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HERCULES INC
Form DEFA14A
April 11, 2001

UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
WASHINGTON D.C. 20549

SCHEDULE 14A
(RULE 14A-101)
INFORMATION REQUIRED IN PROXY STATEMENT

SCHEDULE 14A INFORMATION

PROXY STATEMENT PURSUANT TO SECTION 14(A) OF THE SECURITIES
EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

Filed by the Registrant
Filed by a Party other than the Registrant

Check the appropriate box:

- Preliminary Proxy Statement
 CONFIDENTIAL, FOR USE OF THE COMMISSION ONLY (AS PERMITTED BY RULE
14A-6(E)(2))
 Definitive Proxy Statement
 Definitive Additional Materials
 Soliciting Material Pursuant to Rule 14a-12

Hercules Incorporated

(Name of Registrant as Specified In Its Charter)

N/A

(Name of Person(s) Filing Proxy Statement, if other than the Registrant)

Payment of Filing Fee (Check the appropriate box):

- No fee required.
 Fee computed on table below per Exchange Act Rules 14a-6(i)(4) and 0-11.

1) Title of each class of securities to which transaction applies:

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1) Amount Previously Paid:

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HERCULES WINS U.S. COURT REVERSAL
ON ENVIRONMENTAL CLEAN-UP COSTS

Wilmington, DE, April 10, 2001 ... Hercules Incorporated (NYSE: HPC) announced today that the United States Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit has reversed an earlier District Court judgment that held the Company liable for approximately \$100 million in remediation costs at a Jacksonville, Arkansas site. In vacating the judgment, the Appeals Court remanded the case back to the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Arkansas to determine the extent, if any, of the Company's responsibility.

"We are extremely pleased with today's ruling," said Israel J. Floyd, executive vice president and general counsel for Hercules Incorporated. "We believe strongly that Hercules should not be held jointly and severally liable for the costs at issue. We look forward to presenting evidence showing that the costs were unrelated to our actions."

Floyd added, "The Court of Appeals essentially agreed with arguments that Hercules has pressed unsuccessfully in the District Court for over eight years."

Hercules manufactures and markets chemical specialties globally for making a variety of products for home, office and industrial markets. For more information, visit the Hercules website at www.herc.com.

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This news release includes forward-looking statements, as defined in the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995, reflecting management's current analysis and expectations, based on reasonable assumptions. Results could differ materially depending on such factors as business climate, economic and competitive uncertainties, failure to complete transactions adverse legal and regulatory developments, and adverse changes in economic and political climates around the world. As appropriate, additional factors are contained in reports filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission. Readers are cautioned not to place undue reliance on these forward-looking statements, which speak only as of the date of this press release. This paragraph is included to provide safe harbor for forward-looking statements, which are not required to be publicly revised as circumstances change.

Hercules filed a preliminary proxy statement with the United States Securities and Exchange Commission on March 12, 2001, as amended on March 16, 2001, March 26, 2001, and April 4, 2001, in connection with its 2001 annual meeting of shareholders. Information regarding the identity of the persons who may, under SEC rules, be deemed to be participants in the solicitation of Hercules shareholders for the 2001 annual meeting, and their interests in the solicitations, are set forth in the preliminary proxy statement. Hercules will be filing a definitive proxy statement and other relevant documents. WE URGE INVESTORS TO READ THE DEFINITIVE PROXY STATEMENT AND ANY OTHER RELEVANT DOCUMENTS TO BE FILED WITH THE SEC BECAUSE THEY WILL CONTAIN IMPORTANT INFORMATION. Security holders may obtain a free copy of the proxy statement and other related documents filed by Hercules at the Commission's website at www.sec.gov or at the Commission's public reference room located at 450 Fifth Street, NW, Washington D.C 20549 or at one of the Commission's other public reference rooms in New York, New York and Chicago, Illinois. Please call the Commission at 1-800-SEC-0330 for further information on the public reference rooms. When available, the definitive proxy statement and the other documents may also be obtained from Hercules by contacting Hercules Incorporated, Attention: Allen Spizzo, Hercules Plaza, 1313 North Market Street, Wilmington, DE 19894-0001.

Investor Contact: Allen A. Spizzo (302) 594-6491
Media Contact: John S. Riley (302) 594-5252