AETNA INC /PA/ Form 4 May 18, 2005

FORM 4

UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION Washington, D.C. 20549

OMB Number:

Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF **SECURITIES**

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OMB APPROVAL

3235-0287

January 31,

Form 5 obligations may continue. See Instruction 1(b).

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, Section 17(a) of the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935 or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person * ROWE JOHN W	2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol AETNA INC /PA/ [AET]	5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable)		
(Last) (First) (Middle)	3. Date of Earliest Transaction	(Check all applicable)		
151 FARMINGTON AVENUE	(Month/Day/Year) 05/16/2005	_X_ Director 10% Owner _X_ Officer (give title Other (specify below) Chairman & Chief Exec. Officer		
(Street)	4. If Amendment, Date Original	6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check		
HARTFORD, CT 06156	Filed(Month/Day/Year)	Applicable Line) _X_ Form filed by One Reporting Person Form filed by More than One Reporting Person		

(City)	(State)	(Zip) Tab	ole I - Non-D	d, Disposed of, o	r Beneficially	Owned			
1.Title of Security (Instr. 3)	2. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	2A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year)	3. Transaction Code (Instr. 8)	4. Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5) (A) or Amount (D) Price			5. Amount of Securities Ownership Beneficially Form: Owned Direct (D) Following or Indirect Reported (I) Transaction(s) (Instr. 4) (Instr. 3 and 4)		7. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4)
Common Stock	05/16/2005		M	37,000	A	\$ 13.1622	0	I	By GRAT
Common Stock	05/16/2005		M	8,000	A	\$ 17.5058	0	I	By GRATS
Common Stock	05/16/2005		S(1)(2)	600	D	\$ 74.11	0	I	By GRATS
Common Stock	05/16/2005		S(1)(2)	600	D	\$ 74.18	0	I	By GRATS
Common Stock	05/16/2005		S(1)(2)	700	D	\$ 74.2	0	I	By GRATS

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Common Stock	05/16/2005	S(1)(2)	600	D	\$ 74.26	0	I	By GRATS
Common Stock	05/16/2005	S(1)(2)	300	D	\$ 74.37	0	I	By GRATS
Common Stock	05/16/2005	S(1)(2)	400	D	\$ 74.39	0	I	By GRATS
Common Stock	05/16/2005	S(1)(2)	300	D	\$ 74.41	0	I	By GRATS
Common Stock	05/16/2005	S(1)(2)	100	D	\$ 74.43	0	I	By GRATS
Common Stock	05/16/2005	S(1)(2)	500	D	\$ 74.44	0	I	By GRATS
Common Stock	05/16/2005	S(1)(2)	400	D	\$ 74.45	0	I	By GRATS
Common Stock	05/16/2005	S(1)(2)	700	D	\$ 74.48	0	I	By GRATS
Common Stock	05/16/2005	S(1)(2)	100	D	\$ 74.49	0	I	By GRATS
Common Stock	05/16/2005	S(1)(2)	1,700	D	\$ 74.5	0	I	By GRATS
Common Stock	05/16/2005	S(1)(2)	600	D	\$ 74.51	0	I	By GRATS
Common Stock	05/16/2005	S(1)(2)	500	D	\$ 74.52	0	I	By GRATS
Common Stock	05/16/2005	S(1)(2)	300	D	\$ 74.53	0	I	By GRATS
Common Stock	05/16/2005	S(1)(2)	1,800	D	\$ 74.54	0	I	By GRATS
Common Stock	05/16/2005	S(1)(2)	2,600	D	\$ 74.55	0	I	By GRATS
Common Stock	05/16/2005	S(1)(2)	500	D	\$ 74.56	0	I	By GRATS
Common Stock	05/16/2005	S(1)(2)	1,500	D	\$ 74.57	0	I	By GRATS
Common Stock	05/16/2005	S(1)(2)	800	D	\$ 74.58	0	I	By GRATS
Common Stock	05/16/2005	S(1)(2)	5,100	D	\$ 74.59	0	I	By GRATS
Common Stock	05/16/2005	S(1)(2)	600	D	\$ 74.6	0	I	By GRATS
	05/16/2005	S(1)(2)	100	D	\$ 74.61	0	I	

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Common Stock								By GRATS
Common Stock	05/16/2005	S(1)(2)	1,000	D	\$ 74.62	0	I	By GRATS
Common Stock	05/16/2005	S(1)(2)	1,300	D	\$ 74.63	0	I	By GRATS
Common Stock	05/16/2005	S(1)(2)	600	D	\$ 74.64	0	I	By GRATS
Common Stock	05/16/2005	S(1)(2)	200	D	\$ 74.65	0	I	By GRATS

Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially owned directly or indirectly.

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SEC 1474

(9-02)

Table II - Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned (e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)

1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 3)	2. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security	3. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	3A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year)	4. Transactic Code (Instr. 8)	5. Number of orDerivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5)		Derivative Expiration Date (Securities (Month/Day/Year) Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) Instr. 3, 4,		7. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities (Instr. 3 and 4)	
				Code V	(A)	(D)	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of Shares
Employee Stock Option	\$ 13.1622	05/16/2005		M		37,000	09/15/2001	09/15/2010	Common Stock	37,000
Employee Stock Option	\$ 17.5058	05/16/2005		M		8,000	09/15/2001	09/15/2010	Common Stock	8,000

Deletionshin

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Keiauonsnips					
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other		
ROWE JOHN W 151 FARMINGTON AVENUE HARTFORD, CT 06156	X		Chairman & Chief Exec. Officer			

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Signatures

John W. Rowe by Judith H. Jones, Attorney-in-Fact

05/17/2005

**Signature of Reporting Person

Date

Explanation of Responses:

- * If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, see Instruction 4(b)(v).
- ** Intentional misstatements or omissions of facts constitute Federal Criminal Violations. See 18 U.S.C. 1001 and 15 U.S.C. 78ff(a).
- (1) The sale reported was effected pursuant to a Rule 10b5-1 trading plan adopted by the John W. Rowe 2004 GRAT on March 4, 2005 and a Rule 10b5-1 trading plan adopted by the John W. Rowe 2003 GRAT on March 4, 2005.
- (2) THIS IS FORM 1 OF 3. The number of individual Table I line entries making up the sale reported exceeds the EDGAR system's limitations and, therefore, this filing is being made in three parts.

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, *see* Instruction 6 for procedure. Potential persons who are to respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB number.

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