

**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**

AVI BioPharma, Inc.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Oregon
(State or other
jurisdiction of
incorporation)

001-14895
(Commission File Number)

93-0797222
(I.R.S. Employer
Identification No.)

**3450 Monte Villa Parkway, Suite 101
Bothell, WA 98021**

(Address of principal executive offices)

(425) 354-5038

Registrant's telephone number, including area code

(Former name or former address, if changed since last report.)

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))

Item 5.02(b) Departure of Director.

On March 18, 2010, Michael Casey announced to the Board of Directors of AVI BioPharma, Inc. ("AVI" or the "Company") his decision to not stand for re-election at the end of his term as a director of the Company. Mr. Casey's decision was based solely on personal reasons, and was not the result of any disagreement with the Company on any matter relating to the Company's operations, policies, or practices. He will remain a director through the end of his current term which ends following the 2010 Annual Meeting of the Company's shareholders.

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SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized, in the City of Bothell, State of Washington, on March 24, 2010.

AVI BioPharma, Inc.

By: /s/ Leslie Hudson, Ph.D.

Leslie Hudson, Ph.D.
President and Chief Executive Officer
(Principal Operating Officer)

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