

Cushing MLP Total Return Fund  
Form N-8A  
May 25, 2007

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

**FORM N-8A**

**NOTIFICATION OF REGISTRATION FILED PURSUANT TO SECTION 8(a) OF THE  
INVESTMENT COMPANY ACT OF 1940**

The undersigned investment company hereby notifies the Securities and Exchange Commission that it registers under and pursuant to the provisions of Section 8(a) of the Investment Company Act of 1940, and in connection with such notification of registration submits the following information:

Name: THE CUSHING MLP TOTAL RETURN FUND  
Address of Principal Business Office (No. & Street, City, State, Zip Code):  
3300 Oak Lawn Avenue  
Suite 650  
Dallas, TX 75219

Telephone Number (including area code): (214) 692-6334

Name and address of agent for service of process:

Jerry V. Swank  
The Cushing MLP Total Return Fund  
3300 Oak Lawn Avenue  
Suite 650  
Dallas, TX 75219

With copies of Notices and Communications to:

Barry P. Barbash, Esq.  
Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP  
787 Seventh Avenue  
New York, New York 10019

Check Appropriate Box:

Registrant is filing a Registration Statement pursuant to Section 8(b) of the Investment Company Act of 1940 concurrently with the filing of Form N-8A:

YES  NO

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SIGNATURE

Pursuant to the requirements of the Investment Company Act of 1940, the registrant has caused this notification of registration to be duly signed on behalf of the registrant in the city of Dallas and the state of Texas on the 25th day of May, 2007.

[SEAL]

THE CUSHING MLP TOTAL RETURN FUND

BY: /s/ Brian Watson

Brian Watson  
Vice President

Attest: /s/ Daniel L. Spears

(Name)

Attest: Daniel L. Spears