

Loughman William J
 Form 4
 December 23, 2004

FORM 4

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

OMB APPROVAL

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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 *
 Loughman William J

(Last) (First) (Middle)

AIRGATE PCS, INC., 233
 PEACHTREE STREET, NE, SUITE
 1700

(Street)

ATLANTA, GA 30303

(City) (State) (Zip)

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol
 AIRGATE PCS INC /DE/ [PCSA]

3. Date of Earliest Transaction
 (Month/Day/Year)
 12/23/2004

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)
 CFO

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 Ownership (Instr. 4)
				(A) or (D)	Price		
Common Stock	12/23/2004		M	V	22,500	A	\$ 14.24
Common Stock	12/23/2004		S		22,500	D	\$ 34.96
					0	D	

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

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 (9-02)

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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 Security (Instr. 3 and 4)
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				Code	V	(A)	(D)	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of Shares
Non-qualified Employee Stock Options (right to buy) <u>(1)</u>	\$ 14.24	12/23/2004		M		22,500		<u>(2)</u>	08/11/2014	Common Stock	22,500

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships			
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other
Loughman William J AIRGATE PCS, INC. 233 PEACHTREE STREET, NE, SUITE 1700 ATLANTA, GA 30303			CFO	

Signatures

/s/ William J. Loughman 12/23/2004

 **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) The Non-Qualified Stock Options were granted on August 11, 2004 pursuant to the terms of the AirGate PCS, Inc. Amended and Restated 2002 Long Term Incentive Plan.
- (2) These Non-Qualified Stock Options vest in the amount of 25% of the total grant on each anniversary of the grant date. On December 21, 2004, the Issuer's board of directors authorized the immediate acceleration of the vesting of one-half of Mr. Loughman's options on a pro-rata basis.

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, see Instruction 6 for procedure. Potential persons who are to respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB number.