

NATIONWIDE HEALTH PROPERTIES INC

Form 8-K

January 21, 2004

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# 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): January 16, 2004

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# NATIONWIDE HEALTH PROPERTIES, INC.

(Exact Name of Registrant as Specified in Its Charter)

<b>Maryland</b> (State or Other	<b>1-9028</b> (Commission	<b>95-3997619</b> (IRS Employer
Jurisdiction of Incorporation)	File Number)	Identification No.)

**610 Newport Center Drive, Suite 1150, Newport Beach, California 92660-6429**

(Address of Principal Executive Offices)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: **(949) 718-4400**

Not Applicable

(Former Name or Former Address, if Changed Since Last Report)

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**ITEM 5. OTHER EVENTS**

**Public Offering of Common Stock**

On January 16, 2004, we entered into an underwriting agreement (the Underwriting Agreement) with UBS Securities LLC, J.P. Morgan Securities Inc., Banc of America Securities LLC, A.G. Edwards & Sons, Inc. and Legg Mason Wood Walker, Incorporated, as representatives of the several underwriters set forth on Schedule A thereto (collectively, the Underwriters), in connection with the issuance and sale of 6,500,000 shares ( Firm Common Shares ) of our common stock, par value \$0.10 per share ( Common Stock ), to the Underwriters. In addition, the Company granted to the Underwriters pursuant to the Underwriting Agreement an over-allotment option to purchase up to an additional 975,000 shares ( Over-Allotment Shares, together with the Firm Common Shares, the Shares ) of Common Stock.

We estimate that the net proceeds to us from this offering, after expenses and underwriting discounts and commissions, will be approximately \$121,529,500, or approximately \$139,753,925 if the underwriters exercise their over-allotment option in full. We intend to use the net proceeds from this offering to repay amounts outstanding under our revolving bank line of credit and the remainder for general corporate purposes, including investments in health care-related properties.

**Risk Factors**

Our filing on Form 10-K/A for the year ended December 31, 2002, included a description of risks relating to investment in our company. We have updated these risks in our prospectus supplement dated January 16, 2004, to our prospectus dated October 16, 2003, in connection with the offering. For convenience, the updated risks are set forth below.

**RISK FACTORS**

You should carefully consider the risks and uncertainties described below before making an investment decision in our company. These risks and uncertainties are not the only ones facing us and there may be additional matters that we are unaware of or that we currently consider immaterial. All of these could adversely affect our business, financial condition, results of operations and cash flows and, thus, the value of an investment in our company.

**RISKS RELATING TO OUR OPERATORS**

Our financial position could be weakened and our ability to make distributions could be limited if any of our major operators were unable to meet their obligations to us or failed to renew or extend their relationship with us as their lease terms expire, or if we were unable to lease or re-lease our facilities or make mortgage loans on economically favorable terms. These adverse developments could arise due to a number of factors, including those listed below.

*The bankruptcy, insolvency or financial deterioration of our operators could significantly delay our ability to collect unpaid rents or require us to find new operators for rejected facilities.*

We are exposed to the risk that our operators may not be able to meet their obligations, which may result in their bankruptcy or insolvency. Although our leases and loans provide us the right to terminate an investment, evict an operator, demand immediate repayment and other remedies, the bankruptcy laws afford certain rights to a party that has filed for bankruptcy or reorganization. An operator in bankruptcy may be able to restrict our ability to collect unpaid rent and interest during the bankruptcy proceeding.

*Leases.* If one of our lessees seeks bankruptcy protection, the lessee can either assume or reject the lease. Generally, the operator is required to make rent payments to us during its bankruptcy until it rejects the lease. If the lessee assumes the lease, the court cannot change the rental amount or any other lease provision that could financially impact us. However, if the lessee rejects the lease, the facility would be returned to us. In that event, if we were able to re-lease the facility to a new operator only on unfavorable terms or after a significant delay, we could lose some or all of the associated revenue from that facility for an extended period of time.

*Mortgage Loans.* If an operator defaults under one of our mortgage loans, we may have to foreclose on the mortgage or protect our interest by acquiring title to a property and thereafter making substantial improvements or repairs in order to maximize the facility's investment potential. Operators may contest enforcement of foreclosure or other remedies, seek bankruptcy protection against an enforcement and/or bring claims for lender liability in response to actions to enforce mortgage obligations. If an operator seeks bankruptcy protection, the automatic stay of the federal bankruptcy law would preclude us from enforcing foreclosure or other remedies against the operator unless relief is obtained from the court. High loan to value ratios or declines in the value of the facility may prevent us from realizing an amount equal to our mortgage loan upon foreclosure.

The receipt of liquidation proceeds or the replacement of an operator that has defaulted on its lease or loan could be delayed by the approval process of any federal, state or local agency necessary for the replacement of the operator licensed to manage the facility. In some instances, we may take possession of a property that exposes us to successor liabilities. These events, if they were to occur, could reduce our revenue and operating cash flow.

In addition, some of our leases provided for free rent at the beginning of the lease. These deferred amounts are repaid over the remainder of the lease term. Although the payment of cash rent is deferred, rental income is recorded on a straight-line basis over the life of the lease, such that the income recorded during the early years of the lease is higher than the actual cash rent received during that period, creating an asset on our balance sheet called deferred rent receivable. To the extent any of the operators under these leases, for the reasons discussed above, become unable to pay the deferred rents, we may be required to write down the rents receivable from those operators, which would reduce our net income.

*Operators that fail to comply with governmental reimbursement programs such as Medicare or Medicaid, licensing and certification requirements, fraud and abuse regulations or new legislative developments may be unable to meet their obligations to us.*

Our operators are subject to numerous federal, state and local laws and regulations that are subject to frequent and substantial changes (sometimes applied retroactively) resulting from legislation, adoption of rules and regulations, and administrative and judicial interpretations of existing law. The ultimate timing or effect of these changes cannot be predicted. These changes may have a dramatic effect on our operators costs of doing business and the amount of reimbursement by both government and other third-party payors. The failure of any of our operators to comply with these laws, requirements and regulations could adversely affect their ability to meet their obligations to us. In particular:

*Medicare and Medicaid.* A significant portion of our skilled nursing facility operators' revenue is derived from governmentally-funded reimbursement programs, such as Medicare and Medicaid, and failure to maintain certification and accreditation in these programs would result in a loss of funding from them. Moreover, federal and state governments have adopted and continue to consider various reform proposals to control health care costs. In recent years, there have been fundamental changes in the Medicare program that have resulted in reduced levels of payment for a substantial portion of health care services. In many instances, revenues from Medicaid programs are already insufficient to cover the actual costs incurred in providing care to those patients. In addition, reimbursement from private payors has in many cases effectively been reduced to levels approaching those of government payors. Governmental concern regarding health care costs and their budgetary impact may result in significant reductions in payment to health care facilities, and future reimbursement rates for either governmental or private payors may not be sufficient to cover cost increases in providing services to patients. Loss of certification or accreditation, or any changes in reimbursement policies that reduce reimbursement to levels that are insufficient to cover the cost of providing patient care, could cause the revenues of our operators to decline, potentially jeopardizing their ability to meet their obligations to us. In that event, our revenues from those facilities could be reduced, which could in turn cause the value of our affected properties to decline.

*Licensing and Certification.* Our operators and facilities are subject to regulatory and licensing requirements of federal, state and local authorities and are periodically audited by them to confirm compliance. Failure to obtain licensure or loss of licensure would prevent a facility from operating. Our skilled nursing facilities require governmental approval, in the form of a certificate of need that generally varies by state and is subject to change, prior to the addition or construction of new beds, the addition of services or certain capital expenditures. Some of our facilities may not be able to satisfy current and future certificate of need requirements and may for this reason be unable to continue operating in the future. In such event, our revenues from those facilities could be reduced or eliminated for an extended period of time. State licensing and Medicare and Medicaid laws also require operators of nursing homes and assisted living facilities to comply with extensive standards governing operations. Federal and state agencies administering those laws regularly inspect such facilities and investigate complaints. Our tenants and their

managers receive notices of potential sanctions and remedies from time to time, and such sanctions have been imposed from time to time on facilities operated by them. If they are unable to cure deficiencies which have been identified or which are identified in the future, such sanctions may be imposed and if imposed may adversely affect our tenants' ability to pay rent to us.

*Fraud and Abuse Regulations.* There are various extremely complex and largely uninterpreted federal and state laws governing a wide array of referrals, relationships and arrangements and prohibiting fraud by healthcare providers, including criminal provisions that prohibit filing false claims or making false statements to receive payment or certification under Medicare and Medicaid, or failing to refund overpayments or improper payments. Governments are devoting increasing attention and resources to anti-fraud initiatives against health care providers. The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 and the Balanced Budget Act of 1997 expand the penalties for health care fraud, including broader provisions for the exclusion of providers from the Medicare and Medicaid programs. Further, under Operation Restore Trust, a major anti-fraud demonstration project, the Office of Inspector General of the US Department of Health and Human Services, in cooperation with other federal and state agencies, has focused on the activities of skilled nursing facilities in certain states in which we have properties. The violation of any of these regulations by an operator may result in the imposition of fines or other penalties that could jeopardize that operator's ability to make lease or mortgage payments to us or to continue operating its facility.

*Legislative Developments.* Each year, legislative proposals are introduced or proposed in Congress and in some state legislatures that would effect major changes in the healthcare system, either nationally or at the state level. Among the proposals under consideration are cost controls on state Medicaid reimbursements, a Patient Bill of Rights to increase the liability of insurance companies as well as the ability of patients to sue in the event of a wrongful denial of claim, a Medicare prescription drug benefit, hospital cost-containment initiatives by public and private payors, uniform electronic data transmission standards for healthcare claims and payment transactions, and higher standards to protect the security and privacy of health-related information. We cannot predict whether any proposals will be adopted or, if adopted, what effect, if any, these proposals would have on operators and, thus, our business.

***Our operators are faced with increased litigation and rising insurance costs that not only affect their ability to obtain and maintain adequate liability and other insurance, but also may affect their ability to pay their lease or mortgage payments and fulfill their insurance, indemnification and other obligations to us.***

In some states, advocacy groups have been created to monitor the quality of care at skilled nursing facilities, and these groups have brought litigation against operators. Also, in several instances, private litigation by skilled nursing facility patients has succeeded in winning very large damage awards for alleged abuses. To a lesser extent, this litigation also has spilled over and affected assisted living facilities. The effect of this litigation and potential litigation has been to materially increase the costs of monitoring and reporting quality of care compliance incurred by our tenants. In addition, the cost of liability and medical malpractice insurance has

increased and may continue to increase so long as the present litigation environment continues. This has affected the ability of some of our operators to obtain and maintain adequate liability and other insurance and, thus, manage their related risk exposures as well as they have in the past. In addition to being unable to fulfill their insurance, indemnification and other obligations to us under their leases and mortgages and thereby potentially exposing us to those risks, this could cause our tenants to be unable to pay their lease or mortgage payments potentially decreasing our revenues and increasing our collection and litigation costs. Moreover, to the extent we are required to foreclose on the affected facilities, our revenues from those facilities could be reduced or eliminated for an extended period of time.

In addition, we may in some circumstances be named as a defendant in litigation involving the actions of our operators. Although we have no involvement in the activities of our operators and our standard leases generally require our operators to carry insurance to cover us in certain cases, a significant judgment against us in such litigation could exceed our and our operators' insurance coverage, which would require us to make payments to cover the judgment.

*Overbuilding and increased competition has resulted in lower revenues for some of our operators and may affect the ability of our tenants to meet their payment obligations to us.*

The healthcare industry is highly competitive and we expect that it may become more competitive in the future. Our operators are competing with numerous other companies providing similar health care services or alternatives such as home health agencies, life care at home, community-based service programs, retirement communities and convalescent centers. In addition, overbuilding in the assisted and independent living market has caused a slow-down in the fill-rate of newly constructed buildings and a reduction in the monthly rate many newly built and previously existing facilities were able to obtain for their services. This has resulted in lower revenues for the operators of certain of our facilities. It may also have contributed to the financial difficulties of some of our operators. While we believe that overbuilt markets should reach stabilization in the next couple of years due to minimal new development, we cannot be certain the operators of all of our facilities will be able to achieve occupancy and rate levels that will enable them to meet all of their obligations to us. Our operators may encounter increased competition in the future that could limit their ability to attract residents or expand their businesses and therefore affect their ability to pay their lease or mortgage payments.

### **RISKS UNIQUE TO US AND OUR OPERATIONS**

In addition to the operator related risks discussed above, there are a number of risks directly associated with us and our operations.

*We are subject to particular risks associated with real estate ownership, which could result in unanticipated losses or expenses.*

Our business is subject to many risks that are associated with the ownership of real estate. For example, if our operators do not renew their leases, we may be unable to re-lease the facilities at favorable rental rates. Other risks that are associated with real estate acquisition and ownership include, among other things, the following:

property and casualty losses, some of which may be uninsured;

the inability to purchase or sell our assets rapidly to respond to changing economic conditions, due to the illiquid nature of real estate and the real estate market;

costs relating to maintenance and repair of our facilities and the need to make expenditures due to change in governmental regulations, including the Americans with Disabilities Act; and

environmental hazards created by prior owners or occupants, existing tenants, mortgagors or other persons for which we may be liable.

***We rely on external sources of capital to fund future capital needs, and if our access to such capital continues to be difficult, we may not be able to meet maturing commitments or make future investments necessary to grow our business.***

In order to qualify as a REIT under the Internal Revenue Code, we are required, among other things, to distribute each year to our stockholders at least 90% of our REIT taxable income. Because of this distribution requirement, we will not be able to fund, from cash retained from operations, all future capital needs, including capital needs to satisfy or refinance maturing commitments and to make investments. As a result, we rely on external sources of capital. If we are unable to obtain needed capital at all or only on unfavorable terms from these sources, we might not be able to make the investments needed to grow our business, or to meet our obligations and commitments as they mature, which could negatively affect the ratings of our debt and even, in extreme circumstances, affect our ability to continue operations. Our access to capital depends upon a number of factors over which we have little or no control, including general market conditions and the market's perception of our growth potential and our current and potential future earnings and cash distributions and the market price of the shares of our capital stock. Generally speaking, difficult capital market conditions in our industry during the past several years have limited our access to capital. As a result, while we have in the past been able to meet our maturing commitments, the level of our new investments has decreased in recent years except in 2002. We may have difficult market conditions, which could limit our access to capital. This could limit our ability to make future investments or possibly affect our ability to meet our maturing commitments.

Our potential capital sources include:

*Equity Financing.* As with other publicly-traded companies, the availability of equity capital will depend, in part, on the market price of our common stock which, in turn, will depend upon various market conditions that may change from time to time. Among the market conditions and other factors that may affect the market price of our common stock are:

the extent of investor interest;



the general reputation of REITs and the attractiveness of their equity securities in comparison to other equity securities, including securities issued by other real estate-based companies;

our financial performance and that of our operators;

the contents of analyst reports about us and the REIT industry;

general stock and bond market conditions, including changes in interest rates on fixed income securities, which may lead prospective purchasers of our common stock to demand a higher annual yield from future distributions;

our failure to maintain or increase our dividend, which is dependent, to a large part, on growth of funds from operations which in turn depends upon increased revenues from additional investments and rental increases; and

other factors such as governmental regulatory action and changes in REIT tax laws.

The market value of the equity securities of a REIT is generally based upon the market's perception of the REIT's growth potential and its current and potential future earnings and cash distributions. Our failure to meet the market's expectation with regard to future earnings and cash distributions likely would adversely affect the market price of our common stock and reduce the value of your investment.

*Debt Financing/Leverage.* Financing for our maturing commitments and future investments may be provided by borrowings under our bank line of credit, private or public offerings of debt, the assumption of secured indebtedness, mortgage financing on a portion of our owned portfolio or through joint ventures. We are subject to risks normally associated with debt financing, including the risks that our cash flow will be insufficient to service our debt or make distributions to our stockholders, that we will be unable to refinance existing indebtedness and that the terms of refinancing may not be as favorable as the terms of existing indebtedness or may include restrictive covenants that limit our flexibility in operating our business. For example, approximately \$67.8 million in aggregate principal amount of our medium-term notes are scheduled to mature in 2004, of which \$23.8 million were repaid on January 12, 2004, and the holders of approximately \$55 million in aggregate principal amount of our medium-term notes may require us to repurchase their notes in 2004. If we are unable to refinance or extend principal payments due at maturity or pay them with proceeds from other capital transactions, our cash flow may not be sufficient in all years to pay distributions to our stockholders and to repay all maturing debt. Furthermore, if prevailing interest rates, changes in our debt ratings or other factors at the time of refinancing result in higher interest rates upon refinancing, the interest expense relating to that refinanced indebtedness would increase, which could reduce our profitability and the amount of dividends we are able to pay. Moreover, additional debt financing increases the amount of our leverage. The degree of leverage could have important consequences to stockholders, including affecting our investment grade ratings, our ability to obtain additional financing in the future for working capital, capital expenditures, acquisitions,

development or other general corporate purposes and making us more vulnerable to a downturn in business or the economy generally.

***Three of the operators of our facilities each account for more than 10% of our revenues. If these operators experience financial difficulties, or otherwise fail to make payments to us, our revenues will significantly decline.***

For the nine months ended September 30, 2003, as adjusted for facilities acquired and disposed of during that period, Alterra Healthcare Corporation accounted for 12% of our revenues, American Retirement Corporation, or ARC, accounted for 12% of our revenues and Atria Senior Living Group accounted for 11% of our revenues. We cannot assure you that Alterra, ARC and Atria will continue to satisfy their obligations to us. For example, Alterra filed for protection under the United States bankruptcy laws in January 2003. Although Alterra recently emerged from bankruptcy following significant restructuring activities, we cannot assure you of Alterra's financial health following this restructuring. The failure or inability of Alterra, ARC or Atria to pay their obligations to us could materially reduce our revenues and net income, which could in turn reduce the amount of dividends we pay and cause our stock price to decline.

***If we fail to maintain our REIT status, we will be subject to federal income tax on our taxable income at regular corporate rates.***

We intend to operate in a manner to qualify as a REIT under the Internal Revenue Code. While we believe that we have been organized and have operated in a manner which would allow us to qualify as a REIT under the Internal Revenue Code, it is possible that is not the case or that our future operations could cause us to fail to qualify. Qualification as a REIT requires us to satisfy numerous requirements established under highly technical and complex Internal Revenue Code provisions. For example, in order to qualify as a REIT, at least 95% of our gross income in any year must be derived from qualifying sources, and we must pay dividends to stockholders aggregating at least 90% of our annual REIT taxable income. While we are not aware of anything significant that is pending, legislation, new regulations, administrative interpretations or court decisions could significantly change the tax laws with respect to qualification as a REIT or the federal income tax consequences of qualification as a REIT. If we fail to qualify as a REIT in any taxable year, we will be subject to federal income tax on our taxable income at regular corporate rates. Unless we are entitled to relief under statutory provisions, we would be disqualified from treatment as a REIT for the four taxable years following the year during which we lost qualification. If we lose our REIT status, our net earnings available for distribution to stockholders or investments would be significantly reduced for each of the years involved. In addition, we would no longer be required to make distributions to stockholders.

***A downgrade of our credit rating could impair our ability to obtain additional debt financing on favorable terms, if at all, and significantly reduce the trading price of our common stock.***

We currently have a credit rating of Baa3 from Moody's Investor Services and BBB- from Standard & Poor's and Fitch on our senior unsecured notes. If any of these rating agencies downgrade our credit rating, or place our rating under watch or review for possible downgrade,

this could make it more difficult or expensive for us to obtain additional debt financing, and the trading price of our common stock will likely decline. Factors that may affect our credit rating include, among other things, our success in raising sufficient equity capital, our capital structure and level of indebtedness and pending or future changes in the regulatory framework applicable to our operators and our industry. We cannot assure you that these credit agencies will not downgrade our credit rating in the future.

*Unforeseen costs associated with the acquisition of new properties could reduce our profitability.*

Our business strategy contemplates future acquisitions that may not prove to be successful. For example, we might encounter unanticipated difficulties and expenditures relating to any acquired properties, including contingent liabilities, and newly acquired properties might require significant management attention that would otherwise be devoted to our ongoing business. If we agree to provide funding to enable healthcare operators to build, expand or renovate facilities on our properties and the project is not completed, we could be forced to become involved in the development to ensure completion or we could lose the property. These costs may negatively affect our results of operations.

*We may recognize losses on the sale of certain facilities.*

From time to time, we classify certain facilities, including unoccupied buildings and land parcels, as assets held for sale. For example, as of September 30, 2003, approximately \$5.2 million in book value of our facilities was classified as held for sale. To the extent we are unable to sell these properties for book value, we may be required to take an impairment charge or loss on the sale, either of which would reduce our net income.

*Our success depends in part on our ability to retain key personnel.*

We depend on the efforts of our executive officers, particularly Mr. R. Bruce Andrews, Mr. Douglas M. Pasquale, Mr. Mark L. Desmond and Mr. Donald D. Bradley. Mr. Andrews intends to retire later this year. The loss of the services of these persons or the limitation of their availability could have an adverse impact on our operations. Although we have entered into employment and security agreements with these executive officers, these agreements may not assure their continued service.

*As owners of real estate, we are subject to environmental laws that expose us to the possibility of having to pay damages to the government and costs of remediation if there is contamination on our property.*

Under various laws, owners of real estate may be required to investigate and clean up hazardous substances present at a property, and may be held liable for property damage or personal injuries that result from environmental contamination. These laws also expose us to the possibility that we become liable to reimburse the government for damages and costs it incurs in connection with the contamination, regardless of whether we were aware of, or responsible for, the environmental contamination. We review environmental surveys of the facilities we own prior to their purchase. Based upon those surveys we do not believe that any of our properties are subject to material environmental contamination. However, environmental liabilities may be

present in our properties and we may incur costs to remediate contamination that could have a material adverse effect on our business or financial condition.

***If the holders of our notes exercise their rights to require us to repurchase their notes, we may have to make substantial payments, incur additional debt or issue equity securities to finance the repurchase.***

Some of our medium-term notes grant the holders the right to require us, on specified dates, to repurchase their notes at a price equal to the principal amount of the notes to be repurchased plus accrued and unpaid interest. For example, the holders of approximately \$55 million in principal amount of our 6.9% medium-term notes may require us to repurchase their notes in 2004. If the holders of these notes elect to require us to repurchase their notes, we may be required to make significant payments, which would adversely affect our liquidity. Alternatively, we could finance the repurchase through the issuance of additional debt securities, which may have terms that are not as favorable as the notes we are repurchasing, or equity securities, which will dilute the interests of our existing stockholders.

***Our level of indebtedness may adversely affect our financial results.***

As of September 30, 2003, we had total consolidated indebtedness of approximately \$735.7 million and total assets of approximately \$1.4 billion, and we may incur additional indebtedness in the future. The risks associated with a high degree of financial leverage include:

increasing our sensitivity to general economic and industry conditions;

limiting our ability to obtain additional financing on favorable terms;

requiring a substantial portion of our cash flow to make interest and principal payments due on our indebtedness;

a possible downgrade of our credit rating; and

limiting our flexibility in planning for, or reacting to, changes in our business and industry.

***Our charter and bylaws contain provisions that may delay, defer or prevent a change in control or other transactions that could provide the holders of our common stock with the opportunity to realize a premium over the then-prevailing market price for our common stock.***

In order to protect us against the risk of losing our REIT status for federal income tax purposes, our charter prohibits the ownership by any single person of more than 9.9% of the issued and outstanding shares of our voting stock. We have the right to redeem shares acquired or held in excess of the ownership limit. In addition, any acquisition of our common stock or preferred stock that would result in our disqualification as a REIT is null and void. The ownership limit may have the effect of delaying, deferring or preventing a change in control of our company and could adversely affect our stockholders' ability to realize a premium over the market price for the shares of our common stock. Our board of directors has increased the

ownership limit to 20% with respect to one of our stockholders. Based on SEC filings, that stockholder beneficially owned 3,900,700 of our shares, or approximately 6.63% of our common stock, as of May 2, 2003.

Our charter authorizes us to issue additional shares of common stock and one or more series of preferred stock and to establish the preferences, rights and other terms of any series of preferred stock that we issue. Although our board of directors has no intention to do so at the present time, it could establish a series of preferred stock that could delay, defer or prevent a transaction or a change in control that might involve the payment of a premium over the market price for our common stock or otherwise be in the best interests of our stockholders.

In addition, the following provisions of our charter may delay, defer or prevent a transaction that may be in the best interests of our stockholders:

in certain circumstances, a proposed consolidation, merger, share exchange or transfer must be approved by two-thirds of the votes of our preferred stockholders entitled to be cast on the matter;

business combinations must be approved by 90% of the outstanding shares unless the transaction receives a unanimous vote or consent of our board of directors or is a combination solely with a wholly owned subsidiary; and

the classification of our board of directors into three groups, with each group of directors being elected for successive three-year terms, may delay any attempt to replace our board.

**ITEM 7. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND EXHIBITS**

1.1 Underwriting Agreement, dated January 16, 2004, by and among the Company and the Underwriters.

5.1 Opinion of Venable LLP re: Legality of the Shares.

23.1 Consent of Venable LLP (included in Exhibit 5.1).

