

POPULAR INC
Form 8-K
January 21, 2005

**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): January 20, 2005

POPULAR, INC.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

COMMONWEALTH OF PUERTO RICO

0-13818

66-0416582

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

(Commission File Number) (IRS Employer Identification Number)

**209 MUNOZ RIVERA AVENUE
HATO REY, PUERTO RICO**

00918

(Address of principal executive offices)

(Zip code)

(787) 765-9800

(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

NOT APPLICABLE

(Former name, former address and former fiscal year, 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 7.01.Regulation FD

The information set forth in Item 8.01 below is incorporated herein by reference.

Item 8.01.Other Events

On January 18, 2005, Popular, Inc. announced that the Antitrust Division of the U.S. Department of Justice is conducting an investigation concerning participation by its subsidiary, EVERTEC, Inc. (which was known as GM Group, Inc. prior to a 2004 reorganization), in the E-rate program, which is administered by the Federal Communications Commission and pays for telecommunications services and related equipment for schools and libraries. Subsequent to the announcement, Popular, Inc. has received inquiries as to the status of this investigation. Popular, Inc. states that it cannot predict at this time the impact of the Department of Justice investigation on Popular, Inc. or its subsidiaries, or when or on what basis the investigation will be resolved. Popular also clarifies that GM Group learned of the investigation in June 2003, that the investigation is not limited to work performed at schools in Detroit, Michigan and that it does not know the full scope of the investigation.

SIGNATURE

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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.

POPULAR, INC.

(Registrant)

Date: January 20, 2005

By: /s/ Ileana Gonzalez

Ileana Gonzalez

Senior Vice President and Comptroller

