

Ayers William B
Form 4
January 10, 2012

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 *
Ayers William B

(Last) (First) (Middle)

C/O BERRY PETROLEUM COMPANY, 1999 BROADWAY, SUITE 3700

(Street)

DENVER, CO 80202

(City) (State) (Zip)

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol
BERRY PETROLEUM CO [BRY]

3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)
01/09/2012

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)
VP of Human Resources

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 | | | |
| | | | | Code | V | Amount | | |
| Class A Common Stock | 01/09/2012 | | M | 2,294 (5) | A | \$ 44.395 | 5,746 | D |
| Class A Common Stock | 01/10/2012 | | S | 679 (7) | D | \$ 44.891 | 5,067 | D |

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

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number.

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 Underlying Security (Instr. 3 and 4) | |
|---|--|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|--|---|----------------------|
| | | | | Code | V (A) (D) | Date Exercisable | Expiration Date | Title |
| Non-Statutory Stock Option 5-18-06 | \$ 31.615 | | | | | 05/18/2007 | 05/17/2016 | Class A Common Stock |
| Nonstatutory Stock Option 12-15-06 | \$ 32.565 | | | | | 12/15/2007 | 12/14/2016 | Class A Common Stock |
| NSO 2007 | \$ 43.61 | | | | | 12/14/2008 | 12/13/2017 | Class A Common Stock |
| 2008 Restricted Stock Units ⁽¹⁾ | \$ 0 ⁽²⁾ | | | | | 12/12/2009 ⁽³⁾ | 12/11/2018 ⁽⁴⁾ | Class A Common Stock |
| 2009 Restricted Stock Units | \$ 0 | | | | | 12/11/2010 | 12/11/2019 | Class A Common Stock |
| Perf Based RSUs 3-16-10 | \$ 0 | | | | | 12/31/2012 | 12/31/2012 | Class A Common Stock |
| March 2011 Employee RSU Grant | \$ 0 | | | | | 03/02/2012 | 03/02/2021 | Class A Common Stock |
| Non-Statutory Stock Option 3-3-2011 - \$48.50 | \$ 48.5 | | | | | 03/02/2014 | 03/02/2021 | Class A Common Stock |
| 2007 Restricted Stock Unit | \$ 0 | 01/09/2012 | | M | 2,294 ⁽⁶⁾ | 12/14/2008 | 12/13/2017 | Class A Common Stock |

Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address | Relationships | | | |
|---|---------------|-----------|-----------------------|-------|
| | Director | 10% Owner | Officer | Other |
| Ayers William B C/O BERRY PETROLEUM COMPANY 1999 BROADWAY, SUITE 3700 DENVER, CO 80202 | | | VP of Human Resources | |

Signatures

Kenneth A. Olson under POA for W. B. Ayers 01/10/2012

**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) 1 for 1
- (2) Each RSU represents a contingent right to receive one share of Berry Petroleum Company Class A Common Stock
- (3) The RSU granted vest 25% per year beginning one year after grant but the receipt of shares are subject to a deferral period which is generally at least four years from grant date as per the deferral election.
- (4) The RSU is subject to a deferral election. Shares of Class A Common Stock will be delivered to the reporting person as per the terms of the deferral election.
- (5) Issuance of shares from previous RSU grant based on meeting terms and timing of deferral election.
- (6) Issuance of 100% of RSU shares per deferral election in place at date of grant.
- (7) Shares sold to cover tax liability of issuance of deferred RSU shares.

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.