

Nalco Holding CO

Form S-3ASR

December 27, 2005

As filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on December 27, 2005

Registration No. 333-

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

FORM S-3
REGISTRATION STATEMENT
UNDER
THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933

NALCO HOLDING COMPANY

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware
(State of Incorporation)

2890
(Primary Standard Industrial
Classification Code Number)

16-1701300
(I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)

1601 West Diehl Road
Naperville, Illinois 60563
(630) 305-1000

(Address, including zip code, and telephone number, including area code, of registrants' principal executive offices)

Stephen N. Landsman, Esq.
General Counsel
Nalco Holding Company
1601 West Diehl Road
Naperville, Illinois 60563
(630) 305-1000

(Name, address, including zip code, and telephone number, including area code, of agent for service)

With a copy to:

Edward P. Tolley III, Esq.
Richard A. Fenyes, Esq.
Simpson Thacher & Bartlett LLP
425 Lexington Avenue
New York, New York 10017-3954
(212) 455-2000

Approximate date of commencement of proposed sale to the public: From time to time after the effective date of this registration statement.

If the only securities being registered on this Form are being offered pursuant to dividend or interest reinvestment plans, please check the following box.

If any of the securities being registered on this Form are to be offered on a delayed or continuous basis pursuant to Rule 415 under the Securities Act of 1933, other than securities offered only in connection with dividend or interest reinvestment plan, check the following box.

If this Form is filed to register additional securities for an offering pursuant to Rule 462(b) under the Securities Act, please check the following box and list the Securities Act registration statement number of the earlier effective registration statement for the same offering. _____

If this Form is a post-effective amendment filed pursuant to Rule 462(c) under the Securities Act, check the following box and list the Securities Act registration statement number of the earlier effective registration statement for the same offering. _____

If this Form is a registration statement pursuant to General Instruction I.D. or a post-effective amendment thereto that shall become effective upon filing with the Commission pursuant to Rule 462(e) under the Securities Act, check the following box.

If this Form is a post-effective amendment to a registration statement filed pursuant to General Instruction I.D. filed to register additional securities or additional classes of securities pursuant to Rule 413(b) under the Securities Act, check the following box.

CALCULATION OF REGISTRATION FEE

Title of Each Class of Securities to be Registered	Amount to be Registered	Proposed Maximum Aggregate Offering Price Per Share	Proposed Maximum Aggregate Offering Price	Amount of Registration Fee
Common stock, par value \$0.01 per share	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)

(1) Since an unspecified amount of securities registered herein will be offered pursuant to an automatic shelf registration statement, the issuer has elected to rely on Rule 456(b) and Rule 457(r) of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, to defer payment of the registration fee.

PROSPECTUS

Nalco Holding Company

Common Stock

We and/or selling stockholders to be named in a prospectus supplement may offer and sell shares of our common stock from time to time in amounts, at prices and on terms that will be determined at the time of the offering. Each time common stock is offered, we will provide a prospectus supplement and attach it to this prospectus. The prospectus supplement will contain more specific information about the offering. The supplements may also add, update or change information contained in this prospectus. This prospectus may not be used to offer or sell securities without a prospectus supplement describing the method and terms of the offering.

You should carefully read this prospectus and any accompanying prospectus supplement, together with the documents we incorporate by reference, before you invest in our common stock.

Investing in our common stock involves risks. You should consider the risk factors described in any accompanying prospectus supplement or any of the documents we incorporate by reference.

Our common stock is listed on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol "NLC."

Neither the Securities and Exchange Commission nor any other regulatory body has approved or disapproved of these securities or passed upon the accuracy or adequacy of this prospectus. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

Prospectus dated December 27, 2005

You should rely only on information contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus and any prospectus supplement. We have not authorized anyone to provide you with different information. We are not making an offer of these securities in any state where the offer is not permitted. You should not assume that the information contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus or any prospectus supplement is accurate as of any date other than the date of the document containing the information.

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PROSPECTUS SUMMARY

This prospectus is part of a registration statement on Form S-3 that we filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission using a "shelf" registration process. Under this shelf registration process, we and/or selling stockholders to be named in a prospectus supplement may, over time, offer and sell our common stock in one or more offerings. Each time common stock is offered, we will provide a prospectus supplement and attach it to this prospectus. The prospectus supplement will contain specific information about the terms of the offering at that time. A prospectus supplement may also add, update or change information contained in this prospectus. Any statement that we make in this prospectus will be modified or superseded by any inconsistent statement made by us in a prospectus supplement. You should read both this prospectus and any accompanying prospectus supplement together with the additional information described under the heading "Incorporation of Certain Documents by Reference."

All references in this prospectus to "we," "our" and "us" refer collectively to Nalco Holding Company and its subsidiaries and affiliates on a consolidated basis.

Our Company

We are the leading global provider of integrated water treatment and process improvement services, chemicals and equipment programs for industrial and institutional applications. We are organized into three primary divisions which correspond to the end markets we serve: Industrial and Institutional Services, Energy Services and Paper Services. Our products and services are typically used in water treatment applications to prevent corrosion, contamination and the buildup of harmful deposits, or in production processes to enhance process efficiency and improve our customers' end products.

Through our sales, research and marketing team of more than 6,500 technically trained professionals, we serve more than 60,000 customer locations. We focus on providing our customers with technologically advanced engineered solutions and services. These technologically advanced engineered solutions and services enable our customers to improve their business by increasing production yields, lowering manufacturing costs, extending asset lives and maintaining environmental standards. The cost of our technologically advanced engineering solutions and services represents a small share of our customers' overall production expense. We offer more than 5,000 products and 3,100 unique formulations.

Industrial and Institutional Services

Our Industrial and Institutional Services division provides products and services that are principally utilized in water treatment applications such as raw water treatment, wastewater treatment, cooling programs and boiler treatment programs to control corrosion, the build up of scale and microbial fouling. Customers use our water treatment programs to extend the useful life of their assets, minimize downtime of their facilities and conserve water and energy. We serve companies across a broad spectrum of industries, including aerospace, chemical, pharmaceutical, steel, power, food and beverage, medium and light manufacturing, metalworking and institutions such as hospitals, universities and hotels.

Energy Services

Our Energy Services division provides on-site, technology driven solutions to the global natural gas, petroleum and petrochemical industries. In addition to recovery, production and process enhancements, we deliver a full range of water treatment offerings to refineries and petrochemical plants. Our upstream process applications improve oil and

gas recovery and production, extend production equipment life and decrease operating costs through services that include scale, paraffin and corrosion control, oil and water separation and gas hydrate management solutions. Our downstream process applications increase refinery and petrochemical plant efficiency and the useful lives of customer assets, while improving refined and petrochemical product quality and yields.

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Paper Services

Our Paper Services division offers a comprehensive portfolio of programs that are used in all principal steps of the paper-making process and across all grades of paper, including printing and writing, board and packaging, tissue and towel and mechanical papers. Our customers include the 20 largest paper companies in the world.

Risk Factors

Investing in our common stock involves substantial risk. You should carefully consider all the information in or incorporated by reference in this prospectus and any accompanying prospectus supplement prior to investing in our common stock. In particular, we urge you to consider carefully the factors set forth under the heading "Risk Factors."

Nalco Holding Company was incorporated in the State of Delaware in June 2004. Our principal executive offices are located at 1601 West Diehl Road, Naperville, Illinois 60563. Our main telephone number is (630) 305-1000. Our Internet address is www.nalco.com. Information contained on our website or that can be accessed through our website is not incorporated by reference in this prospectus and you should not rely on that information.

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SPECIAL NOTE REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This prospectus, any prospectus supplement and the documents incorporated by reference herein include "forward-looking statements." These forward-looking statements include statements concerning our plans, objectives, goals, strategies, future events, future revenue or performance, capital expenditures, financing needs, plans or intentions relating to acquisitions, business trends and other information that is not historical information. When used in this prospectus and the documents incorporated by reference herein, the words "estimates," "expects," "anticipates," "projects," "plans," "intends," "believes," "forecasts," or future or conditional verbs, such as "will," "should," "could" or "may," and variations of such words or similar expressions are intended to identify forward-looking statements. All forward-looking statements, including, without limitation, management's examination of historical operating trends and data, are based upon our current expectations and various assumptions. Our expectations, beliefs and projections are expressed in good faith and we believe there is a reasonable basis for them. However, there can be no assurance that management's expectations, beliefs and projections will be achieved.

There are a number of risks and uncertainties that could cause our actual results to differ materially from the

forward-looking statements contained in this prospectus, any prospectus supplement and the documents incorporated by reference herein. Important factors that could cause our actual results to differ materially from the forward-looking statements we make in this prospectus or any prospectus supplement are set forth or incorporated by reference in this prospectus.

All forward-looking statements attributable to us or persons acting on our behalf apply only as of the date such statements are made and are expressly qualified in their entirety by the cautionary statements included in this prospectus. We undertake no obligation to update or revise forward-looking statements which may be made to reflect events or circumstances that arise after the date made or to reflect the occurrence of unanticipated events.

USE OF PROCEEDS

We intend to use the net proceeds from the sales of our common stock as set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement. We will not receive any proceeds from the sale of any shares of common stock offered by selling stockholders.

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DESCRIPTION OF CAPITAL STOCK

The following is a description of the material terms of our amended and restated certificate of incorporation and bylaws. We refer you to our amended and restated certificate of incorporation and bylaws, copies of which are incorporated by reference into this registration statement of which this prospectus forms a part.

Authorized Capitalization

As of December 1, 2005, our authorized capital stock consisted of (i) 500,000,000 shares of common stock, par value \$0.01 per share, and (ii) 100,000,000 shares of preferred stock, par value \$0.01 per share.

Common Stock

Voting Rights. Holders of common stock are entitled to one vote per share on all matters to be voted upon by the stockholders. The holders of common stock do not have cumulative voting rights in the election of directors.

Dividend Rights. Holders of common stock are entitled to receive ratably dividends if, as and when dividends are declared from time to time by our board of directors out of funds legally available for that purpose, after payment of dividends required to be paid on outstanding preferred stock, as described below, if any. Our senior credit facilities and indentures impose restrictions on our ability to declare dividends with respect to our common stock.

Liquidation Rights. Upon liquidation, dissolution or winding up, the holders of common stock are entitled to receive ratably the assets available for distribution to the stockholders after payment of liabilities and accrued but unpaid dividends and liquidation preferences on any outstanding preferred stock.

Other Matters. The common stock has no preemptive or conversion rights and, if fully paid, is not subject to further calls or assessment by us. There are no redemption or sinking fund provisions applicable to the common stock. All outstanding shares of our common stock are fully paid and non-assessable, and the shares of our common stock offered in this offering, upon payment and delivery in accordance with the underwriting agreement, will be fully paid

and non-assessable.

Preferred Stock

Our amended and restated certificate of incorporation authorizes our board of directors to establish one or more series of preferred stock and to determine, with respect to any series of preferred stock, the terms and rights of that series, including:

- the designation of the series;
- the number of shares of the series;
- the preferences and relative, participating, option or other special rights, if any, and any qualifications, limitations or restrictions of such series; and
- the voting rights, if any, of the holders of the series.

Anti-Takeover Effects of Certain Provisions of Delaware Law and Our Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation and Bylaws

Certain provisions of our amended and restated certificate of incorporation and bylaws, which are summarized in the following paragraphs, may have an anti-takeover effect and may delay, defer or prevent a tender offer or takeover attempt that a stockholder might consider in its best interest, including those attempts that might result in a premium over the market price for the shares held by stockholders.

The Delaware General Corporation Law

Our company is a Delaware corporation subject to Section 203 of the Delaware General Corporation Law. Section 203 provides that, subject to exceptions specified in the law, a Delaware

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corporation shall not engage in "business combinations" with any "interested stockholder" for a three-year period following the time that the stockholder became an interested stockholder unless:

- the corporation has elected in its certificate of incorporation not to be governed by Section 203, which we have not done;
- prior to that time, the board of directors of the corporation approved either the business combination or the transaction which resulted in the stockholder becoming an interested stockholder;
- upon consummation of the transaction which resulted in the stockholder becoming an interested stockholder, the interested stockholder owned at least 85% of the voting stock of the corporation outstanding at the time the transaction commenced, excluding specified shares; or
- at or subsequent to that time, the business combination is approved by the board of directors of the corporation and by the affirmative vote of at least 66 2/3% of the outstanding voting stock which is not owned by the interested stockholder.

The three-year prohibition also does not apply to business combinations proposed by an interested stockholder following the announcement or notification of extraordinary transactions involving the corporation and a person who had not been an interested stockholder during the previous three years or who became an interested stockholder with the approval of a majority of the corporation's directors. The term "business combination" is defined generally to

include mergers or consolidations between a Delaware corporation and an "interested stockholder," transactions with an "interested stockholder" involving the assets or stock of the corporation or its majority-owned subsidiaries and transactions which increase an interested stockholder's percentage ownership of stock.

The term "interested stockholder" is defined to include any person, other than the corporation and any direct or indirect majority-owned subsidiary of the corporation, that is the owner of 15% or more of the outstanding voting stock of the corporation, or is an affiliate or associate of the corporation and was the owner of 15% or more of the outstanding voting stock of the corporation, at any time within three years immediately prior to the relevant date, or the affiliates and associates of any such person.

Section 203 makes it more difficult for a person who would be an "interested stockholder" to effect various business combinations with a corporation for a three-year period. The provisions of Section 203 may encourage companies interested in acquiring our company to negotiate in advance with our board of directors, because the stockholder approval requirement would be avoided if our board of directors approves either the business combination or the transaction which results in the stockholder becoming an interested stockholder. These provisions also may have the effect of preventing changes in our board of directors and may make it more difficult to accomplish transactions which stockholders may otherwise deem to be in their best interests.

Classified Board

Our amended and restated certificate of incorporation provides that our board of directors will be divided into three classes of directors, with the classes to be as nearly equal in number as possible. As a result, approximately one-third of our board of directors will be elected each year. The classification of directors will have the effect of making it more difficult for stockholders to change the composition of our board. Our amended and restated certificate of incorporation and the bylaws provide that the number of directors will be fixed from time to time exclusively pursuant to a resolution adopted by the board, but must consist of not less than three or more than fifteen directors. Our board of directors is currently fixed at nine members.

Removal of Directors; Vacancies

Under the Delaware General Corporation Law ("DGCL"), unless otherwise provided in our amended and restated certificate of incorporation, directors serving on a classified board may be removed by the stockholders only for cause. Our amended and restated certificate of incorporation and bylaws provide that unless otherwise provided in our stockholders agreement, directors may be

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removed only for cause and only upon the affirmative vote of holders of at least 80% of the voting power of all the then outstanding shares of stock entitled to vote generally in the election of directors, voting together as a single class. In addition, our amended and restated certificate of incorporation and bylaws also provide that unless otherwise provided in the stockholders agreement, any vacancies on our board of directors will be filled only by the affirmative vote of a majority of the remaining directors, although less than a quorum.

No Cumulative Voting

The DGCL provides that stockholders are not entitled to the right to cumulate votes in the election of directors unless our amended and restated certificate of incorporation provides otherwise. Our amended and restated certificate of

incorporation does not expressly provide for cumulative voting.

No Stockholder Action by Written Consent; Calling of Special Meetings of Stockholders

Our amended and restated certificate of incorporation prohibits stockholder action by written consent. It also provides that special meetings of our stockholders may be called only by the chairman of our board, the chief executive officer or secretary at the direction of the board of directors.

Advance Notice Requirements for Stockholder Proposals and Director Nominations

Our bylaws provide that stockholders seeking to nominate candidates for election as directors or to bring business before an annual meeting of stockholders must provide timely notice of their proposal in writing to the corporate secretary.

Generally, to be timely, a stockholder's notice must be received at our principal executive offices not less than 90 days nor more than 120 days prior to the first anniversary date of the previous year's annual meeting. Our bylaws also specify requirements as to the form and content of a stockholder's notice. These provisions may impede stockholders' ability to bring matters before an annual meeting of stockholders or make nominations for directors at an annual meeting of stockholders.

Supermajority Provisions

The DGCL provides generally that the affirmative vote of a majority of the outstanding shares entitled to vote is required to amend a corporation's certificate of incorporation or bylaws, unless the certificate of incorporation requires a greater percentage. Our amended and restated certificate of incorporation provides that the following provisions in the amended and restated certificate of incorporation and bylaws may be amended only by a vote of at least 80% of the voting power of all of the outstanding shares of our stock entitled to vote:

- classified board (the election and term of our directors);
- the removal of directors;
- limited liability of directors;
- indemnification and advancement of expenses by us to our directors, officers, employees or agents;
- the prohibition on stockholder action by written consent;
- the ability to call a special meeting of stockholders being vested solely in our board of directors and the chairman of our board;
- the advance notice requirements for stockholder proposals and director nominations; and
- the amendment provision requiring that the above provisions be amended only with an 80% supermajority vote.

In addition, our amended and restated certificate of incorporation grants our board of directors the authority to amend and repeal our bylaws without a stockholder vote in any manner not inconsistent with the laws of the State of Delaware or our amended and restated certificate of incorporation.

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The DGCL authorizes corporations to limit or eliminate the personal liability of directors to corporations and their stockholders for monetary damages for breaches of directors' fiduciary duties. Our amended and restated certificate of incorporation includes a provision that eliminates the personal liability of directors for monetary damages for actions taken as a director, except for liability:

- for breach of duty of loyalty;
- for acts or omissions not in good faith or involving intentional misconduct or knowing violation of law;
- under Section 174 of the DGCL (unlawful dividends); or
- for transactions from which the director derived improper personal benefit.

Our amended and restated certificate of incorporation and bylaws provide that we must indemnify our directors and officers to the fullest extent authorized by the DGCL. We are also expressly authorized to advance certain expenses (including attorneys fees and disbursements and court costs) to our directors and officers and carry directors' and officers' insurance providing insurance for our directors, officers and certain employees for some liabilities. We believe that these indemnification provisions and insurance are useful to attract and retain qualified directors and executive officers.

The limitation of liability and indemnification provisions in our amended and restated certificate of incorporation and bylaws may discourage stockholders from bringing a lawsuit against directors for breach of their fiduciary duty. These provisions may also have the effect of reducing the likelihood of derivative litigation against directors and officers, even though such an action, if successful, might otherwise benefit us and our stockholders. In addition, your investment may be adversely affected to the extent we pay the costs of settlement and damage awards against directors and officers pursuant to these indemnification provisions.

There is currently no pending material litigation or proceeding involving any of our directors, officers or employees for which indemnification is sought.

Transfer Agent and Registrar

EquiServe Trust Company, N.A. is the transfer agent and registrar for our common stock.

Listing

Our common stock is listed on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol "NLC."

Authorized but Unissued Capital Stock

The DGCL does not require stockholder approval for any issuance of authorized shares. However, the listing requirements of the New York Stock Exchange, which would apply so long as our common stock is listed on the New York Stock Exchange, require stockholder approval of certain issuances equal to or exceeding 20% of the then-outstanding voting power or then outstanding number of shares of common stock. These additional shares may be used for a variety of corporate purposes, including future public offerings, to raise additional capital or to facilitate acquisitions.

One of the effects of the existence of unissued and unreserved common stock may be to enable our board of directors to issue shares to persons friendly to current management, which issuance could render more difficult or discourage an attempt to obtain control of our company by means of a merger, tender offer, proxy contest or otherwise, and thereby protect the continuity of our management and possibly deprive the stockholders of opportunities to sell their shares of common stock at prices higher than prevailing market prices.

VALIDITY OF THE SHARES

The validity of the issuance of the shares of common stock will be passed upon for us by Simpson Thacher & Bartlett LLP, New York, New York. An investment vehicle comprised of selected partners of Simpson Thacher & Bartlett LLP, members of their families, related parties and others owns an interest representing less than 1% of the capital commitments of funds controlled by one of our large shareholders, The Blackstone Group.

EXPERTS

The consolidated financial statements of Nalco Holding Company at December 31, 2004 and December 31, 2003 and for the year ended December 31, 2004 and for the period from November 4, 2003 through December 31, 2003 (Successor) and the combined financial statements of Ondeo Nalco Group for the year ended December 31, 2002 and for the period from January 1, 2003 through November 3, 2003 (Predecessor), incorporated by reference in this prospectus and registration statement have been audited by Ernst & Young LLP, independent registered public accounting firm, as set forth in their reports thereon, and are incorporated by reference in reliance upon such reports given on the authority of such firm as experts in accounting and auditing.

AVAILABLE INFORMATION

We are required to file annual, quarterly and current reports, proxy statements and other information with the SEC. You may read and copy any documents filed by us at the SEC's public reference room at 100 F Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20549. Please call the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330 for further information on the public reference room. Our filings with the SEC are also available to the public through the SEC's Internet site at <http://www.sec.gov> and through the New York Stock Exchange, 20 Broad Street, New York, New York 10005, on which our common stock is listed.

We have filed with the SEC a registration statement on Form S-3 relating to the securities covered by this prospectus. This prospectus is a part of the registration statement and does not contain all the information in the registration statement. Whenever a reference is made in this prospectus to a contract or other document of the Company, the reference is only a summary and you should refer to the exhibits that are a part of the registration statement for a copy of the contract or other document. You may review a copy of the registration statement at the SEC's public reference room in Washington, D.C., as well as through the SEC's Internet site.

INCORPORATION OF CERTAIN DOCUMENTS BY REFERENCE

The SEC allows us to "incorporate by reference" the information contained in documents that we file with them, which means that we can disclose important information to you by referring you to those documents. The information incorporated by reference is considered to be part of this prospectus and any prospectus supplement. Information in this prospectus supersedes information incorporated by reference that we filed with the SEC prior to the date of this prospectus, while information that we file later with the SEC will automatically update and supersede this information. We incorporate by reference the documents listed below and any future filings we will make with the SEC under Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934.

- Our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2004;

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- Our Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q for the quarters ended March 31, 2005, June 30, 2005 and September 30, 2005;
- Our Current Reports on Form 8-K filed on January 11, 2005, February 22, 2005, March 1, 2005, May 5, 2005, May 10, 2005, May 11, 2005, May 27, 2005, June 10, 2005, June 30, 2005, August 12, 2005, August 23, 2005, September 1, 2005, September 21, 2005, September 22, 2005, September 27, 2005, October 4, 2005, October 27, 2005, November 15, 2005 and December 8, 2005; and
- All documents filed by us under Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 on or after the date of this prospectus and before the termination of this offering.

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You can request a copy of these filings at no cost, by writing or calling us at the following address:

Nalco Holding Company
1601 West Diehl Road
Naperville, IL 60563
(630) 305-1000
Attention: Corporate Secretary

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Nalco Holding Company

Common Stock

PART II

INFORMATION NOT REQUIRED IN PROSPECTUS

Item 14. Other Expenses of Issuance and Distribution.

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The following table sets forth the estimated costs and expenses payable in connection with the distribution of the securities being registered. All amounts are estimated. The SEC registration fee will be calculated and paid in accordance with Rule 457(r) of the Securities Act.

Printing and Engraving Expenses	\$ 5,000
Legal Fees	60,000
Accounting Fees	5,000
Miscellaneous Expenses	1,000
Total	\$ 71,000

Item 15. Indemnification of Directors and Officers.

As permitted by Section 102 of the Delaware General Corporation Law, or the DGCL, our amended and restated certificate of incorporation includes a provision that eliminates the personal liability of our directors for monetary damages for breach of fiduciary duty as a director.

Our amended and restated certificate of incorporation and bylaws also provide that:

- we must indemnify our directors and officers to the fullest extent permitted by Delaware law;
- we may advance expenses, as incurred, to our directors and executive officers in connection with a legal proceeding to the fullest extent permitted by Delaware Law; and
- we may indemnify our other employees and agents to the same extent that we indemnified our officers and directors, unless otherwise determined by our board of directors.

Pursuant to Section 145(a) of the DGCL, we may indemnify any person who was or is a party or is threatened to be made a party to any threatened, pending or completed action, suit or proceeding (other than an action by or in the right of the corporation) by reason of the fact that the person is or was a director, officer, agent or employee of our company or is or was serving at our request as a director, officer, agent, or employee of another corporation, partnership, joint venture, trust or other enterprise, against expenses, including attorneys' fees, judgment, fines and amounts paid in settlement actually and reasonably incurred by the person in connection with such action, suit or proceeding. Pursuant to Section 145(b) of the DGCL, the power to indemnify also applies to actions brought by or in the right of the corporation as well, but only to the extent of defense expenses (including attorneys' fees) actually and reasonably incurred by the person in connection with the defense or settlement of such action or suit. Pursuant to Section 145(b), we shall not indemnify any person in respect of any claim, issue or matter as to which such person shall have been adjudged to be liable to us unless and only to the extent that the Court of Chancery or the court in which such action or suit was brought shall determine upon application that, despite the adjudication of liability but in view of all the circumstances of the case, such person is fairly and reasonably entitled to indemnity for such expenses which the Court of Chancery or such other court shall deem proper. The power to indemnify under Sections 145(a) and (b) of the DGCL applies (i) if such person is successful on the merits or otherwise in defense of any action, suit or proceeding, or (ii) if such person acted in good faith and in a manner he reasonably believed to be in the best interest, or not opposed to the best interest, of the corporation, and with respect to any criminal action or proceeding, had no reasonable cause to believe his conduct was unlawful.

Section 174 of the DGCL provides, among other things, that a director, who willfully or negligently approves of an unlawful payment of dividends or an unlawful stock purchase or redemption, may be held liable for such actions. A director who was either absent when the unlawful actions were approved or dissented at the time, may avoid liability by causing his or her dissent to such actions to be entered in the books containing the minutes of the meetings of the board of directors at the time such action occurred or immediately after such absent director receives notice of the unlawful acts.

The indemnification provisions contained in our amended and restated certificate of incorporation and bylaws are not exclusive of any other rights to which a person may be entitled by law, agreement, vote of stockholders or disinterested directors or otherwise. In addition, we maintain insurance on behalf of our directors and executive officers insuring them against any liability asserted against them in their capacities as directors or officers or arising out of such status.

Item 16. Exhibits

A list of exhibits filed with this registration statement on Form S-3 is set forth in the Exhibit Index and is incorporated into this Item 16 by reference.

Item 17. Undertakings

The undersigned Registrant hereby undertakes:

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;
- (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 the registration statement. Notwithstanding the foregoing, any increase or decrease in volume of securities offered (if the total dollar value of securities offered would not exceed that which was registered) and any deviation from the low or high end of the estimated maximum offering range may be reflected in the form of prospectus filed with the Commission pursuant to Rule 424(b) if, in the aggregate, the changes in volume and price represent no more than 20 percent change in the maximum aggregate offering price set forth in the "Calculation of Registration Fee" table in the effective registration statement; and
- (iii) to include any material information with respect to the plan of distribution not previously disclosed in the registration statement or any material change to such information in the registration statement;

provided, however, that paragraphs (i), (ii) and (iii) do not apply if the information required to be included in a post-effective amendment by those paragraphs is contained in reports filed with or furnished to the Commission by the Registrant pursuant to Section 13 or Section 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 that are incorporated by reference in the registration statement, or is contained in a form of prospectus filed pursuant to Rule 424(b) that is part of the registration statement.

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.

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.

That, for the purpose of determining liability under the Securities Act of 1933 to any purchaser:

- (A) Each prospectus filed by a Registrant pursuant to Rule 424(b)(3) shall be deemed to be part of the registration statement as of the date the filed prospectus was deemed part of and included in the registration statement; and
- (B) Each prospectus required to be filed pursuant to Rule 424(b)(2), (b)(5) or (b)(7) as part of a registration statement in reliance on Rule 430B relating to an offering made pursuant to Rule 415(a)(1)(i), (vii) or (x) for the purpose of providing the information required by Section 10(a) of the Securities Act of 1933 shall be deemed to be part of and included in the registration statement as of the earlier of the date such form of prospectus is first used after effectiveness or the date of the first contract of sale of securities in the offering described in

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the prospectus. As provided in Rule 430B, for liability purposes of the issuer and any person that is at that date an underwriter, such date shall be deemed to be a new effective date of the registration statement relating to the securities in the registration statement to which the prospectus relates, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial bona fide offering thereof. Provided, however, that no statement made in a registration statement or prospectus that is part of the registration statement or made in a document incorporated or deemed incorporated by reference into the registration statement or prospectus that is part of the registration statement will, as to a purchaser with a time of contract of sale prior to such effective date, supersede or modify any statement that was made in the registration statement or prospectus that was part of the registration statement or made in any such document immediately prior to such effective date.

That, for the purpose of determining liability of a Registrant under the Securities Act of 1933 to any purchaser in the initial distribution of the securities, each undersigned Registrant undertakes that in a primary offering of securities of an undersigned Registrant pursuant to this registration statement, regardless of the underwriting method used to sell the securities to the purchaser, if the securities are offered or sold to such purchaser by means of any of the following communications, the undersigned Registrant will be a seller to the purchaser and will be considered to offer or sell such securities to such purchaser:

- (i) Any preliminary prospectus or prospectus of an undersigned Registrant relating to the offering required to be filed pursuant to Rule 424;
- (ii) Any free writing prospectus relating to the offering prepared by or on behalf of an undersigned Registrant or used or referred to by an undersigned Registrant;
- (iii) The portion of any other free writing prospectus relating to the offering containing material information about an undersigned Registrant or its securities provided by or on behalf of an undersigned Registrant; and
- (iv) Any other communication that is an offer in the offering made by an undersigned Registrant to the purchaser.

That, for purposes of determining any liability under the Securities Act of 1933, each filing of Registrant's annual report pursuant to Section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (and, where applicable, each filing of an employee benefit plan's annual report pursuant to Section 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934) 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.

Insofar as indemnification for liabilities arising under the Securities Act of 1933 may be permitted to directors, officers and controlling persons of each Registrant pursuant to the foregoing provisions, or otherwise, each Registrant has been advised that in the opinion of the Securities and Exchange Commission such indemnification is against public policy as expressed in the Securities Act of 1933 and is, therefore, unenforceable. In the event that a claim for indemnification against such liabilities (other than the payment by a Registrant of expenses incurred or paid by a director, officer or controlling person of a Registrant in the successful defense of any action, suit or proceeding) is asserted by such director, officer or controlling person in connection with the securities being registered, that Registrant will, unless in the opinion of its counsel the 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 Securities Act of 1933 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 has duly caused this registration statement to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized, in the city of Naperville, State of Illinois, on December 27, 2005.

NALCO HOLDING COMPANY

By: /s/ William H. Joyce
Name: William H. Joyce
Title: Chairman and Chief Executive Officer

We, the undersigned officers and directors of Nalco Holding Company, hereby severally constitute and appoint Bradley J. Bell, Stephen N. Landsman and Michael P. Murphy, and each of them acting alone, our true and lawful attorneys-in-fact and agents, with full power of substitution and resubstitution in each of them for him and in his name, place and stead, and in any and all capacities, to sign any and all amendments (including post-effective amendments) to this registration statement and to file the same, with all exhibits thereto and other documents in connection therewith, with the Securities and Exchange Commission and any applicable securities exchange or securities self-regulatory body, granting unto said attorneys-in-fact and agents, and each of them, full power and authority to do and perform each and every act and thing requisite or necessary to be done in and about the premises, as fully to all intents and purposes as he might or could do in person, hereby ratifying and confirming all that said attorneys-in-fact and agents or any of them or their or his substitute or substitutes may lawfully do or cause to be done by virtue hereof.

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, this registration statement has been signed by the following persons in the capacities indicated on December 27, 2005.

Signature

Title

/s/ William H. Joyce

William H. Joyce

Chairman and Chief Executive Officer
(Principal Executive Officer)

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<u>/s/ Bradley J. Bell</u> Bradley J. Bell	Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer (Principal Financial Officer)
<u>/s/ Frederic Jung</u> Frederic Jung	Controller (Principal Accounting Officer)
<u>/s/ Chinh E. Chu</u> Chinh E. Chu	Director
<u>/s/ Joshua J. Harris</u> Joshua J. Harris	Director
<u>/s/ Sanjeev K. Mehra</u> Sanjeev K. Mehra	Director
<u>/s/ Paul H. O'Neill</u> Paul H. O'Neill	Director
<u>/s/ Douglas A. Pertz</u> Douglas A. Pertz	Director
<u>/s/ Daniel S. Sanders</u> Daniel S. Sanders	Director
<u>/s/ Richard B. Marchese</u> Richard B. Marchese	Director
<u>/s/ Rodney F. Chase</u> Rodney F. Chase	Director

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EXHIBIT INDEX

Exhibit No.	Description of Exhibit
1.1*	Form of Underwriting Agreement
3.1 ⁽²⁾	Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation of Nalco Holding Company
3.2 ⁽²⁾	Amended and Restated Bylaws of Nalco Holding Company
4.1 ⁽¹⁾	Form of certificate of Nalco Holding Company common stock
5.1	Opinion of Simpson Thacher & Bartlett LLP
23.1	Consent of Ernst & Young LLP
23.2	Consent of Simpson Thacher & Bartlett LLP (included as part of its opinion filed as Exhibit 5.1 hereto)
24	Powers of Attorney (included on the signature page of this registration statement)

*To be filed by amendment or as an exhibit to a document to be incorporated by reference herein if the common stock is sold through one or more underwriters.

⁽¹⁾Incorporated by reference to Amendment No. 2 to the Registration Statement on Form S-1 of Nalco Holding Company (File No. 333-118583) filed on October 13, 2004.

⁽²⁾Incorporated by reference to the Current Report on Form 8-K of Nalco Holding Company (File No. 001-32342) filed on November 18, 2004.
