AETNA INC /PA/ Form 4 March 22, 2005

FORM 4

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

OMB Number: 3235-0287

burden hours per

Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16.

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF SECURITIES

Expires: January 31, 2005
Estimated average

0.5

OMB APPROVAL

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

response...

1(b).

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person * POPIK WILLAIM C MD			2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol AETNA INC /PA/ [AET]	5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable)		
(Last) (First) (Middle)		(Middle)	3. Date of Earliest Transaction	(Check an applicable)		
			(Month/Day/Year)	Director 10% Owner		
151 FARMINGTON AVENUE		'ENUE	03/18/2005	_X_ Officer (give title Other (specify below) Sr. VP & Chief Medical Officer		
	(Street)		4. If Amendment, Date Original	6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check		
			Filed(Month/Day/Year)	Applicable Line)		
HARTFORI	D, CT 06156			_X_Form filed by One Reporting PersonForm filed by More than One Reporting Person		

(City)	(State)	(Zip) Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned									
1.Title of Security (Instr. 3)	2. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	2A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year)	3. Transaction Code (Instr. 8)	4. Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5)			5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported	6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I)	Beneficial) Ownership		
			Code V	Amount	(A) or (D)	Price	Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4)	(Instr. 4)			
Common Stock	03/18/2005		M	60,000	A	\$ 17.89	0 (4)	D			
Common Stock	03/18/2005		S(1)(2)	100	D	\$ 75.37	0	D			
Common Stock	03/18/2005		S(1)(2)	700	D	\$ 75	0	D			
Common Stock	03/18/2005		S(1)(2)	800	D	\$ 74.98	0	D			
Common Stock	03/18/2005		S(1)(2)	800	D	\$ 74.9	0	D			

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Common Stock	03/18/2005	S(1)(2)	900	D	\$ 74.85	0	D
Common Stock	03/18/2005	S(1)(2)	1,100	D	\$ 74.84	0	D
Common Stock	03/18/2005	S(1)(2)	1,400	D	\$ 74.8	0	D
Common Stock	03/18/2005	S(1)(2)	2,000	D	\$ 74.76	0	D
Common Stock	03/18/2005	S(1)(2)	300	D	\$ 74.68	0	D
Common Stock	03/18/2005	S(1)(2)	400	D	\$ 74.67	0	D
Common Stock	03/18/2005	S(1)(2)	400	D	\$ 74.61	0	D
Common Stock	03/18/2005	S(1)(2)	600	D	\$ 74.59	0	D
Common Stock	03/18/2005	S(1)(2)	1,300	D	\$ 74.55	0	D
Common Stock	03/18/2005	S(1)(2)	200	D	\$ 74.51	0	D
Common Stock	03/18/2005	S(1)(2)	600	D	\$ 74.5	0	D
Common Stock	03/18/2005	S(1)(2)	3,100	D	\$ 74.49	0	D
Common Stock	03/18/2005	S(1)(2)	1,900	D	\$ 74.44	0	D
Common Stock	03/18/2005	S(1)(2)	400	D	\$ 74.42	0	D
Common Stock	03/18/2005	S(1)(2)	2,400	D	\$ 74.41	0	D
Common Stock	03/18/2005	S(1)(2)	1,400	D	\$ 74.4	0	D
Common Stock	03/18/2005	S(1)(2)	200	D	\$ 74.39	0	D
Common Stock	03/18/2005	S(1)(2)	400	D	\$ 74.38	0	D
Common Stock	03/18/2005	S(1)(2)	2,600	D	\$ 74.36	0	D
Common Stock	03/18/2005	S(1)(2)	600	D	\$ 74.33	0	D
	03/18/2005	$S_{\underline{(1)(2)}}$	400	D		0	D

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Common Stock					\$ 74.31		
Common Stock	03/18/2005	S(1)(2)	600	D	\$ 74.29	0	D
Common Stock	03/18/2005	S(1)(2)	100	D	\$ 74.27	0	D
Common Stock	03/18/2005	S(1)(2)	1,000	D	\$ 74.24	0	D
Common Stock	03/18/2005	S(1)(2)	700	D	\$ 74.23	0	D

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

Persons who respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB control number.

SEC 1474

(9-02)

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

1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 3)	2. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security	3. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	3A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year)	4. Transaction Code (Instr. 8)	orDerivative		Derivative Expiration Date (Securities (Month/Day/Year) Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) Instr. 3, 4,		7. Title and A Underlying S (Instr. 3 and	Securities
				Code V	(A)	(D)	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of Shares
Employee Stock Option (3)	\$ 17.89	03/18/2005		M		18,830	07/25/2002	01/25/2007	Common Stock	18,830
Employee Stock Option (3)	\$ 17.89	03/18/2005		M		41,170	01/25/2003	01/25/2012	Common Stock	41,170

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships						
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other			
POPIK WILLAIM C MD 151 FARMINGTON AVENUE HARTFORD, CT 06156			Sr. VP & Chief Medical Officer				

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Signatures

William C. Popik by Judith H. Jones, Attorney-in-Fact

03/22/2005

**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).
- (1) The sale reported was effected pursuant to a 10b5-1 trading plan adopted by the reporting person on February 18, 2005.
- (2) THIS IS FORM 1 OF 4. The number of individual Table I line entries making up the sale reported exceeds the EDGAR system's limitations and, therefore, this filing is being made in four parts.
- (3) This option has been adjusted to reflect the Company's 2-for-1 stock split on March 11, 2005.
- (4) Total holdings reported on Form four of four.

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.

Signatures 4