

SOUTHWEST GAS CORP
Form S-8
December 09, 2003

As filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on December 9, 2003

File No. 333-

United States
Securities and Exchange Commission
Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM S-8
REGISTRATION STATEMENT
UNDER
THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933

SOUTHWEST GAS CORPORATION

(Exact name of Registrant as specified in its charter)

California

(State or other jurisdiction of
incorporation or organization)

88-0085720

(I.R.S. Employer
Identification Number)

5241 Spring Mountain Road
P.O. Box 98510

Las Vegas, Nevada

(Address of principal executive offices)

89193-8510

(Zip Code)

SOUTHWEST GAS CORPORATION EMPLOYEES' INVESTMENT PLAN

(Full title of the plan)

GEORGE C. BIEHL

Executive Vice President, Chief Financial Officer and Corporate Secretary

Southwest Gas Corporation

5241 Spring Mountain Road

P.O. Box 98510

Las Vegas, Nevada 89193-8510

(Name and address of agent for service)

(702) 876-7237

(Telephone number, including area code, of agent for service)

CALCULATION OF REGISTRATION FEE

Title of securities being registered	Amount to be registered (1)	Proposed maximum offering price per share (2)	Proposed maximum aggregate offering price (2)	Amount of registration fee
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Common Stock (\$1 par value)	600,000 shares	\$22.37	\$13,422,000	\$1,085.84
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- (1) In addition, pursuant to Rule 416(c) under the Securities Act of 1933, this Registration Statement also covers an indeterminate amount of interests to be offered or sold pursuant to the Plan described herein.
- (2) Pursuant to Rule 457(h), the maximum offering price, per share and in the aggregate, and the registration fee were calculated based upon the average of the high and low composite prices of the Common Stock as reported by the Consolidated Tape Association on December 5, 2003 of \$22.37.

As permitted by Rule 429, the Prospectus with respect to this Registration Statement also relates to Registrant's Registration Statement on Form S-8 (333-98729).

PART I

INFORMATION REQUIRED IN THE SECTION 10(A) PROSPECTUS

Item 1. Plan Information*

Item 2. Registrant Information and Employee Plan Annual Information*

- * Information required by Part I to be contained in the Section 10(a) prospectus is omitted from the Registration Statement in accordance with Rule 428 under the Securities Act of 1933 and the Note to Part I of Form S-8.

PART II

INFORMATION REQUIRED IN THE REGISTRATION STATEMENT

Item 3. Incorporation of Certain Documents by Reference

The following documents of Southwest Gas Corporation (the Company) filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission are incorporated herein by reference:

- (a) Annual Report on Form 10-K for the Company's fiscal year ended December 31, 2002 and Employees' Investment Plan Annual Report on Form 11-K for the year ended December 31, 2002.
- (b) Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q for the Company's quarters ended March 31, June 30 and September 30, 2003.
- (c) Current reports on Form 8-K dated January 24, 2003, June 18, 2003, July 18, 2003, July 22, 2003, August 20, 2003, and September 18, 2003.
- (d) Description of the Company's Common Stock contained in its Registration Statement on Form 8-A filed on August 18, 2003, and any amendment or report filed for the purpose of updating such description.

All documents subsequently filed by the Company pursuant to Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 and 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the Exchange Act), prior to the filing of a post-effective amendment which indicates that all securities offered have been sold or which deregisters all securities then remaining unsold, shall be deemed to be incorporated by reference in this Registration

Item 3. Incorporation of Certain Documents by Reference

Statement and to be a part hereof from the date of filing of such documents. Any statement contained herein or in a document, all or a portion of which is incorporated or deemed to be incorporated by reference herein, shall be deemed to be modified or superseded for purposes of this Registration Statement to the extent that a statement contained herein or in any other subsequently filed document which also is or is deemed to be incorporated by reference herein modifies or supersedes such statement. Any such statement so modified or superseded shall not be deemed, except as so modified or amended, to constitute a part of this Registration Statement.

Item 4. Description of Securities

The Company's Common Stock, \$1.00 par value, (the Common Stock) is registered pursuant to Section 12 of the Exchange Act, and, therefore, the description of securities is omitted.

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Item 5. Interests of Named Experts and Counsel

Robert M. Johnson, Esq., as Assistant General Counsel for the Company, has given an opinion to the Securities and Exchange Commission upon the validity of the shares of Common Stock registered.

The consolidated financial statements, incorporated by reference in this Registration Statement have been audited by PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, independent accountants, as indicated in their reports included in the Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2002 and the Southwest Gas Corporation Employees' Investment Plan Annual Report on Form 11-K for the years ended December 31, 2002 and 2001, and are incorporated by reference herein in reliance upon the authority of said firm as experts in accounting and auditing in giving said reports.

The consolidated financial statements of Southwest Gas Corporation included in the annual report on Form 10-K as of December 31, 2001 and for each of the two years then ended incorporated by reference in this Registration Statement were audited by Arthur Andersen LLP. We have not been able to obtain, after reasonable efforts, the written consent of Arthur Andersen LLP to the incorporation by reference in this Registration Statement of the report dated February 8, 2002 of Arthur Andersen LLP on Southwest Gas Corporation's 2001 consolidated financial statements as required by the Securities Act of 1933. Therefore, in reliance on Rule 437a promulgated under the Securities Act of 1933, the Company has dispensed with the requirement to file a written consent from Arthur Andersen LLP with this Registration Statement. As a result, the ability of persons who purchase the Company's securities pursuant to this Registration Statement to assert claims against Arthur Andersen LLP may be limited.

Because the Company has not been able to obtain the written consent of Arthur Andersen LLP, such persons may not have an effective remedy against Arthur Andersen LLP for any untrue statements of a material fact contained in Arthur Andersen's report or the financial statements covered thereby or any omissions to state a material fact required to be stated therein.

Item 6. Indemnification of Directors and Officers

The Company's Articles of Incorporation contain a provision which eliminates the liability of directors for monetary damages to the fullest extent permissible under California law. The General Corporation Law of California (the Law) (i) authorizes the elimination of liability of directors for monetary damages in an action brought by a shareholder in the right of the Company or by the Company for breach of a director's duties to the Company and its shareholders and (ii) authorizes the Company to indemnify directors and officers for monetary damages for all acts or omissions committed by them in their respective capacities; provided, however, that liability is not limited nor may indemnification be provided (a) for acts or omissions that involve intentional misconduct or knowing and culpable violation of law, (b) for acts or omissions that a director or officer believes to be contrary to the best interests of the Company or its shareholders or that involve the absence of good faith on the part of a director or officer seeking indemnification, (c) for any transaction from which a director or officer derives an improper personal benefit, (d) for acts or omissions that show a reckless disregard for the director's or officer's duty to the Company or its shareholders in circumstances in which such person was aware, or should have been aware, in the ordinary course of performing his or her duties, of a risk of serious injury to the Company or its shareholders, (e) for acts or omissions that constitute an unexcused pattern of inattention that amounts to an abdication of the director's or officer's duty to the Company or its shareholders, and (f) for liabilities arising under Section 310 (contracts in which a director has a material financial interest) and Section 316 (certain unlawful dividends, distributions, loans and guarantees) of the Law. In addition, the Company may not indemnify directors and officers in circumstances in which indemnification is expressly prohibited by Section 317 of the Law.

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The bylaws of the Company provide that the Company has the power to indemnify directors and officers to the fullest extent permitted under California law and the Company's Articles of Incorporation. The Company has entered into indemnification agreements with its directors and officers which require that the Company indemnify such directors and officers in all cases to the fullest extent permitted by applicable provisions of the Law. The Company also maintains a directors and officers liability insurance policy insuring directors and officers of the Company for covered losses as defined in the policy.

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Item 7. Exemption from Registration Claimed

Not applicable.

Item 8. Exhibits

- 5.1 Opinion of Counsel of Southwest Gas Corporation regarding legality of the securities to be registered
- 23.1 Consent of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP
- 23.2 Consent of Counsel of Southwest Gas Corporation (included in opinion filed as Exhibit 5.1 to this Registration Statement)
- 24.1 Powers of Attorney

Item 9. Undertakings

The undersigned Registrant hereby undertakes:

- (1) To file, during any period in which offers or sales are being made, a post-effective amendment to this Registration Statement:
 - (i) To include any prospectus required by Section 10(a)(3) of the Securities Act of 1933, unless the information required to be included in such post-effective amendment is contained in a periodic report filed by Registrant pursuant to Section 13 or Section 15(d) of the Exchange Act and incorporated herein by reference;
 - (ii) To reflect in the prospectus any facts or events arising after the effective date of the Registration Statement (or the most recent post-effective amendment thereof) which, individually or in the aggregate, represent a fundamental change in the information set forth in this Registration Statement, unless the information required to be included in such post-effective amendment is contained in a periodic report filed by Registrant pursuant to Section 13 or Section 15(d) of the Exchange Act and incorporated herein by reference;
 - (iii) To include any material information with respect to the plan of distribution not previously disclosed in this Registration Statement or any material change to such information in this Registration Statement;
- (2) That, for the purpose of determining any liability under the Securities Act of 1933, each such post-effective amendment shall be deemed to be a new Registration Statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial bona fide offering thereof.
- (3) To remove from registration by means of a post-effective amendment any of the securities being registered which remain unsold at the termination of the offering.

The undersigned Registrant hereby further undertakes that, for purposes of determining any liability under the Securities Act of 1933, each filing of the Registrant's annual report pursuant to Section 13(a) or Section 15(d) of the Exchange Act (and each filing of the annual report of the Plan pursuant to Section 15(d) of the Exchange Act) that is incorporated by reference in the Registration Statement shall be deemed to be a new Registration Statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial bona fide offering thereof.

Item 9. Undertakings

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Insofar as indemnification for liabilities arising under the Securities Act of 1933 may be permitted to directors, officers and controlling persons of the Registrant pursuant to the foregoing provisions, or otherwise, the Registrant has been advised that in the opinion of the Securities and Exchange Commission such indemnification is against public policy as expressed in the Act and is, therefore, unenforceable. In the event that a claim for indemnification against such liabilities (other than the payment by the Registrant of expenses incurred or paid by a director, officer or controlling person of the Registrant in the successful defense of any action, suit or proceeding) is asserted by such director, officer or controlling

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person in connection with the securities being registered, the Registrant will, unless in the opinion of its counsel the matter has been settled by controlling precedent, submit to a court of appropriate jurisdiction the question whether such indemnification by it is against public policy as expressed in the Act and will be governed by the final adjudication of such issue.

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SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, the Registrant certifies that it has reasonable grounds to believe that it meets all of the requirements for filing on Form S-8 and has duly caused this Registration Statement to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized, in the City of Las Vegas, State of Nevada, on December 8, 2003.

SOUTHWEST GAS CORPORATION

By

 /s/ GEORGE C. BIEHL

George C. Biehl
Executive Vice President, Chief Financial Officer and
Corporate Secretary

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SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, this Registration Statement has been signed by the following persons in the capacities indicated.

<u>Signature</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>
<u>/s/ MICHAEL O. MAFFIE</u> (Michael O. Maffie)	Director and Chief Executive Officer (Principal Executive Officer)	December 8, 2003
<u>/s/ GEORGE C. BIEHL</u> (George C. Biehl)	Director, Executive Vice President, Chief Financial Officer and Corporate Secretary (Principal Financial Officer)	December 8, 2003
<u>/s/ ROY R. CENTRELLA</u> (Roy R. Centrella)	Vice President, Controller and Chief Accounting Officer (Principal Accounting Officer)	December 8, 2003
<u>/s/ MANUEL J. CORTEZ *</u> (Manuel J. Cortez)	Director	December 8, 2003
<u>/s/ MARK M. FELDMAN *</u> (Mark M. Feldman)	Director	December 8, 2003
<u>/s/ DAVID H. GUNNING *</u> (David H. Gunning)	Director	December 8, 2003
<u>/s/ LEROY C. HANNEMAN, JR. *</u> (LeRoy C. Hanneman, Jr.)	Director	December 8, 2003

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<u>Signature</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>
<u>/s/ THOMAS Y. HARTLEY *</u> (Thomas Y. Hartley)	Chairman of the Board of Directors	December 8, 2003
<u>/s/ MICHAEL B. JAGER *</u> (Michael B. Jager)	Director	December 8, 2003
<u>/s/ LEONARD R. JUDD *</u> (Leonard R. Judd)	Director	December 8, 2003
<u>/s/ JAMES J. KROPID *</u> (James J. Kropid)	Director	December 8, 2003
<u>/s/ CAROLYN M. SPARKS *</u> (Carolyn M. Sparks)	Director	December 8, 2003

/s/ TERRANCE L. WRIGHT *
(Terrance L. Wright)

Director

December 8, 2003

* By /s/ GEORGE C. BIEHL
(George C. Biehl)
Attorney-in-fact

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The Plan

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, the Southwest Gas Corporation Benefits Committee has duly caused this Registration Statement to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized, in the City of Las Vegas, State of Nevada, on December 8, 2003.

**SOUTHWEST GAS CORPORATION
BENEFITS COMMITTEE**

/s/ GEORGE C. BIEHL
(George C. Biehl)

/s/ JAMES P. KANE
(James P. Kane)

/s/ THOMAS R. SHEETS
(Thomas R. Sheets)

/s/ FRED W. COVER
(Fred W. Cover)

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Exhibit Index

<u>Exhibit Number</u>	<u>Description</u>
<u>5.1</u>	Opinion of Counsel of Southwest Gas Corporation regarding legality of the securities to be registered
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