

MARATHON OIL CORP

Form 425

March 19, 2004

Filed by Marathon Oil Corporation
Pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act of 1933

Subject Company: Ashland Inc.
Commission File No.: 001-02918

Additional Information

Marathon Oil Corporation, Ashland Inc., New EXM Inc. and ATB Holdings Inc. will file a proxy statement/prospectus with the Securities and Exchange Commission in connection with the proposed transfer to Marathon by Ashland of its interest in Marathon Ashland Petroleum LLC and other related businesses. **Investors and security holders are urged to read that document, when it becomes available, because it will contain important information.** Investors and security holders may obtain a free copy of that document (when it is available) and other documents filed by Marathon, Ashland, New EXM Inc. and ATB Holdings Inc. with the SEC at the SEC's web site at www.sec.gov. The proxy statement/prospectus and other documents filed by Marathon may also be obtained for free from Marathon by calling Investor Relations at 713-296-4171.

Forward-Looking Statements

The enclosed materials contain forward-looking statements within the meaning of the "safe harbor" provisions of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. These statements are based on management's current expectations and beliefs and are subject to a number of factors and uncertainties that could cause actual results to differ materially from those described in the forward-looking statements. The forward-looking statements contained in the enclosed materials include statements about the proposed acquisition by Marathon of Ashland Inc.'s 38 percent interest in Marathon Ashland Petroleum LLC and other related businesses, the anticipated effects of the acquisition on earnings per share and cash flow, an offering of Marathon common stock, the estimated impact of the proposed acquisition and anticipated offering on Marathon's cash-adjusted debt-to-capital ratio, and a projection of capital employed by business segment. Some factors that could affect the acquisition and the anticipated financial effects include a favorable tax ruling from the U.S. Internal Revenue Service, opinions of outside tax counsel, Ashland shareholder approval, Ashland public debt holder consents, the expiration or termination of any applicable waiting period under the Hart-Scott-Rodino Act, and updated Ashland solvency opinions. These factors, among others, could cause actual results to differ materially from those set forth in the forward-looking statements. Marathon Oil Corporation has included in its Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2003, cautionary language identifying other important factors, though not necessarily all such factors, that could cause future outcomes to differ materially from those set forth in the forward-looking statements.

This filing contains the text from the slides used in Marathon's conference call and Web cast with security analysts on March 19, 2004, announcing Marathon's proposed acquisition of Ashland Inc.'s 38 percent interest in Marathon Ashland Petroleum LLC. This information is being filed pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act of 1933.
