WELLS WILLIAM H

Form 4

November 23, 2004

FORM 4

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

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF

SECURITIES

OMB

OMB APPROVAL

Number:

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if no longer

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

See Instruction

1(b).

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person * WELLS WILLIAM H			2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol ROWAN COMPANIES INC [RDC]	5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer		
(Last) (First) (Middle)		(Middle)	3. Date of Earliest Transaction	(Check all applicable)		
			(Month/Day/Year)	Director 10% Owner		
2800 POST OAK BLVD., SUITE 5450			11/19/2004	X Officer (give title Other (specification) below) Controller		
(Street)			4. If Amendment, Date Original	6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check		
HOUSTON, TX 77056-6127			Filed(Month/Day/Year)	Applicable Line) _X_ Form filed by One Reporting Person Form filed by More than One Reporting Person		

(City)	(State)	(Zip) Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned								
1.Title of Security (Instr. 3)	2. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	2A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year)	3. Transactic Code (Instr. 8)	4. Securiti omr Dispose (Instr. 3, 4)	ed of ((D)	5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4)	6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4)	7. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4)	
Common Stock	11/23/2004		M	15,000	A	\$ 18.25	24,970 (1)	D		
Common Stock	11/19/2004		S	14,500	D	\$ 25.4857	10,470 (1)	D		

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

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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 conf Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5)		6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year)		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
Option (Right to Buy)	\$ 18.25	11/23/2004		M		3,750	04/27/2001	04/27/2010	Common Stock	3,750
Option (Right to Buy)	\$ 18.25	11/23/2004		M		3,750	04/27/2002	04/27/2010	Common Stock	3,750
Option (Right to Buy)	\$ 18.25	11/23/2004		M		3,750	04/27/2003	04/27/2010	Common Stock	3,750
Option (Right to Buy)	\$ 18.25	11/23/2004		M		3,750	04/27/2004	04/27/2010	Common Stock	3,750

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships						
r-	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other			
WELLS WILLIAM H 2800 POST OAK BLVD. SUITE 5450 HOUSTON, TX 77056-6127			Controller				

Signatures

/s/ William H.
Wells 11/23/2004

**Signature of 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)

Reporting Owners 2

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Reflects the Reporting Person's aggregated directly-owned and indirectly-owned shares (5,845), the latter being shares in the Rowan Common Stock Fund under the Company's 401(k) plan (a unitized plan) at October 31, 2004, such number of shares, which fluctuates, being calculated as equivalent values based upon the value of the total units divided by the corresponding closing price of the underlying Rowan Common Stock on that date.

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.