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BECTON DICKINSON & CO  
Form 8-K  
March 31, 2003

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

FORM 8-K

CURRENT REPORT

Pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the  
Securities Exchange Act of 1934

Date of Report (Date of earliest event reported) March 31, 2003  
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BECTON, DICKINSON AND COMPANY

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(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

New Jersey

001-4802

22-0760120

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(State or other juris-  
diction of incorporation)

(Commission  
File Number)

(IRS Employer Iden-  
tification Number)

1 Becton Drive, Franklin Lakes, New Jersey

07417-1880

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(Address of principal executive offices)

(Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code

(201) 847-6800  
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N/A

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(Former name or former addresses if changed since last report.)

Item 5. Other Events and Regulation FD Disclosure.

In the action entitled Benner v. Becton Dickinson et al. (Case No. 99

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Civ.4798(WHP)), the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York issued an order on March 28, 2003 in favor of the Company, denying plaintiffs' motion for class certification. Of the eleven class action lawsuits which have been filed against the Company on behalf of healthcare workers who have allegedly sustained accidental needlesticks but have not been infected with any disease, class certification has now been denied in three states (Texas, Illinois, and New York), and five other cases have either been voluntarily withdrawn (Florida and Alabama), or dismissed by the court on the Company's motion (California, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey). The Company will continue to defend the three remaining matters vigorously (Ohio, Oklahoma and South Carolina).

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.

BECTON, DICKINSON AND COMPANY  
(Registrant)

By: /s/ Gary DeFazio

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Gary DeFazio  
Assistant Secretary

Date: March 31, 2003