

HUTTIG BUILDING PRODUCTS INC

Form 8-K

January 21, 2005

UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, DC 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): January 19, 2005

Huttig Building Products, Inc.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware
(State or other jurisdiction

of incorporation)

001-14982
(Commission File Number)

43-0334550
(I.R.S. Employer

Identification No.)

555 Maryville University Dr., Suite 240, St. Louis, MO
(Address of principal executive offices)

63141
(Zip code)

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Registrant's telephone number, including area code: (314) 216-2600

Former name or former address, if changed since last report: Not Applicable

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))
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Item 1.01 Entry into a Material Definitive Agreement.

On January 19, 2005, the Company entered into a settlement agreement with The Rugby Group Ltd., the Company's principal stockholder, and Rugby IPD Corp., a former subsidiary of The Rugby Group Ltd. (collectively, "Rugby"), settling the pending lawsuit filed by the Company in the Supreme Court of the State of New York. The parties agreed to dismiss the pending litigation without prejudice and without any admission of liability in any respect by any party. In accordance with the terms of the settlement, The Rugby Group Ltd. paid to the Company \$609,581.46 on January 19, 2005. In addition, the Company and Rugby each released the other from further liabilities with respect to the underlying asbestos-related liabilities and claims and any future asbestos-related liabilities and claims, subject to termination of the joint defense agreement described below. The Company and Rugby also have agreed to certain other terms typical for a settlement agreement of this kind.

Under the terms of a joint defense agreement entered into by the Company and Rugby on January 19, 2005, the parties agreed to jointly defend any future asbestos-related claims relating to the business acquired by Rugby Building Products, Inc. in 1994. Any asbestos-related claim against the Company not related to that business, of which none has been filed to date, is not covered by the joint defense agreement. The parties have established a joint defense fund to which the Company and The Rugby Group Ltd. will contribute specified amounts in equal shares from time to time and from which they will pay amounts incurred in connection with covered claims. The joint defense agreement has a term of 10 years and may be terminated by the Company or The Rugby Group Ltd. if either of their respective contributions to the joint defense fund exceeds a specified cap. The Company believes that it is unlikely that a termination right will occur during the term of the joint defense agreement, but there can be no assurances that will be the case. In the event of a termination of the joint defense agreement, the settlement agreement will be deemed to have been rescinded, and the Company, or, in certain circumstances, The Rugby Group Ltd., may re-institute the litigation between the parties. While the Company believes that its factual allegations and legal claims are meritorious, there can be no assurance at this time that, if this litigation is renewed, the Company will recover any of its costs related to future asbestos-related claims from Rugby or from insurance carriers or that such costs will not have a material adverse effect on the Company's business or financial condition.

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.

Huttig Building Products, Inc.
(Registrant)

Date: January 19, 2005

/s/ Thomas S. McHugh

Name: Thomas S. McHugh
Title: Vice President Finance and
Chief Financial Officer