

NOBLE ENERGY INC  
Form 425  
December 16, 2004

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# SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

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## FORM 8-K

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**CURRENT REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(D)  
OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934**

**DATE OF REPORT (DATE OF EARLIEST EVENT REPORTED)**

**December 16, 2004**

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## PATINA OIL & GAS CORPORATION

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

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**Delaware**  
(State or other jurisdiction of  
incorporation or organization)

**1-14344**  
(Commission File Number)

**75-2629477**  
(IRS Employer  
Identification No.)

**1625 Broadway, Suite 2000**  
**Denver, Colorado**  
(Address of principal executive offices)

**80202**  
(zip code)

**Registrant's telephone number, including area code (303) 389-3600**

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Check the appropriate box below if the Form 8-K filing is intended to simultaneously satisfy the filing obligation of the registrant under any of the following provisions (see General Instruction A.2. below):

- Written communications pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act (17 CFR 230.425)
  - Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14a-12)
  - Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d-2(b) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14d-2(b))
  - Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13e-4(c) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.13e-4(c))
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**ITEM 8.01 REGULATION FD DISCLOSURE AND OTHER EVENTS.**

On December 16, 2004, Patina Oil & Gas Corporation (the Company) issued a press release announcing the Company's entry into a definitive agreement and plan of merger by and among Noble Energy, Inc., Noble Energy Production, Inc. and the Company, a copy of which press release is attached as Exhibit 99.1.

**ITEM 9.01. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND EXHIBITS.**

(c) Exhibits.

99.1 Press release dated December 16, 2004

**SIGNATURES**

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the Registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned hereunto duly authorized.

PATINA OIL & GAS CORPORATION

By: /s/ **DAVID J. KORNDER**

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**David J. Kornder**  
**Executive Vice President and**  
**Chief Financial Officer**

Date: December 16, 2004

**Exhibit Index**

<b><u>Exhibit Number</u></b>	<b><u>Description</u></b>
99.1	Press Release dated December 16, 2004