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

| OMB APPR | OVAL |
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| OMB Number: | 3235-0287 |
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| - | 0.5 |

longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5 obligations may continue. See Instruction 1(b).

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF SECURITIES

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

| (Print or Ty | • | | | | | | | | | | B 1 .1 | 0.5 | | - | |
|--|---|------------------------|--|---|----------|--|-------------------------------------|---|---|---|---|---------------------------------|---|---|--|
| 1. Name and Address of Reporting Person* Mayer Eldon C. III (Last) (First) (Middle) RIGEL PHARMACEUTICALS, INC., 1180 VETERANS BLVD. (Street) | | | 2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol RIGEL PHARMACEUTICALS INC [RIGL] | | | | | | 5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable) Director 10% Owner | | | | | | |
| | | | ` ` | 3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year) 02/02/2017 | | | | | | X Officer (give title below) Other (specify below) EVP & Chief Commercial Officer | | | | | |
| | | | 4. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year) | | | | | | | 6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line) Form filed by One Reporting Person Form filed by More than One Reporting Person | | | | | |
| SOUTH SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94080 (City) (State) (Zip) | | | Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acqu | | | | | | s Acquire | ured, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned | | | | | |
| 1.Title of Security (Instr. 3) 2. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Yea | | | 2A. Deemed Execution Date, it | | oate, if | 3. Transaction Code (Instr. 8) | | 4. Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5) | | 5. Amount of Securities Beneficially | | d (| 6. 7. Nature Ownership Form: Beneficial | | |
| | | | | (Month/Day/Ye | | /Year) | Cod | le V A | (A) or | (In | str. 3 and 4) | | or (I) | or Indirect (Ir | wnership nstr. 4) |
| Reminder: | Report on a s | separate file for each | | Davis (| • 6 | | | in this display | s who respon form are not r s a currently | equired to valid OMI | o respond B control n | unless the | tion contain e form | ed SEC 14 | 74 (9-02) |
| Reminder: | Report on a | separate fine for each | | | | | | | _ | | | | | | |
| 1. Title of | • | 3. Transaction | | (<i>e.g.</i> , pu | ts, ca | alls, warı 5. Numb | rants, | in this display uired, Disp options, co | form are not rest a currently osed of, or Beneratible securercisable and | equired to valid OMI eficially Ovities) | o respond B control n wned nd Amount | unless the number. | e form 9. Number o | | 11. Natur |
| 1. Title of | 2. Conversion | 3. Transaction | Table II - 3A. Deemed Execution Date, if | 4. Transac Code | etion | alls, warı 5. Numb | er rative es d (A) osed | in this display uired, Disp options, co | form are not rest a currently osed of, or Beneratible securercisable and Date | equired to valid OME eficially Ov ities) 7. Title ar | o respond B control n wned and Amount lying | unless the number. | 9. Number o Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(| f 10. Ownership Form of Derivative Security: Direct (D) or Indirect | 11. Natur |
| Title of Derivative Security | 2. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative | 3. Transaction Date | Table II - 3A. Deemed Execution Date, if any | 4. Transac Code | etion | 5. Numb of Deriv Securitie Acquired or Dispo of (D) (Instr. 3, | er rative es d (A) osed | in this display uired, Disp options, co 6. Date Exc Expiration | form are not r s a currently seed of, or Bene nvertible secur creisable and Date y/Year) Expiration | equired to valid OME eficially Ovities) 7. Title ar of Underl Securities | o respond B control n wned and Amount lying | 8. Price of Derivative Security | 9. Number o Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported | f 10. Ownership Form of Derivative Security: Direct (D) or Indirect | 11. Natur of Indirec Beneficia Ownershi |

| | Relationships | | | | | |
|---|---------------|--------------|--------------------------------|-------|--|--|
| Reporting Owner Name / Address | Director | 10% Owner | Officer | Other | | |
| Mayer Eldon C. III RIGEL PHARMACEUTICALS, INC. 1180 VETERANS BLVD. SOUTH SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94080 | | | EVP & Chief Commercial Officer | | | |

Signatures

| /s/ Dolly Vance (Attorney-in-Fact) | 02/06/2017 |
|------------------------------------|------------|
| **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 shares vest monthly over four (4) years from January 1, 2017.

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.