

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)

April 4, 2011

**PACIFIC ETHANOL, INC.**

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware

(State or other jurisdiction of  
incorporation)

000-21467

(Commission File Number)

41-2170618

(IRS Employer Identification No.)

400 Capitol Mall, Suite 2060, Sacramento, CA

(Address of principal executive offices)

95814

(Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code:

(916) 403-2123

(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 (*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 5.02. Departure of Directors or Certain Officers; Election of Directors; Appointment of Certain Officers; Compensatory Arrangements of Certain Officers.**

- (a) Not applicable.
- (b) On April 4, 2011, Ryan W. Turner chose not to stand for reelection as a member of the Board of Directors of Pacific Ethanol, Inc.
- (c) Not applicable.
- (d) Not applicable.
- (e) Not applicable.

**Item 9.01. Financial Statements and Exhibits.**

- (a) Financial Statements of Businesses Acquired.  
None.
- (b) Pro Forma Financial Information.  
None.
- (c) Shell Company Transactions.  
None.
- (d) Exhibits.  
None.

**SIGNATURE**

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.

**PACIFIC ETHANOL, INC.**

Date: April 4, 2011

By: /s/ Christopher W. Wright

Christopher W. Wright  
Vice President, General Counsel & Secretary

