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**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): **March 18, 2010**

**PARKER DRILLING COMPANY**

(Exact name of Registrant as specified in its charter)

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

**1-7573**  
(Commission  
File Number)

**73-0618660**  
(I.R.S. Employer  
Identification No.)

**5 Greenway Plaza, Suite 100, Houston, Texas**  
(Address of principal executive offices)

**77046**  
(Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: **(281) 406-2000**

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 (See General Instruction A.2. below):

- 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 March 18, 2010, Mr. Michael D. Drennon, Vice President, Operations, of Parker Drilling Company (the "Company"), advised the Company that he will resign from the Company effective March 31, 2010. Mr. Drennon joined the Company in 2005 and has decided to accept an offer of employment at another company.

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SIGNATURE

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the Company has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned hereunto duly authorized.

PARKER DRILLING COMPANY

Dated: March 24, 2010

By: /s/ W. Kirk Brassfield

W. Kirk Brassfield

Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer