

NATURES SUNSHINE PRODUCTS INC
Form 10-K/A
November 09, 2010

UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM 10-K/A

Amendment No. 1

Annual report pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2009

OR

Transition report under Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 for the transition period from . to

Commission file number 0-8707

NATURE S SUNSHINE PRODUCTS, INC.

(Exact name of Registrant as specified in its charter)

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Utah
(State or other jurisdiction of
incorporation or organization)

87-0327982
(IRS Employer
Identification No.)

75 East 1700 South

Provo, Utah 84606

(Address of principal executive offices and zip code)

(801) 342-4300

(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(b) of the Act:

None

Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(g) of the Act:

Common Stock, no par value.

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is a well-known seasoned issuer, as defined in Rule 405 of the Securities Act. Yes No x.

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is not required to file reports pursuant to Section 13 or Section 15(d) of the Act. Yes No x.

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant has (1) filed all reports required to be filed by Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to file such reports), and (2) has been subject to such filing requirements for the past 90 days. Yes No o.

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant has submitted electronically and posted on its corporate Web site, if any, every Interactive Data File required to be submitted and posted pursuant to Rule 405 of Regulation S-T (§ 232.405 of this chapter) during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to submit and post such files). Yes No o.

Indicate by check mark if disclosure of delinquent filers pursuant to Item 405 of Regulation S-K is not contained herein, and will not be contained, to the best of registrant's knowledge, in definitive proxy or information statements incorporated by reference in Part III of this Form 10-K or any amendment to this Form 10-K.

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Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, a non-accelerated filer, or a smaller reporting company. See the definitions of large accelerated filer, accelerated filer and smaller reporting company in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act.

| | | | |
|--|-----------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Large accelerated filer | <input type="radio"/> | Accelerated filer | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Non-accelerated filer (Do not check if a smaller reporting company) | <input type="radio"/> | Smaller reporting company | <input type="radio"/> |

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a shell company (as defined in Rule 12b-2 of the Act). Yes No .

The aggregate market value of the voting stock held by non-affiliates of the registrant on June 30, 2009 was approximately \$36,116,631 based on the closing price of \$5.25 as quoted by Nasdaq Capital Market on June 30, 2009.

The number of shares of Common Stock, no par value, outstanding on March 5, 2009 is 15,510,159 shares.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

The Company is filing this Amendment No. 1 to our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2009 (the Annual Report) in response to comments received from the staff of the Securities and Exchange Commission (the Commission) regarding Item 9A, Controls and Procedures (Item 9A), of the Annual Report. Item 9A of the Annual Report should be amended and replaced with the revised Item 9A contained herein.

For purposes of this Form 10-K/A and, in accordance with Rule 12b-15 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, we are including certain currently dated certifications. The remainder of the Annual Report on Form 10-K filed with the Commission on March 16, 2010 remains unchanged and this Form 10-K/A should be read in conjunction with the Form 10-K as originally filed.

No other changes have been made to the Annual Report filed March 16, 2010. This amendment does not reflect subsequent events occurring after the filing date of the original Annual Report or, unless otherwise noted herein, modify or update any disclosures made in the originally-filed Annual Report.

PART II**Item 9A. Controls and Procedures**

This report includes the certifications of our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer required by Rule 13a-14 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the Exchange Act). See Exhibits 31.1 and 31.2. This Item 9A includes information concerning the controls and control evaluations referred to in those certifications.

Overview

Management is responsible for establishing and maintaining adequate internal control over financial reporting for the Company.

Management identified certain material weaknesses which are described in our Annual Report on Form 10-K/A for the year ended December 31, 2008. During 2009 and through the date of this filing, management has been focused on remediating these material weaknesses. This overview discusses management's evaluation of our disclosure controls and procedures as of December 31, 2009. In addition, this item provides a summary of the status of each of the previously identified material weaknesses, followed by a discussion of management's evaluation of disclosure controls and procedures, and management's efforts to remediate the material weaknesses, as set forth in the table below.

During the year ended December 31, 2009, the Company completed the remediation related to the financial reporting process and information technology material weaknesses. As shown below, the accounting for taxes material weakness reported as of December 31, 2008 remains a material weakness as of December 31, 2009, for which remediation efforts are in process.

| Material Weakness Reported as of December 31, 2008 | Status as of December 31, 2009 | Status as of the Date of this Filing |
|---|---|---|
| 1. Accounting for Taxes | Remediation in process | Remediation in process |
| 2. Financial Reporting Process | Remediated | Remediated |
| 3. Information Technology: | | |
| Access Control | Remediated | Remediated |
| Change Management | Remediated | Remediated |
| Spreadsheets | Remediated | Remediated |

Evaluation of Disclosure Controls and Procedures

Disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Rule 13a-15(e) under the Exchange Act) are designed to ensure that information required to be disclosed in reports filed or submitted under the Exchange Act is recorded, processed, summarized, and reported within the time periods specified in rules and forms adopted by the SEC, and that such information is accumulated and communicated to management, including the Chief Executive Officer and the Chief Financial Officer, to allow timely decisions regarding required disclosures.

In connection with the preparation of its annual report as of December 31, 2009, the Company's management, under the supervision and with the participation of the Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, evaluated the effectiveness of the design and operation of our disclosure controls and procedures as of December 31, 2009. Based on that evaluation, our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer have concluded that our disclosure controls and procedures were not effective as of December 31, 2009, as a result of the existence of a material weakness in our internal control over financial reporting related to accounting for taxes.

Since December 31, 2008, we have made significant progress in improving our disclosure controls and procedures. We have taken, and are taking, the actions described below under "Remediation Actions Relating to Remaining Material Weaknesses" to remediate the remaining material weaknesses in our internal control over financial reporting that existed at that date.

We continue to strive to improve our processes to enable us to provide complete and accurate public disclosure. Management believes that we will not be able to conclude that our disclosure controls and procedures are effective until the material weaknesses have been fully remediated.

To address the material weaknesses reported in our 2008 Form 10-K/A, management performed additional analyses and other post-closing procedures designed to ensure that our consolidated interim financial statements were prepared in accordance with U.S. GAAP. These procedures included documentation and testing of processes, data validation procedures from the systems into the general ledger, testing of systems, validation of results, disclosure review, and other analytics. As a result, management believes that the consolidated financial statements included in this report fairly present, in all material respects, our financial position, results of operations and cash flows as of the dates, and for the periods presented.

Evaluation of Internal Control over Financial Reporting

Management, with the participation of our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, has conducted an evaluation of the effectiveness of our internal control over financial reporting based on the framework set forth in "Internal Control - Integrated Framework" issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission. Based on management's assessment under this framework, management has concluded that our internal control over financial reporting was not effective as of December 31, 2009, as a result of the existence of a material weakness in our internal control over financial reporting related to accounting for taxes. The effectiveness of our internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2009 has been audited by Deloitte & Touche LLP, an independent registered public accounting firm, as stated in their report which is included herein.

Changes in Internal Control over Financial Reporting

Overview

Management, with the participation of our Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, has assessed whether any changes in our internal control over financial reporting that occurred during the period from January 1, 2009 through December 31, 2009 have materially affected, or are reasonably likely to materially affect, our internal control over financial reporting. Significant changes were implemented and tested during the period from January 1, 2009 through December 31, 2009 to continue the remediation of our material weaknesses in internal control over financial reporting. Management believes the measures that we have implemented during 2009 to remediate the material weaknesses in internal

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control over financial reporting have had a favorable impact on our internal control over financial reporting since December 31, 2008. Changes in our internal control over financial reporting from January 1, 2009 through December 31, 2009 that have materially affected, or are reasonably likely to materially affect, our internal control over financial reporting are described below.

Remediation Actions Relating to Remaining Material Weaknesses

The discussion below describes the actions that management took during 2009 and is currently in the process of taking in 2010 to remediate our remaining material weaknesses in internal control over financial reporting.

Accounting for Taxes

Description of Material Weakness as of December 31, 2008

The Company's processes, procedures and controls related to the preparation and review of the annual tax provision and the accrual of other non-income tax contingencies were not effective to ensure that amounts related to the tax provision, related current or deferred income tax asset and liability accounts, and non-income tax contingencies were accurate, recorded in the proper period, and determined in accordance with U.S. GAAP. Specifically, we did not (i) analyze and reconcile certain deferred income and tax payable

accounts, (ii) appropriately consider the need to record or disclose contingencies for certain income tax positions in accordance with U.S. GAAP, and (iii) file tax returns in certain foreign jurisdictions. Additionally, we had insufficient personnel with appropriate qualifications and training in accounting for taxes.

Description of 2009 Remediation Actions

In late 2008, we hired an Executive Director of Corporate Tax and during 2009, we have utilized outsourced service providers for tax consulting services to assist in our accounting for income taxes and the recording of non-income tax contingencies. In October 2009, the Company engaged tax consultants with specific expertise related to the remediation of accounting for taxes to assist the Company in completing the remediation of its material weakness in this area. We continue to evaluate our tax process and tax resource requirements. We continue to work towards the completion of delinquent foreign statutory filings identified during the prior years as result of management's analysis, as well as refining our process to help ensure timely completion of future filings. In addition, in 2008 our management performed an analysis with the assistance of outside consultants to assess, estimate, and record the exposure related to our uncertain tax positions and non-income tax contingencies in accordance with U.S. GAAP. During 2009 we continued to monitor and assess the uncertain tax positions and non-income tax contingencies and are now evaluating and implementing plans to reduce these contingencies. We continue to evaluate the adequacy of our tax resources. This material weakness still exists, and the Company is in the process of remediating this material weakness.

Financial Reporting Process

Description of Material Weakness as of December 31, 2008

The Company did not maintain an effective financial reporting process to prepare financial statements in accordance with U.S. GAAP. Specifically, our process lacked timely and complete financial statement reviews, appropriate account closing procedures, and appropriate reconciliation processes. Further, we were unable to complete regulatory filings as required by the rules of the SEC.

Description of 2009 Remediation Actions

During 2008, we redesigned and implemented improved procedures and controls related to our monthly and quarterly close processes including account reconciliations, enhancement of the formal monthly close and reporting checklists, variance analysis of financial statement fluctuations, and budget to actual reviews. As a result of the remediation efforts, the Company has completed its regulatory filings during 2009 as required by the rules of the SEC. Our remediation efforts during the second and third quarters of 2009 included the enhancement and testing of the processes and controls instituted in the prior year. We believe that these remediation efforts have improved our financial reporting process and that the material weakness was effectively remediated at September 30, 2009.

Information Technology Systems

Description of Material Weakness as of December 31, 2008

The Company did not maintain effective internal control over financial reporting related to certain information technology applications and general computer controls that are considered to have an impact on financial reporting and that resulted in a more than reasonable possibility that material misstatements in our financial statements would not be prevented or detected.

Specifically, we lacked effective controls in the following areas:

- *Access Control* The Company did not maintain effectively designed controls to prevent unauthorized access to certain programs and data, and provide for periodic review and monitoring of access including reviews of security logs and analysis of segregation of duties conflicts.
- *Change Management* The Company did not maintain effectively designed controls to ensure that all information technology program and data changes were authorized, developer access to the production environment was limited, and that all program and data changes were adequately tested for accuracy and appropriate implementation.
- *Spreadsheets* The Company did not maintain effectively designed controls to ensure that critical spreadsheets were identified, access to these spreadsheets was restricted to appropriate personnel, changes to data or formulas were authorized and appropriate, or that the spreadsheets were adequately reviewed by someone other than the preparer.

Description of 2009 Remediation Actions

Access Control During 2008, management performed a broad and detailed analysis of user access to the applications we have determined to have a material impact on our financial reporting for our domestic locations and implemented formal training of managers and others who grant and approve access to these data programs, as well as providing managers and employees with better data program descriptions and other tools to assist in their understanding if the access of their subordinates violates segregation of duties or access controls. In addition, detailed quarterly security reviews have been instituted. During 2009, the Company continued to refine the processes and procedures put in place. During 2009, the Company also purchased and implemented a software package to automate the monitoring of user access controls and segregation of duties which has greatly enhanced the Company's ability to identify and/or prevent access and segregation of duty issues from arising. We believe that these remediation efforts have improved our user access controls and that the material weakness was effectively remediated at December 31, 2009.

Change Management During 2008, management continued implementation of enhanced procedures to control changes to the production environment, the retention of adequate documentation, as well as redesigning job descriptions, assigned roles, and segregation of duties within the change control process of certain of the Company's application systems. During 2009, the Company is continuing to refine the processes and procedures put in place. In addition, the Company has implemented additional measures to ensure that adequate documentation is retained. During 2009, the Company also purchased and implemented a software package to assist in the monitoring of change management of the Company's critical application systems, which has greatly enhanced the Company's ability to prevent unauthorized changes, as well as identify where additional documentation is required. The Company is currently implementing this software package at its subsidiary Synergy Worldwide. Additionally, limiting developer access to production systems has been addressed. We believe that these remediation efforts have improved our change management controls and that the material weakness was effectively remediated at December 31, 2009.

Spreadsheets During 2008, management designed and implemented procedures to inventory, assess the risk of, and rank our critical financial reporting spreadsheets that have a material impact on our financial reporting, including the implementation of enhanced review procedures. During 2009, management continued to perform detailed testing at locations that have a material impact on our financial reporting around security and change management for spreadsheets. Management has further enhanced the design of our controls over spreadsheets by establishing procedures for benchmarking critical spreadsheets to ensure that formulas are appropriate and protected, and that the logic and design of the spreadsheets is appropriate and consistent. During the third quarter of 2009, management implemented a software application package that allows the Company to audit and track changes to its critical spreadsheets. The Company has completed the audits on its critical spreadsheets. Management continues the process of implementing an application package that will facilitate a worldwide consolidation and reduce our reliance on spreadsheets. In addition, our information technology management has selected an application to provide for a world-wide standardization of the general ledger system, which has been deployed in several markets. Management has developed a timeline for completing the implementation of this application globally. We believe that these remediation efforts have improved our controls around our critical spreadsheets and that the material weakness was effectively remediated at December 31, 2009.

We believe that these remediation efforts have improved our information technology systems and that the material weaknesses related to access control, change management, and spreadsheets has been effectively remediated at December 31, 2009.

Conclusion

We believe weaknesses other than accounting for taxes have been remediated and that the process is in place to facilitate the remediation of the one remaining material weakness. We believe the measures described above will facilitate remediation of the material weakness related to accounting for taxes and will continue to strengthen our internal control over financial reporting. We are committed to continually improving our

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internal control processes and will diligently and vigorously review our financial reporting controls and procedures. As we continue to evaluate and work to improve our internal control over financial reporting, we may determine that additional measures are necessary to address control deficiencies. Moreover, we may decide to modify, or in appropriate circumstances not to complete, certain of the remediation measures described above.

REPORT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM

To the Board of Directors and Shareholders of

Nature s Sunshine Products, Inc.:

We have audited Nature s Sunshine Products, Inc. and subsidiaries (the Company) internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2009, based on criteria established in *Internal Control - Integrated Framework* issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission. The Company s management is responsible for maintaining effective internal control over financial reporting and for its assessment of the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting, included in the accompanying Management s Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the Company s internal control over financial reporting based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States). Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether effective internal control over financial reporting was maintained in all material respects. Our audit included obtaining an understanding of internal control over financial reporting, assessing the risk that a material weakness exists, testing and evaluating the design and operating effectiveness of internal control based on that risk, and performing such other procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

A company s internal control over financial reporting is a process designed by, or under the supervision of, the company s principal executive and principal financial officers, or persons performing similar functions, and effected by the company s board of directors, management, and other personnel to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of financial statements for external purposes in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. A company s internal control over financial reporting includes those policies and procedures that (1) pertain to the maintenance of records that, in reasonable detail, accurately and fairly reflect the transactions and dispositions of the assets of the company; (2) provide reasonable assurance that transactions are recorded as necessary to permit preparation of financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles, and that receipts and expenditures of the company are being made only in accordance with authorizations of management and directors of the company; and (3) provide reasonable assurance regarding prevention or timely detection of unauthorized acquisition, use, or disposition of the company s assets that could have a material effect on the financial statements.

Because of the inherent limitations of internal control over financial reporting, including the possibility of collusion or improper management override of controls, material misstatements due to error or fraud may not be prevented or detected on a timely basis. Also, projections of any evaluation of effectiveness of the internal control over financial reporting to future periods are subject to the risk that the controls may become inadequate because of changes in conditions, or that the degree of compliance with the policies or procedures may deteriorate.

A material weakness is a deficiency, or combination of deficiencies, in internal control over financial reporting, such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the Company s annual or interim financial statements will not be prevented or detected on a timely basis. The following material weakness has been identified and included in management s assessment:

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Accounting for Taxes The Company's processes, procedures and controls related to the preparation and review of the annual tax provision and the accrual of other non-income tax contingencies were not effective to ensure that amounts related to the tax provision, related current or deferred income tax asset and liability accounts, and non-income tax contingencies were accurate, recorded in the proper period, and determined in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. Specifically, the Company did not (i) analyze and reconcile certain deferred income and tax payable accounts, (ii) appropriately consider the need to record or disclose contingencies for certain income tax and non income tax positions in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles, and (iii) file tax returns in certain foreign jurisdictions. Additionally, the Company had insufficient qualifications and training in accounting for taxes.

This material weakness was considered in determining the nature, timing, and extent of audit tests applied in our audit of the consolidated financial statements and financial statement schedule as of and for the year ended December 31, 2009, of the Company and this report does not affect our report on such financial statements and financial statement schedule.

In our opinion, because of the effect of the material weakness identified above on the achievement of the objectives of the control criteria, the Company has not maintained effective internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2009, based on the criteria established in *Internal Control - Integrated Framework* issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission.

We have also audited, in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States), the consolidated financial statements and financial statement schedule as of and for the year ended December 31, 2009, of the Company and our report dated March 16, 2010, expressed an unqualified opinion on those financial statements and financial statement schedule.

/s/ Deloitte & Touche LLP

Salt Lake City, Utah

March 16, 2010

PART IV

Item 15. Exhibits, Financial Statement Schedules.

| Item No. | Exhibit |
|-----------------|--|
| 23.1 | Consent of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm. |
| 31.1 | Certification of President and Chief Executive Officer pursuant to Rule 13a-14(a) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended. |
| 31.2 | Certification of Executive Vice President, Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer pursuant to Rule 13a-14(a) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended. |

SIGNATURES

In accordance with Section 13 or 15(d) of the Exchange Act, the registrant has caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized.

Nature s Sunshine Products, Inc.

Date: November 9, 2010

By: /s/ Michael D. Dean
 Michael D. Dean
 President and Chief Executive Officer

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, this report has been signed below by the following persons on behalf of the registrant and in the capacities and on the dates indicated.

| | Signature | Title | Date |
|-----|--|---|------------------|
| /s/ | Kristine F. Hughes Kristine F. Hughes | Chair of the Board and Director | November 9, 2010 |
| /s/ | Michael D. Dean Michael D. Dean | President, Chief Executive Officer and Director | November 9, 2010 |
| /s/ | Stephen M. Bunker Stephen M. Bunker | Executive Vice President, Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer, Chief Accounting Officer | November 9, 2010 |
| /s/ | Willem Mesdag Willem Mesdag | Director | November 9, 2010 |
| /s/ | Jeffrey D. Watkins Jeffrey D. Watkins | Director | November 9, 2010 |
| /s/ | Albert R. Dowden Albert R. Dowden | Director | November 9, 2010 |
| /s/ | Robert B. Mercer Robert B. Mercer | Director | November 9, 2010 |