

AYER WILLIAM S  
Form 4  
December 20, 2011

**FORM 4**

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

OMB APPROVAL

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Check this box if no 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, 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 \*  
AYER WILLIAM S

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol  
ALASKA AIR GROUP INC [ALK]

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

(Check all applicable)

(Last) (First) (Middle)  
19300 INTERNATIONAL BLVD  
(Street)

3. Date of Earliest Transaction  
(Month/Day/Year)  
12/16/2011

\_\_\_\_ Director  
\_\_\_\_ Officer (give title below)  
\_\_\_\_ 10% Owner  
\_\_\_\_ Other (specify below)  
CHAIR, PRESIDENT AND CEO

SEATTLE, WA 98188

4. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year)

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line)  
\_X\_ 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)
RESTRICTED STOCK UNIT (1)					85,413	D	
COMMON STOCK	12/16/2011		M(2)	15,354 A \$ 32.96	39,791	D	
COMMON STOCK	12/16/2011		S(2)	1,100 D \$ 74.3091	38,691	D	
COMMON STOCK	12/16/2011		S(2)	11,654 D \$ 75.7201	27,037	D	
COMMON STOCK	12/16/2011		S(2)	2,600 D \$ 76.1031	24,437	D	

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

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(9-02)

**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 Amount of Underlying Security (Instr. 3 and 4)
EMPLOYEE STOCK OPTION (RT TO BUY)	\$ 32.96	12/16/2011		M	15,354	08/30/2006 08/30/2015	COMMON STOCK

## Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships			
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other
AYER WILLIAM S 19300 INTERNATIONAL BLVD SEATTLE, WA 98188			CHAIR, PRESIDENT AND CEO	

## Signatures

/s/ Jeanne Gammon, Attorney-in-Fact for William S. Ayer  
 12/20/2011  
 \*\*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) STOCK UNITS AWARDED UNDER THE 2008 PERFORMANCE INCENTIVE PLAN; NO LONGER SUBJECT TO FORFEITURE.
- (2) SAME-DAY EXERCISE OF OPTIONS AND SALE EFFECTED PURSUANT TO A RULE 10b5-1 TRADING PLAN ADOPTED BY MR. AYER ON JULY 25, 2011.

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.