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BP PLC
Form 6-K
May 09, 2006

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

Form 6-K

Report of Foreign Issuer

Pursuant to Rule 13a-16 or 15d-16 of
the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

for the period ended 09 May, 2006

BP p.l.c.

(Translation of registrant's name into English)

1 ST JAMES'S SQUARE, LONDON, SW1Y 4PD, ENGLAND

(Address of principal executive offices)

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant files or will file annual reports under cover Form 20-F or Form 40-F.

Form 20-F

Form 40-F

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant by furnishing the information contained in this Form is also thereby furnishing the information to the Commission pursuant to Rule 12g3-2(b) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934.

Yes

No

press release

May 9, 2006

BP TO MARKET FOR SALE DUTCH E&P AND GAS INFRASTRUCTURE BUSINESS

BP announced today that intends to market for sale its exploration and production (E&P) and gas infrastructure business in the Netherlands, comprising its onshore and offshore production assets and its Piek Gas Installatie (PGI) at Alkmaar.

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The business will be offered as an ongoing, fully staffed operation and BP does not expect any redundancies as a result of the sale.

It is expected that the sale will be completed by the end of the year, subject to consultation with the Works Council.

BP's Dutch E&P/gas infrastructure business has a staff of around 120 employees and long term contractors. It operates assets both onshore and offshore in the Netherlands and had net gas production of around 1.8 million cubic metres a day (62 million cubic feet a day) in 2005.

This sale does not affect BP's other significant business activities in the Netherlands which comprise energy trading, refining and marketing of fuels and lubricants as well as a renewable energy business.

Notes to editors:

- BP's E&P assets in the Netherlands comprise interests in multiple mature gas fields, both offshore and onshore, their associated production facilities and the suspended Rijn oil field. These BP-operated assets have a total, gross gas production of more than 4.5 million cubic metres a day (160 million cubic feet a day), enough to meet the yearly demand of approximately one million Dutch households.
- The Piek Gas Installatie (PGI) is a gas supply facility and is located onshore near Alkmaar. It delivers a significant contribution to the Netherlands' continuation of gas supply during extreme cold weather conditions.
- The E&P/gas infrastructure business in the Netherlands employs around 85 staff and 35 long-term contractors.
- BP's 2,300 BP employees in the Netherlands are primarily engaged in the refining and marketing of fuels and lubricants as well as the production and supply of gas. In addition, the company is actively marketing gas and is working in the renewable energy segment - primarily focused on wind and solar. The company's customers can be found in almost all segments, including aviation and shipping, agriculture and the large industrial companies. Car drivers in the Netherlands are served via 400 BP retail sites, which together represent a market share of 14 per cent and the number two position in the Dutch fuels market.

Further information:

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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, thereunto duly authorized.

BP p.l.c.
(Registrant)

Dated: 09 May, 2006

/s/ D. J. PEARL
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D. J. PEARL
Deputy Company Secretary