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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)

December 5, 2012

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**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, California

(Address of principal executive offices)

95814

(Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code:

(916) 403-2123

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(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 8.01. Other Events.**

On December 5, 2012, Pacific Ethanol, Inc. issued a press release announcing that it received a letter from The NASDAQ Stock Market (“NASDAQ”) on December 5, 2012, granting a further 180-day period in which to regain compliance with NASDAQ Listing Rule 5550(a)(2), which requires listed securities to maintain a minimum closing bid price of at least \$1.00 per share.

A copy of the press release is included as Exhibit 99.1 to this Current Report on Form 8-K and is incorporated herein by reference.

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

- (a) Financial statements of businesses acquired.

Not applicable.

- (b) Pro forma financial information.

Not applicable.

- (c) Shell company transactions.

Not applicable.

- (d) Exhibits.

<u>Number</u>	<u>Description</u>
99.1	Press Release dated December 5, 2012

**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.

Date: December 5, 2012

PACIFIC ETHANOL, INC.

By: /S/ CHRISTOPHER W. WRIGHT

Christopher W. Wright

Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary

**EXHIBITS FILED WITH THIS REPORT**

<u>Number</u>	<u>Description</u>
99.1	Press Release dated December 5, 2012




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**Pacific Ethanol, Inc.**

**Company IR Contact:**

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916-403-2755  
866-508-4969  
Investorrelations@pacificethanol.net

**IR Agency Contact:**

Becky Herrick  
LHA  
415-433-3777

**Media Contact:**

Paul Koehler  
Pacific Ethanol, Inc.  
503-235-8241  
paulk@pacificethanol.net

**PACIFIC ETHANOL, INC. RECEIVES EXTENSION TO REGAIN  
COMPLIANCE WITH NASDAQ LISTING REQUIREMENTS**

**Sacramento, CA, December 5, 2012 – Pacific Ethanol, Inc. (NASDAQ: PEIX)**, the leading marketer and producer of low-carbon renewable fuels in the Western United States, announced it received a letter from The NASDAQ Stock Market (“NASDAQ”) on December 5, 2012, granting a 180-day extension period in which to regain compliance with NASDAQ Listing Rule 5550(a)(2), which requires listed securities to maintain a minimum closing bid price of at least \$1.00 per share.

As previously announced, the Company received a letter from NASDAQ on June 6, 2012 notifying the Company it was not in compliance with the \$1.00 minimum closing bid requirement for continued listing under the NASDAQ listing rules. NASDAQ provided the Company with an initial period of 180 calendar days in which to regain compliance. This initial period expired on December 3, 2012. The extension granted today provides an additional 180 calendar days, or until June 3, 2013, for the Company to meet the minimum closing bid price requirement of at least \$1.00 per share for ten consecutive business days.

**About Pacific Ethanol, Inc.**

Pacific Ethanol, Inc. (NASDAQ: PEIX) is the leading marketer and producer of low-carbon renewable fuels in the Western United States. Pacific Ethanol also sells co-products, including wet distillers grain (“WDG”), a nutritional animal feed. Serving integrated oil companies and gasoline marketers who blend ethanol into gasoline, Pacific Ethanol provides transportation, storage and delivery of ethanol through third-party service providers in the Western United States, primarily in California, Arizona, Nevada, Utah, Oregon, Colorado, Idaho and Washington. Pacific Ethanol has a 67% ownership interest in New PE Holdco LLC, the owner of four ethanol production facilities. Pacific Ethanol operates and manages the four ethanol production facilities, which have a combined annual production capacity of 200 million gallons. The facilities in operation are located in Boardman, Oregon, Burley, Idaho and Stockton, California, and one idled facility is located in Madera, California. The facilities are near their respective fuel and feed customers, offering significant timing, transportation cost and logistical advantages. Pacific Ethanol’s subsidiary, Kinergy Marketing LLC, markets ethanol from Pacific Ethanol’s managed plants and from other third-party production facilities, and another subsidiary, Pacific Ag. Products, LLC, markets WDG. For more information please visit [www.pacificethanol.net](http://www.pacificethanol.net).



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Pacific Ethanol, Inc.

**Safe Harbor Statement under the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995**

With the exception of historical information, the matters discussed in this press release including, without limitation, the ability of Pacific Ethanol to continue as the leading marketer and producer of low-carbon renewable fuels in the Western United States and Pacific Ethanol's ability to meet NASDAQ's minimum closing bid price requirement and retain its listing on NASDAQ are forward-looking statements and considerations that involve a number of risks and uncertainties. We have tried to identify forward-looking statements by using words like "believe," "expect," "may," "will," "could," "seek," "estimate," "continue," "anticipate," "intend," "future," "plan" or variations of those terms, including their use in the negative. You should not place undue reliance on these forward-looking statements. Factors that could cause or contribute to such differences include, but are not limited to, adverse economic and market conditions; changes in governmental regulations and policies; and other events, factors and risks previously and from time to time disclosed in Pacific Ethanol's filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission including, specifically, those factors set forth in the "Risk Factors" section contained in Pacific Ethanol's Form 10-K and Form 10-Q filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on March 8, 2012 and November 14, 2012, respectively.

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