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**UNITED STATES  
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
Washington, D.C. 20549**

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**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 29, 2009 (December 24, 2009)**

**STERLING CHEMICALS, INC.**

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

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

**000-50132**  
(Commission File No.)

**76-0502785**  
(IRS Employer Identification  
No.)

**333 Clay Street, Suite 3600**  
**Houston, Texas**  
(Address of principal executive offices)

**77002-4109**  
(Zip Code)

**(713) 650-3700**  
(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

**Not Applicable**  
(Former names 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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**Item 5.02. Departure of Directors or Certain Officers; Election of Directors; Appointment of Certain Officers; Compensatory Arrangements of Certain Officers**

On December 24, 2009, Mr. Paul C. Rostek, Senior Vice President — Commercial & Business Development of Sterling Chemicals, Inc. (“Sterling”), informed Sterling that he will be retiring as Sterling’s Senior Vice President – Commercial effective as of December 31, 2009. Mr. Rostek will, however, continue to be employed by Sterling, performing consulting and similar assignments, until March 16, 2010.

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**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.

Date: December 29, 2009

**STERLING CHEMICALS, INC.**

By: /s/ John V. Genova  
John V. Genova  
President and Chief Executive  
Officer