

FREEPORT MCMORAN COPPER & GOLD INC  
Form 8-K  
March 23, 2006

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**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): March 23, 2006**

**FREEPORT-McMoRan COPPER & GOLD INC.**  
(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

**Delaware**  
(State or other  
jurisdiction of  
incorporation)

**1-9916**  
(Commission File  
Number)

**74-2480931**  
(IRS Employer  
Identification  
Number)

**1615 Poydras Street**  
**New Orleans, Louisiana**  
(Address of principal executive offices)

**70112**  
(Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: (504) 582-4000

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))

Item 8.01. Other Events.

Freeport-McMoRan Copper & Gold Inc. issued a press release dated March 23, 2006, reporting that on March 23, 2006, a mud/topsoil slide occurred from a mountain ridge above service facilities supporting PT Freeport Indonesia's mining operations (see Exhibit 99.1).

Item 9.01. Financial Statements and Exhibits.

(c) Exhibit.

The Exhibit included as part of this Current Report is listed in the attached Exhibit Index.

SIGNATURE

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.

FREEPORT-McMoRan COPPER & GOLD INC.

By: /s/ C. Donald Whitmire, Jr.  
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C. Donald Whitmire, Jr.  
Vice President and Controller -  
Financial Reporting  
(authorized signatory and  
Principal Accounting Officer)

Date: March 23, 2006

Freeport-McMoRan Copper & Gold Inc.  
Exhibit Index

Exhibit  
Number

99.1 Press release dated March 23, 2006, titled "Freeport-McMoRan Copper & Gold Inc. Announces Mud/Topsoil Slide Near Mining Operations."