

INTERNATIONAL PAPER CO /NEW/

Form 8-K

December 24, 2008

**UNITED STATES**  
**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**

**December 24, 2008**

**(Date of Report)**

**December 19, 2008**

**(Date of earliest event reported)**

**INTERNATIONAL PAPER COMPANY**

**(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)**

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**NEW YORK**  
(State or other jurisdiction

**1-3157**  
(Commission File Number)

**13-0872805**  
(IRS Employer

of incorporation)

**6400 Poplar Avenue**

Identification No.)

**Memphis, Tennessee 38197**

(Address and zip code of principal executive offices)

**(901) 419-7000**

(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

**N/A**

(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:

- .. 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.**

Newland A. Lesko

On December 19, 2008, Newland A. Lesko, a named executive officer of International Paper Company (the "Company"), notified the Company he plans to retire as of December 31, 2008. Mr. Lesko currently serves as Executive Vice President, Manufacturing and Technology and has been an employee of the Company since 1967.

Donald F. McHenry

Effective December 31, 2008, Donald F. McHenry will retire from the Company's Board of Directors in compliance with the Company's mandatory retirement age policy for directors.

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.

INTERNATIONAL PAPER COMPANY  
(Registrant)

By: /s/ Maura Abeln Smith  
Name: Maura Abeln Smith  
Title: Senior Vice President, General Counsel and  
Corporate Secretary

Date: December 24, 2008