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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**

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Date of Report (Date of earliest event reported): **September 13, 2018**

**CVR ENERGY, INC.**

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

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

**001-33492**  
(Commission File Number)

**61-1512186**  
(I.R.S. Employer  
Identification Number)

**2277 Plaza Drive, Suite 500**  
**Sugar Land, Texas 77479**  
(Address of principal executive offices, including  
zip code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: **(281) 207-3200**

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))

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is an emerging growth company as defined in Rule 405 of the Securities Act of 1933 (§230.405 of this chapter) or Rule 12b-2 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (§240.12b-2 of this chapter).

Emerging growth company

If an emerging growth company, indicate by check mark if the registrant has elected not to use the extended transition period for complying with any new or revised financial accounting standards provided pursuant to Section 13(a) of the Exchange Act.

**(e) Compensatory Arrangements of Certain Officers**

*Change in Control and Severance Plan*

On September 13, 2018, the compensation committee (the "Compensation Committee") of the Board of Directors of CVR Energy, Inc. (the "Company") approved the CVR Energy, Inc. Change in Control and Severance Plan (the "CIC Plan"). The CIC Plan is intended to provide assurances of specified benefits to designated employees of the Company or its subsidiaries (each, an "Eligible Employee") in the event their employment is terminated in certain circumstances in connection with a Change in Control (as defined in the CIC Plan) of the Company. The designated employees include certain of the Company's named executive officers. Unless the Company or any of its Affiliates (as defined in the CIC Plan) and the Eligible Employee otherwise agree, effective as of September 13, 2018, but contingent upon the occurrence of the Change in Control, the CIC Plan supersedes the Coffeyville Resources, LLC Severance Pay Plan, the CVR Partners, LP Severance Pay Plan, the CVR Refining, LP Severance Pay Plan, or any other severance or termination plan, policy or practice of the Company or any of its Affiliates that would otherwise apply under the circumstances described in the CIC Plan to such Eligible Employee.

The CIC Plan will automatically terminate on January 1, 2022, unless (a) a Change in Control has been consummated or (b) a Potential Change in Control (as defined below) is pending. In the event that, on or prior to December 31, 2021, (i) a Change in Control occurs, or (ii) the Company enters into a definitive agreement which, if consummated, would result in a Change in Control ("Potential Change in Control"), and such Potential Change in Control results in a Change in Control, the CIC Plan will terminate automatically upon the completion of all payments (if any) under the terms of the CIC Plan.

The payments and benefits provided under the CIC Plan are double trigger and are payable only if: (a) during the twenty-four (24) months following the consummation of a Change in Control (the "Change in Control Period"), an Eligible Employee experiences an Involuntary Termination (as defined below); or (b) an Eligible Employee experiences a Change in Control Related Termination (as defined below). The CIC Plan defines an "Involuntary Termination" to mean a termination of an Eligible Employee's employment by the Eligible Employee for Good Reason (as defined in the CIC Plan), or by the Company or a subsidiary of the Company without Cause (as defined in the CIC Plan). The CIC Plan defines a "Change in Control Related Termination" to mean a termination of an Eligible Employee's employment by the Company or any subsidiary of the Company other than for Cause or by the Eligible Employee for Good Reason, in each case within the one hundred twenty (120) day period prior to the occurrence of a Change in Control and (i) the Company determines in good faith that such termination or the basis for such resignation occurred in anticipation of a transaction that, if consummated, would constitute a Change in Control, (ii) such termination or the basis for such resignation occurred after the Company entered into a definitive agreement, the consummation of which would constitute a Change in Control or (iii) the Company determines in good faith that such termination or the basis for such resignation was implemented at the request of a third party who has indicated an intention or has taken steps reasonably calculated to effect a Change in Control; provided that, in each of the foregoing clauses (i), (ii) and (iii), the occurrence of a Change in Control Related Termination is conditioned upon the consummation of a Change in Control on or prior to December 31, 2022.

If an Eligible Employee is subject to an Involuntary Termination during a Change in Control Period or a Change in Control Related Termination during the period described above, then subject to the Eligible Employee's compliance with the terms and conditions of the CIC Plan, the Eligible Employee will be entitled to receive: (a) his or her base salary earned but unpaid through the date of termination, any unused accrued paid time off in accordance with the applicable Company paid-time-off policy, any unreimbursed expenses in accordance with the Company's expense reimbursement policy, and any accrued and vested rights or benefits under any Company sponsored employee benefits plans payable in accordance with the terms and conditions of such plans; and (b) the following severance benefits (the "Severance Benefits"):

- A cash severance payment equal to the sum of twelve (12) months of the Eligible Employee's base salary and the average of the annual bonuses actually paid to the Eligible Employee during the three calendar years immediately preceding the date of the Involuntary Termination or the date of the consummation of a Change in Control in the case of a Change in Control Related Termination (or, in each case, such shorter period of time if applicable). In the event an Eligible Employee has no previous annual bonus history, then the annual bonus portion of the cash severance amount will be calculated based on 100% of the Eligible Employee's current target bonus; and

- Accelerated vesting as to 100% of the unvested portion of any cash-settled incentive or phantom unit awards granted to the Eligible Employee by the Company or its Affiliates (the "Incentive/Phantom Unit Awards") then outstanding or, in the event of a Change in Control Related Termination and with respect to any Incentive/Phantom Unit Awards issued by an Affiliate of the Company, payments equivalent to the amounts the Eligible Employee would have received had any such then outstanding awards accelerated (without duplication of vesting and/or payment), in each case, with the payout value calculated in accordance with the CIC Plan; provided, however, that any Incentive/Phantom Unit Awards that vest (in whole or in part) upon the achievement of performance goals will vest as if the target level of performance had been achieved.

The Severance Benefits will be payable in a lump sum on the Company's first payroll date following the 60th day after the date of the Involuntary Termination or the date of the consummation of a Change in Control, as applicable. The Severance Benefits will be reduced (offset) by any amounts payable (a) under any statutory entitlement, and (b) pursuant to any agreement between the Eligible Employee and the Company or any of its Affiliates.

In order to receive the Severance Benefits, the Eligible Employee must execute a separation and release of claims agreement and comply with certain confidentiality and non-disparagement covenants, and during the twelve (12) month period following such Eligible Employee's termination, non-solicitation and non-competition covenants.

To the extent that any payment or distribution of any type to or for the benefit of an Eligible Employee by the Company, any Affiliate of the Company, any Person (as defined in the CIC Plan) who acquires ownership or effective control of the Company or ownership of a substantial portion of the Company's assets (within the meaning of Section 280G of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the "Code") and the regulations thereunder), or any Affiliate of such Person, whether paid or payable or distributed or distributable pursuant to the terms of the CIC Plan or otherwise (the "Payments") constitutes a "parachute payment" (within the meaning of Section 280G of the Code), such Payments will be subject to a "best net" set of calculation. Under the best net calculations, the Eligible Employee will either receive all such Payments subject to the applicable excise tax imposed under Section 4999 of the Code (the "Excise Tax"), and will pay his or her own Excise Tax on such Payments, or the Payments will be reduced so that the Excise Tax does not apply, whichever approach yields the best after-tax outcome, taking into account all applicable federal, state, and local taxes, for the Eligible Employee.

#### *Bonus Plan*

On September 13, 2018, the Compensation Committee also approved the CVR Energy, Inc. Performance-Based Bonus Plan (the "Bonus Plan"). The purpose of the Bonus Plan is to enhance the Company's ability to attract, motivate, reward and retain employees, and to strengthen their commitment to the success of the Company. The Bonus Plan is maintained and administered by, or under the direction of, the Compensation Committee with respect to employees of the Company and its subsidiaries, excluding CVR Refining, LP and CVR Partners, LP, their respective general partners and their respective subsidiaries. Under the Bonus Plan, the Compensation Committee annually approves all salaries, targets and bonus metrics for employees above a specified pay grade, and annually approves a total bonus pool for employees below such specified pay grade. Bonuses are paid in cash based on the achievement of certain performance metrics during an applicable performance period consisting of a calendar year.

Generally, only exempt, non-exempt and non-union hourly employees are eligible to receive cash bonuses under the Bonus Plan, provided that, to receive a bonus, an employee must: (a) be actively employed with the Company for at least 180 days during the calendar year; (b) consistently perform at or above expectations for their role; (c) be actively employed on the date of payout and not on a performance improvement plan or in corrective or disciplinary action status as a result of poor performance during the applicable performance period. Eligible participants under the Bonus Plan include the Company's named executive officers.

Subject to annual review, bonuses under the Bonus Plan are computed in accordance with each eligible employee's pay grade (as specified in the Bonus Plan), prorated for time in an eligible position, as well as a performance multiplier of zero to 150 percent, based on performance against the achievement of the allocated Company and individual performance measures described in the Bonus Plan. The Company's performance measures include: (a) a 25% weighting for environmental, health and safety measures, including a total recordable incident rate, process safety Tier 1 events incident rate and environmental events; and (b) a 75% weighting for Company financial measures, including reliability, equipment utilization, operating expense and return on capital employed. The individual performance measures are based on a discretionary assessment and include: interpersonal effectiveness; business conduct; professional and technical development; leadership; achievement of goals; and results orientation. The Company and individual performance measures are more fully set forth in the appendices to the Bonus Plan.

If the Adjusted EBITDA Threshold (as defined in the Bonus Plan) established for the Company for a given performance period is not reached, no bonus will be paid for the applicable performance period, subject to Compensation Committee discretion. The Compensation Committee may, in its sole and absolute discretion, waive the Adjusted EBITDA Threshold requirement, increase, decrease or otherwise adjust performance measures, targets, and payout ranges under the Bonus Plan, as a result of extraordinary or non-recurring events, changes in applicable law, changes due to consolidations, growth capital spend programs, acquisitions, or reorganizations affecting the Company or other similar changes in the Company's business.

Participation in the plan is subject to each employee's compliance with applicable Company policies and a clawback and recoupment policy.

#### *Amendment to Performance Unit Agreement*

On September 17, 2018, the Company and David L. Lamp, the Company's Chief Executive Officer and President, entered into an amendment (the "Amendment") to the Performance Unit Agreement, dated November 1, 2017 (the "Performance Unit Agreement"), by and between the Company and Mr. Lamp. The Amendment amends Section 2(a) of the Performance Unit Agreement to provide that, with respect to the performance period beginning on January 1, 2018 and ending on December 31, 2018, the following performance conditions (each, a "Performance Objective") will be applied to determine the applicable performance factor (as set forth below, the "Performance Factor"):

- 25% of the performance units attributable to the Award (as defined in the Performance Unit Agreement) will be subject to the environmental, health and safety measures specified in the Bonus Plan; and
- 75% of the performance units attributable to the Award will be subject to the financial measures specified in the Bonus Plan.

The Amendment further provides that the Performance Factor will range from 0-150% in accordance with each Performance Objective as measured pursuant to the Bonus Plan.

The foregoing descriptions of the CIC Plan, the Bonus Plan and the Amendment to the Performance Unit Agreement do not purport to be complete and are qualified in their entirety by reference to the full text of the CIC Plan, the Bonus Plan and the Amendment, copies of which will be filed as exhibits to the Company's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ending September 30, 2018, and are incorporated by reference herein.

**SIGNATURES**

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: September 18, 2018

**CVR Energy, Inc.**

By: /s/ Tracy D. Jackson  
Tracy D. Jackson,  
Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer  
*(Principal Financial Officer)*