

UNITED STATES
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)

DECEMBER 15, 2000

POWELL INDUSTRIES, INC.
(EXACT NAME OF REGISTRANT AS SPECIFIED IN ITS CHARTER)

8550 MOSLEY DRIVE
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77075-1180
(ADDRESS OF PRINCIPAL EXECUTIVE OFFICES)

REGISTRANT'S TELEPHONE NUMBER,
INCLUDING AREA CODE - (713) 944-6900

ITEM 5. OTHER EVENTS.

On Thursday, December 21, 2000, Powell Industries, Inc. announced J. F. Ahart resigned effective December 15, 2000 as the Company's Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and Chief Financial Officer.

Mr. Ahart's responsibilities have been assumed by Thomas W. Powell, Chairman of the Board, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Company, until a replacement is appointed.

ITEM 7. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND EXHIBITS.

Exhibits

99.1 Powell Industries press release dated 12/21/2000.

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.

POWELL INDUSTRIES, INC.
(Registrant)

/s/ Thomas W. Powell

Thomas W. Powell
Chairman of the Board, President
and Chief Executive Officer

Date: December 21, 2000

EXHIBIT INDEX

EXHIBIT NUMBER -----	DESCRIPTION -----
Exhibit 99.1	Press Release dated 12/21/2000.

NEWS RELEASE

COMPANY CONTACT: THOMAS W. POWELL
(713) 944-4412

CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER OF
POWELL INDUSTRIES, INC. RESIGNS

HOUSTON, TEXAS, (DECEMBER 21, 2000) -- POWELL INDUSTRIES, INC. (NASDAQ: POWL) today announced J. F. Ahart resigned effective December 15, 2000, as the Company's Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and Chief Financial Officer.

Mr. Ahart's responsibilities have been assumed by Thomas W. Powell, Chairman of the Board, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Company, until a replacement is named.

Powell Industries, Inc. designs, manufactures and packages systems and equipment for the control, distribution and management of electrical energy and other dynamic processes. Headquartered in Houston, Powell operates five subsidiaries and provides products and services to large industrial customers such as oil and gas producers, refineries, petrochemical plants, pulp and paper producers, mining operations, commuter railways and vehicular transportation facilities, as well as public and private utilities.

Powell Industries, Inc. press releases are available by e-mail distribution on the day of release. To join this mail server list simply send an e-mail message to pressrelease-request@powl.com with the word SUBSCRIBE in the body of the message. Full instructions can also be found on our website at <http://www.powellind.com>

Any forward looking statements in the preceding paragraphs of this release are made pursuant to the safe harbor provisions of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. Investors are cautioned that such forward looking statements involve risks and uncertainty in that actual results may differ materially from those projected in the forward looking statements. These risks and uncertainties include, without limitation, difficulties which could arise in obtaining materials or components in sufficient quantities as needed for the Company's manufacturing and assembly operations, unforeseen political or economic problems in countries to which the Company exports its products in relation to the Company's principal competitors, any significant decrease in the Company's backlog of orders, any material employee relations problems, or any material litigation or claims made against the Company, as well as general market conditions, competition, and pricing. Please refer to the Company's filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission, copies of which are available from the Company without charge, for further information.