

Edgar Filing: China Natural Gas, Inc. - Form 8-K

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 (see General Instruction A.2. below):

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 2.04 Triggering Events That Accelerate or Increase a Direct Financial Obligation or an Obligation under an Off-Balance Sheet Arrangement

As previously disclosed in the Current Reports on Form 8-K filed by China Natural Gas, Inc. (the “Company”) with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the “SEC”) on December 31, 2007 and January 29, 2008, the Company had entered into a Securities Purchase Agreement with Abax Lotus Ltd. (the “Investor”) on December 30, 2007 which was amended on January 29, 2008 (the “SPA”). Pursuant to the SPA, the Company issued to the Investor 5% Guaranteed Senior Notes due 2014 (the “Senior Notes”) in aggregate principal amount of RMB 145,000,000 (approximately US\$20,000,000) on January 29, 2008. Also, as previously disclosed in the Current Report on Form 8-K filed by the Company with the SEC on March 12, 2008, also pursuant to the SPA, the Investor exercised its option to purchase an additional RMB145,000,000 in aggregate principal amount of Senior Notes. The Senior Notes were issued in connection with the Indenture dated as of January 29, 2008 (the “Indenture”). The aggregate principal amount of the Senior Notes at issuance was RMB290,000,000 (approximately US\$40,000,000). In addition, the Company agreed to issue to the Investor seven-year warrants exercisable for up to 2,900,000 shares of the Company’s common stock at an initial exercise price equal to \$7.3652 per share pursuant to the Warrant Agreement dated January 29, 2008 (the “Warrant Agreement”) by and among the Warrant Agent and Warrant Registrar as a holder of the Warrants (as defined therein).

The holders of a majority of the Senior Notes (the “Holders”) notified the Company on August 21, 2012 (the “Default Notice”) that the Company was in default of the Senior Notes for failure to make the interest payment due and a mandatory redemption of the Senior Notes on July 30, 2012 (the “Default”). In the notice, the Holders also demanded that the Company make all payments due as of July 30, 2012 under the Senior Notes to avoid acceleration of all payments under the Senior Notes and foreclosure of collaterals pledged to secure the Senior Notes.

On September 5, 2012, the Company received another notice from the Holders that the Holders have elected to exercise their right to accelerated payment of the Senior Notes as a result of the continued Default (the “Acceleration Notice”). The immediate acceleration of all amounts owing under the Senior Notes totals approximately RMB249,450,516.

Further, on September 10, 2012, the Company received a demand notice from the Holders’ legal counsel on behalf of the Holder for the payment of all amounts owing under the Senior Notes (the “Demand Notice”) within 15 days from the date of the Demand Notice. If the Company does not meet the demand, the Holders intend to pursue all of its legal rights under the transaction documents, including, without limitation:

- requiring the Trustee to initiate suit in the courts of New York with respect to the Company’s failure to pay the entire amount due to the Holders under the Senior Notes;
- initiate involuntary bankruptcy proceedings with respect to the Company under the U.S. Federal Bankruptcy Code;
- initiate arbitration in Hong Kong against the Company for breaches of the Company’s obligations under the SPA;

exercising its rights under the Warrant Agreement to require the redemption of all Warrants held by it at the Redemption Price (as defined therein); and all other rights under the transaction documents relating to the Senior Notes in relation to the Default, which may include, foreclosing on the security interest in 65% of all outstanding equity interest of the Company's wholly owned subsidiary, Shaanxi Xilan Natural Gas Equipment Co., Ltd., and all funds in the account where the proceeds from the Senior Notes were deposited.

The foregoing descriptions do not purport to be a complete description of the terms of the SPA, the Indenture, the Senior Notes, the Warrant Agreement, the Default Notice, the Acceleration Notice, the Demand Notice and other related agreements, and the above 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.

Yang Xiang Dong, a current member of the Company's Board of Directors, was initially nominated to the Company's Board by Abax Lotus Ltd., a Holder of the Senior Notes.

If not resolved, the Company may be deemed to be in default on its fixed asset loan from Shanghai Pudong Development Bank (“SPDB”) entered into on February 26, 2010 (as per cross-default provisions of such loan) if the Company if the Holders initiate involuntary bankruptcy proceedings with respect to the Company and the Company does not obtain prior written approval from SPDB. The default of the loan with SPDB may result in full or partial acceleration of the repayment of the loan. The aggregate principal amount of the loan was RMB120,000,000 (approximately US\$18,900,000) of which RMB85,000,000 (approximately US\$13,400,000) is currently outstanding.

The Company is currently negotiating possible resolutions to the foregoing demands relating to the Senior Notes with the Holders. There is no assurance that the Company will be successful in completing such negotiations or even if it does complete them, such resolutions will be on the terms favorable to the Company.

Item 9.01: Financial Statements and Exhibits.

- 1.1 Securities Purchase Agreement, dated December 30, 2007 (incorporated by reference to exhibit filed with a Current Report on 8-K filed on December 31, 2007)
 - 1.2 Amendment to the Securities Purchase Agreement, dated January 29, 2008, by and among the Company, its subsidiaries and Abax Lotus Ltd. 2014 (incorporated by reference to exhibit filed with a Current Report on 8-K filed on January 31, 2008)
 - 4.1 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 (incorporated by reference to exhibit filed with a Current Report on 8-K filed on January 31, 2008)
 - 4.2 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 (incorporated by reference to exhibit filed with a Current Report on 8-K filed on January 31, 2008)
 - 4.3 Account Pledge and Security Agreement, dated January 29, 2008, by and between the Company and DB Trustees (Hong Kong) Limited as Security Agent (incorporated by reference to exhibit filed with a Current Report on 8-K filed on January 31, 2008)
 - 4.4 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 (incorporated by reference to exhibit filed with a Current Report on 8-K filed on January 31, 2008)
 - 99.1*Default Notice dated August 21, 2012
 - 99.2*Acceleration Notice dated September 5, 2012
 - 99.3*Demand Notice dated September 10, 2012
- * filed herewith

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.

Date: September 11, 2012 /s/ Shuwen Kang
Shuwen Kang
Chief Executive Officer