

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 14, 2016

Unit Corporation

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware
(State or other jurisdiction
of incorporation)

1-9260
(Commission File Number)

73-1283193
(I.R.S. Employer
Identification No.)

8200 South Unit Drive, Tulsa, Oklahoma
(Address of principal executive offices)

74132
(Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: (918) 493-7700

Not Applicable
(Former name or former address, if changed since last report)

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:

- ☐ 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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Section 5 - Corporate Governance and Management.

Item 5.02 Departure of Directors or Certain Officers; Election of Directors; Appointment of Certain Officers; Compensatory Arrangements of Certain Officers.

On December 14, 2016, John G. Nikkel informed the Board of Directors of Unit Corporation (the "Company"), that he is retiring as a director and chairman of the board effective December 31, 2016. Mr. Nikkel's decision to retire did not involve any disagreement with the Company, Company management, or the Board on any matter relating to the Company's operations, policies, or practices.

J. Michael Adcock, a current director, has been selected to serve as chairman of the board.

Section 7 - Regulation FD

Item 7.01. Regulation FD Disclosure.

On December 19, 2016, the Company issued a press release announcing the retirement of Mr. John Nikkel as a director and chairman of the board of the Company effective December 31, 2016. The information included in this report and in exhibit 99.1 shall not be deemed "filed" for purposes of Section 18 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the Exchange Act), or incorporated by reference in any filing under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, or the Exchange Act, except as expressly set forth by specific reference in the filing.

Section 9 - Financial Statements and Exhibits.

Item 9.01 Financial Statements and Exhibits.

(d) Exhibits.

99.1 Press release dated December 19, 2016

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.

Unit Corporation

Date: December 19, 2016

By: /s/ Mark E. Schell
Mark E. Schell
Senior Vice President and
General Counsel

EXHIBIT INDEX

<u>Exhibit No.</u>	<u>Description</u>
99.1	Press release dated December 19, 2016

Contact: Michael Earl
Vice President, Investor Relations
(918) 493-7700

For Immediate Release...
December 19, 2016

UNIT CORPORATION ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT OF JOHN NIKKEL, CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Tulsa, Oklahoma . . . Unit Corporation (NYSE - UNT) announced today that Chairman John G. Nikkel is retiring from the Board of Directors of Unit Corporation effective December 31, 2016. J. Michael Adcock, a current board member, has been elected the new chairman.

Mr. Nikkel joined the company as its president, chief operating officer, and a director in 1983. He was elected its chief executive officer in July 2001 and chairman of the board in August 2003. Mr. Nikkel retired as an employee and as the chief executive officer of the company on April 1, 2005, but retained his position as chairman of the board.

Mr. Adcock has served on the company's board since 1997. He is a member of the Audit and Nominating and Governance Committees, as well as chairman of the Compensation Committee. He has many years of experience in banking, investments, and energy operations, as well as executive leadership experience as chief executive officer of two companies, one of which was a publicly-traded international energy company.

Larry Pinkston, the company's chief executive officer and president, said: "John has been an incredible asset to Unit for the 33 years he has been with this company, working to grow our diversified operations. His experience and knowledge in this industry is unparalleled. We will greatly miss John, but we believe that Mike Adcock is poised to take the helm of our board given his experience and knowledge of the industry and our company. We look forward to his leadership."

Unit Corporation is a Tulsa-based, publicly held energy company engaged through its subsidiaries in oil and gas exploration, production, contract drilling and gas gathering and processing. Unit's Common Stock is listed on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol UNT. For more information about Unit Corporation, visit its website at <http://www.unitcorp.com>.