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GLATFELTER P H CO

Form 8-K

October 12, 2001

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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): October 2, 2001

P. H. GLATFELTER COMPANY  
(Exact Name of Registrant as Specified in Charter)

Pennsylvania  
(State or Other  
Jurisdiction of Incorporation)

1-3560  
(Commission File  
Number)

23-0628360  
(IRS Employer  
Identification No.)

96 South George Street, Suite 500  
York, PA  
(Address of Principal  
Executive Offices)

17401  
(Zip Code)

(717)225-4711  
(Registrant's Telephone Number, Including Area Code)

Not Applicable  
(Former Name or Former Address, if Changed Since Last Report)

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ITEM 5. OTHER EVENTS.

The Registrant has previously reported with respect to certain environmental matters regarding the lower Fox River in Wisconsin, upon which the Registrant operates a manufacturing facility. On October 2, 2001, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) and the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released a Proposed Remedial Action Plan (PRAP), which sets forth WDNR and EPA's proposed remedy to address alleged contamination in the lower Fox River and Green Bay. Six parties in addition to the Registrant have been identified by the agencies as potentially responsible for this alleged contamination.

The proposed remedy would include the removal of approximately 7.25 million cubic yards of sediment and long-term monitoring. WDNR and EPA estimate that various activities proposed by the PRAP will cost approximately \$307.6 million, without a contingency factor. There is no assurance that the cost estimates contained in the PRAP are accurate. Based on cost estimates of

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large-scale dredging remedies at other sites, interested parties believe that the PRAP's cost estimates may be significantly understated. The Registrant does not believe that the proposed remedial activities are appropriate or cost effective. The Registrant believes that a protective remedy can be implemented at a much lower actual cost using barrier techniques (such as capping) and monitoring, rather than large-scale dredging. In addition, the Registrant maintains that its share of any liability for the alleged contamination is much less than one-seventh of the total liability and that additional responsible parties exist other than those currently identified by the agencies.

The Registrant intends to vigorously advocate for the implementation of less costly but environmentally protective alternatives. The public and interested parties may submit comments to the PRAP from October 5, 2001 to December 7, 2001. There is a possibility that the agencies may extend this comment period. The Registrant intends to submit extensive comments to the PRAP. EPA, in consultation with WDNR, will consider comments on the PRAP and will then select a remedy for the site.

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SIGNATURES

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

P. H. GLATFELTER COMPANY  
(Registrant)

By: /s/George MacKenzie

Date: October 11, 2001

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Name: George MacKenzie  
Title: Chief Financial Officer

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