

SOUTHERN CO  
Form 4  
September 12, 2005

**FORM 4** UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
Washington, D.C. 20549

OMB APPROVAL

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Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5 obligations may continue. See Instruction 1(b).

**STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF SECURITIES**

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, Section 17(a) of the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935 or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person \*  
RATCLIFFE DAVID M

(Last) (First) (Middle)  
270 PEACHTREE STREET  
(Street)

ATLANTA, GA 30303

(City) (State) (Zip)

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol  
SOUTHERN CO [SO]

3. Date of Earliest Transaction  
(Month/Day/Year)  
09/09/2005

4. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year)

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

(Check all applicable)

Director  10% Owner  
 Officer (give title below)  Other (specify below)  
President, CEO & Chairman

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line)  
 Form filed by One Reporting Person  
 Form filed by More than One Reporting Person

**Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned**

| 1. Title of Security (Instr. 3) | 2. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year) | 2A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year) | 3. Transaction Code (Instr. 8) | 4. Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5) | 5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4) | 6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4) | 7. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4) |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|---|--|---|
|                                 |                                      |  |                                | (A) or (D)  | Price   |  |   |
| Southern Company Common Stock   | 09/09/2005                           |  | M                              | 89,232  | A \$ 22.43  | 92,911.19  | D   |
| Southern Company Common Stock   | 09/09/2005                           |  | S                              | 89,232  | D \$ 35.53  | 3,679.19   | D   |
| Southern Company Common Stock   |                                      |  |                                |   |   | 9,931.94   | I By 401(k)   |

Southern Company Common Stock 1,127.51 I By ESOP

Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially owned directly or indirectly.

Persons who respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB control number.

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Table II - Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned (e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)

| 1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 3)        | 2. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security | 3. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year) | 3A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year) | 4. Transaction Code (Instr. 8) | 5. Number of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5) | 6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year) | 7. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities (Instr. 3 and 4) | Amount or Number of Shares |
|---|--|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|--|---|----------------------------|
| Option Right to Buy <sup>(1)</sup> <sub>(2)</sub> | \$ 22.43   | 09/09/2005                           |  | M                              | 89,232  | 04/16/2002 04/16/2011                                    | Southern Company Common Stock                                 | 89,232                     |

## Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address                                 | Relationships |           |                           |       |
|--|---------------|-----------|---------------------------|-------|
|  | Director      | 10% Owner | Officer                   | Other |
| RATCLIFFE DAVID M<br>270 PEACHTREE STREET<br>ATLANTA, GA 30303 | X             |           | President, CEO & Chairman |       |

## Signatures

By: Patricia L. Roberts, Attorney in fact 09/12/2005

\*\*Signature of Reporting Person Date

## Explanation of Responses:

- \* If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, see Instruction 4(b)(v).
- \*\* Intentional misstatements or omissions of facts constitute Federal Criminal Violations. See 18 U.S.C. 1001 and 15 U.S.C. 78ff(a).
- (1) Includes the right to have shares withheld upon exercise to satisfy tax withholding obligations.

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(2) Options Vest 33% per year on the anniversary of the grant date.

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, *see* Instruction 6 for procedure.

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