

Ayers William B  
Form 4  
December 17, 2009

**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

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

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer  
(Check all applicable)

(Last) (First) (Middle)  
C/O BERRY PETROLEUM COMPANY, 1999 BROADWAY, SUITE 3700

3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)  
12/15/2009

\_\_\_\_ Director  
\_\_\_\_ Officer (give title below) \_\_\_\_\_ 10% Owner  
\_\_\_\_ Other (specify below)  
VP of Human Resources

(Street)  
DENVER, CO 80202

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

(City) (State) (Zip)

**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 Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4) |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|---|--|---|
|                                 |                                      |  |                                | (A) or (D)  | Price   |  |   |
| Class A Common Stock            | 12/15/2009                           |  | M <sup>(9)</sup>               | 1,250 A   | \$ 28.145 2,972   | D  |   |
| Class A Common Stock            | 12/15/2009                           |  | F <sup>(14)</sup>              | 382 D   | \$ 28.5968 2,590  | D  |   |

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

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SEC 1474 (9-02)

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 (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5) | 6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year) | 7. Title and Underlying (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 |
| 2007 Restricted Stock Unit <sup>(1)</sup>   | \$ 0 <sup>(2)</sup>                                    |                                      |  |                                |  | 12/14/2008 <sup>(3)</sup>                                | 12/13/2017 <sup>(4)</sup>                | Class A Common Stock |
| NSO 2007                                    | \$ 43.61   |                                      |  |                                |  | 12/14/2008   | 12/13/2017                               | Class A Common Stock |
| 2008 Restricted Stock Units <sup>(5)</sup>  | \$ 0 <sup>(6)</sup>                                    |                                      |  |                                |  | 12/12/2009 <sup>(7)</sup>                                | 12/11/2018 <sup>(8)</sup>                | Class A Common Stock |
| 2009 Restricted Stock Units                 | \$ 0   |                                      |  |                                |  | 12/11/2010   | 12/11/2019                               | Class A Common Stock |
| 2006 Restricted Stock Units <sup>(10)</sup> | \$ 0 <sup>(11)</sup>                                   | 12/15/2009                           |  | M                              | 1,250  | 12/15/2007 <sup>(12)</sup>                               | 12/14/2016 <sup>(13)</sup>               | Class A Common Stock |

## Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address                 | Relationships |           |                       |       |
|--|---------------|-----------|-----------------------|-------|
|  | Director      | 10% Owner | Officer               | Other |
| Ayers William B<br>C/O BERRY PETROLEUM COMPANY |               |           | VP of Human Resources |       |

1999 BROADWAY, SUITE 3700  
DENVER, CO 80202

## Signatures

Kenneth A. Olson under POA for W. B.  
Ayers

12/17/2009

\_\_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) 1 for 1
- (6) Each RSU represents a contingent right to receive one share of Berry Petroleum Company Class A Common Stock
- (7) 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.
- (8) 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.
- (9) Vested shares issued pursuant to Rule 16b-3 plan.
- (10) 1 for 1
- (11) Each RSU represents a contingent right to receive one share of Berry Petroleum Company Class A Common Stock
- (12) The restricted stock units vests in four equal annual installments beginning December 15, 2007. Shares of Class A Common Stock will be delivered to the reporting person at the time of vesting.
- (13) The restricted stock units vests in four equal annual installments beginning December 15, 2007. Shares of Class A Common Stock will be delivered to the reporting person at the time of vesting.
- (14) Shares sold to cover taxes on RSU vesting under Rule 16b-3 Plan.

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, *see* Instruction 6 for procedure.

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