### UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

### SCHEDULE 14A (Rule 14a-101) SCHEDULE 14A INFORMATION Proxy Statement Pursuant to Section 14(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

Filed by the Registrant  $\Box$  Filed by a Party other than the Registrant  $\boxtimes$ 

Check the appropriate box:

Preliminary Proxy Statement

- □ Confidential, for Use of the Commission Only (as permitted by Rule 14a-6(e)(2))
- □ Definitive Proxy Statement
- Definitive Additional Materials
- □ Soliciting material Pursuant to §240.14a-12

### Air Products and Chemicals, Inc.

(Name of Registrant as Specified In Its Charter)

MANTLE RIDGE LP EAGLE FUND A1 LTD EAGLE ADVISOR LLC PAUL HILAL ANDREW EVANS TRACY MCKIBBEN DENNIS REILLEY

(Name of Person(s) Filing Proxy Statement, if other than the Registrant)

Payment of Filing Fee (Check the appropriate box):

 $\boxtimes$  No fee required.

□ Fee paid previously with preliminary materials.

□ Fee computed on table in exhibit required by Item 25(b) per Exchange Act Rules 14a-6(i)(1) and 0-11

On January 21, 2025, Mantle Ridge LP, which, together with its affiliates (collectively, "Mantle Ridge"), beneficially owns approximately \$1.3 billion of the outstanding common shares of Air Products and Chemicals, Inc. (NYSE: APD) ("Air Products" or the "Company"), published the posts filed herewith as <u>Exhibit 1</u> to its X (formerly known as Twitter), LinkedIn, Facebook and Instagram pages, in connection with its solicitation of proxies for the 2025 annual meeting of shareholders of the Company.

Additionally, on January 21, 2025, Mantle Ridge made the updates filed herewith as Exhibit 2 to its website, www.RefreshingAirProducts.com.

### About Mantle Ridge

Founded in 2016, Mantle Ridge LP is an engaged, long-term owner-steward that works closely and constructively with company boards to create durable long-term value for all stakeholders. None of Mantle Ridge's affiliated entities is a hedge fund or other investment vehicle with a structurally short-term incentive. Mantle Ridge engages with the expectation of maintaining an ownership position over the very long-term. Mantle Ridge has raised separate, single-investment, five-year special purpose vehicles to support its previous engagements with companies including CSX Corporation, Aramark, and Dollar Tree. For more information, visit https://www.mantleridge.com/.

### CAUTIONARY STATEMENT REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

The information herein contains "forward-looking statements." Specific forward-looking statements can be identified by the fact that they do not relate strictly to historical or current facts and include, without limitation, words such as "may," "will," "expects," "believes," "anticipates," "plans," "estimates," "projects," "potential," "targets," "forecasts," "seeks," "could," "should" or the negative of such terms or other variations on such terms or comparable terminology. Similarly, statements that describe our objectives, plans or goals are forward-looking. Forward-looking statements are subject to various risks and uncertainties and assumptions. There can be no assurance that any idea or assumption herein is, or will be proven, correct. If one or more of the risks or uncertainties materialize, or if any of the underlying assumptions of Mantle Ridge LP and its affiliates (collectively, "Mantle Ridge") or any of the other participants in the proxy solicitation described herein prove to be incorrect, the actual results may vary materially from outcomes indicated by these statements. Accordingly, forward-looking statements should not be regarded as a representation by Mantle Ridge that the future plans, estimates or expectations contemplated will ever be achieved.

Certain statements and information included herein may have been sourced from third parties. Mantle Ridge does not make any representations regarding the accuracy, completeness or timeliness of such third party statements or information. Except as may be expressly set forth herein, permission to cite such statements or information has neither been sought nor obtained from such third parties, nor has Mantle Ridge paid for any such statements or information. Any such statements or information of support from such third parties for the views expressed herein.

Mantle Ridge disclaims any obligation to update the information herein or to disclose the results of any revisions that may be made to any projected results or forward-looking statements herein to reflect events or circumstances after the date of such information, projected results or statements or to reflect the occurrence of anticipated or unanticipated events.

### CERTAIN INFORMATION CONCERNING THE PARTICIPANTS

Mantle Ridge LP and the other Participants (as defined below) have filed a definitive proxy statement (the "Definitive Proxy Statement") and accompanying BLUE universal proxy card or voting instruction form with the SEC to be used to solicit proxies for, among other matters, the election of its slate of director nominees at the 2025 annual meeting of stockholders of the Company (the "2025 Annual Meeting"). Shortly after filing the Definitive Proxy Statement with the SEC, Mantle Ridge LP furnished the Definitive Proxy Statement and accompanying BLUE universal proxy card or voting instruction form to some or all of the stockholders entitled to vote at the 2025 Annual Meeting.

The participants in the proxy solicitation are Mantle Ridge LP, Eagle Fund A1 Ltd, Eagle Advisor LLC, Paul Hilal (all of the foregoing persons, collectively, the "Mantle Ridge Parties"), Andrew Evans, Tracy McKibben and Dennis Reilley (such individuals, collectively with the Mantle Ridge Parties, the "Participants").

### IMPORTANT INFORMATION AND WHERE TO FIND IT

MANTLE RIDGE LP STRONGLY ADVISES ALL STOCKHOLDERS OF THE COMPANY TO READ ITS DEFINITIVE PROXY STATEMENT, ANY AMENDMENTS OR SUPPLEMENTS TO SUCH PROXY STATEMENT AND OTHER PROXY MATERIALS FILED BY MANTLE RIDGE LP WITH THE SEC AS THEY BECOME AVAILABLE BECAUSE THEY WILL CONTAIN IMPORTANT INFORMATION. SUCH PROXY MATERIALS WILL BE AVAILABLE AT NO CHARGE ON THE SEC'S WEBSITE AT WWW.SEC.GOV. THE DEFINITIVE PROXY STATEMENT AND OTHER RELEVANT DOCUMENTS ARE ALSO AVAILABLE ON THE SEC'S WEBSITE, FREE OF CHARGE, OR BY DIRECTING A REQUEST TO THE PARTICIPANTS' PROXY SOLICITOR, D.F. KING & CO., INC., 48 WALL STREET, 22ND FLOOR, NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10005. STOCKHOLDERS CAN CALL TOLL-FREE: (888) 628-8208.

Information about the Participants and a description of their direct or indirect interests by security holdings or otherwise can be found in the Definitive Proxy Statement.

### **Investor Contact**

D.F. King & Co., Inc. Edward McCarthy Tel: (212) 493-6952

### **Media Contacts**

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# **Refreshing Air Products**

25 followers 1m • 🔇

Air Products (NYSE: APD) CEO and Chairman Seifi Ghasemi, who refuses to step down, is the second-oldest CEO in the S&P 500. Proposed CEO candidate Eduardo Menezes, a former executive from best-in-class competitor Linde, is highly qualified to lead \$APD into the future. https://bit.ly/li-rap-op6

REFRESHI

Vote the BLUE Proxy Card **"FOR"** Mantle Ridge's Nominees

# **\$APD CEO Succession Track Record**



① Click here for more important information

# **Refreshing Air Products**



27 followers 1m • 🔇

Air Products' 2025 Annual Meeting is fast approaching. Vote "FOR" Mantle Ridge's four highly qualified nominees—Evans, Hilal, McKibben and Reilley— and "WITHHOLD" your vote on \$APD's nominees, Cogut, Davis, Ghasemi and Monser. Here's how: https://bit.ly/li-rap-op8

Vote the BLUE Proxy Card **"FOR"** Mantle Ridge's Nominees



Air Products Shareholders: \$APD's 2025 Annual Meeting Will Be Held on January 23, 2025.

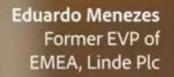
O Click here for more important information

# **Refreshing Air Products**

ARPRODUCTS 25

25 followers

Meet Eduardo Menezes, Mantle Ridge's proposed CEO candidate for Air Products (NYSE: APD). A longtime leader in the global industrial gases sector and veteran of Praxair and Linde, Menezes champions two core principles: humility and the power of listening. https://bit.ly/li-rap-op18



Leading by example is much more important than the werds to the second

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Leading Proxy Advisory Firms ISS, Glass Lewis, and Egan-Jones recommend Air Products shareholders vote "FOR" Mantle Ridge's shareholder nominees and "WITHHOLD" on Air Products' incumbent directors

## Egan-Jones

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"Under CEO Seifi Ghasemi's tenure, the management and board of Air Products has struggled to fully realize the potential of the Company's business lines."

## 🛟 GLASS LEWIS

"Mantle Ridge has... advanced a highly credible slate of candidates who appear well suited to the challenge at hand."



Leading Proxy Advisory Firms ISS, Glass Lewis, and Egan-Jones recommend Air Products shareholders vote "FOR" Mantle Ridge's shareholder nominees and "WITHHOLD" on Air Products' incumbent directors

### ISS

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"With that said, one must acknowledge the reality of Ghasemi's age, and the board should have a robust strategy in preparation for his eventual departure. Confoundingly, the board appears to have ceded control of deciding on Ghasemi's successor to Ghasemi himself..."

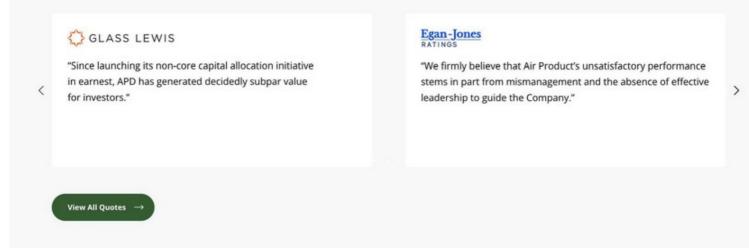
### 🛟 GLASS LEWIS

"The [APD] board's current claims surrounding peer leading profitability appear decidedly strained."

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View All Quotes  $\rightarrow$ 

Leading Proxy Advisory Firms ISS, Glass Lewis, and Egan-Jones recommend Air Products shareholders vote "FOR" Mantle Ridge's shareholder nominees and "WITHHOLD" on Air Products' incumbent directors



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## ISS

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"Prior to public reports of Mantle Ridge's position in the company, APD's P/E multiple had fallen well below those of its peers, reflecting investor skepticism about the strategy."

## ISS

"As a result of these failures to properly oversee the succession process, the company now has an 80-year-old CEO and no credible succession plan for investors to evaluate."

