputation, (vii) inability to raise capital or otherwise fund our operations and (viii) inability to execute on our business strategy. Any of these occurrences could increase our operating expenses and reduce our revenues, hamper our ability to grow or otherwise materially and adversely affect our business, reputation, financial condition, liquidity and results of operations.

Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) Matters

Ocwen has previously disclosed the following matters:

In February 2015, we received a letter from the New York Regional Office of the SEC informing us that it was conducting an investigation relating to the use of collection agents by mortgage loan servicers. We believe a similar letter was also sent to other companies in the industry.

In February 2016, we received a letter from the New York Regional Office of the SEC informing us that it was conducting an investigation relating to fees and expenses incurred in connection with liquidated loans and REO properties held in non-agency residential mortgage-backed securities (RMBS) trusts.

We cooperated with the SEC in both these matters and voluntarily produced documents and information. On October 2, 2017, we received two separate letters from the SEC informing us that the SEC had concluded both of these investigations as they relate to Ocwen. These letters also informed us that, based on the information the SEC has as of such date, it does not intend to recommend enforcement actions against Ocwen.

Special Note Regarding Forward-Looking Statements

This Current Report on Form 8-K contains forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended. These forward-looking statements may be identified by a reference to a future period or by the use of forward-looking

terminology. Forward-looking statements by their nature address matters that are, to different degrees, uncertain. Our business has been undergoing substantial change which has magnified such uncertainties. Readers should bear these factors in mind when considering such statements and should not place undue reliance on such statements.

Forward-looking statements involve a number of assumptions, risks and uncertainties that could cause actual results to differ materially. In the past, actual results have differed from those suggested by forward looking statements and this may happen again. Important factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from those suggested by the forward-looking statements include those described in Ocwen's reports and filings with the SEC, including its amended 2016 Annual Report on Form 10-K/A and its current and quarterly reports since such date. Anyone wishing to understand Ocwen's business should review our SEC filings. Ocwen's forward-looking statements speak only as of the date they are made and we disclaim any obligation to update or revise forward-looking statements whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise. Ocwen may post information that is important to investors on our website.

SIGNATURES

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

OCWEN FINANCIAL CORPORATION

(Registrant)

Date: October 3, 2017 By: /s/ Michael R. Bourque, Jr.
Michael R. Bourque, Jr.
Chief Financial Officer
(On behalf of the Registrant and as its principal financial officer)