

Kelso Bruce S
 Form 4
 December 16, 2005

FORM 4 UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
 Washington, D.C. 20549

OMB APPROVAL

OMB Number: 3235-0287
 Expires: January 31, 2005
 Estimated average burden hours per response... 0.5

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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 *
 Kelso Bruce S

(Last) (First) (Middle)

C/O BERRY PETROLEUM COMPANY, 5201 TRUXTUN AVE., SUITE 300

(Street)

BAKERSFIELD, CA 93309

(City) (State) (Zip)

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

3. Date of Earliest Transaction
 (Month/Day/Year)
 12/15/2005

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)
 Vice President

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 Ownership (Instr. 4) |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|---|--|-----------------------------------|
| | | | Code | V Amount (A) or (D) Price | | | |
| Class A Common Stock | | | | | 0 | D | |
| Class A Common Stock | 12/15/2005 ⁽¹⁾ | | J | V 20 ⁽¹⁾ A \$ 0 ⁽¹⁾ | 241 ⁽¹⁾ | I | Held in 401(k) Plan |

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 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) |
|--|--|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|--|---|
| | | | | Code V | (A) (D) | Date Exercisable Expiration Date | Title Amount or Number of Shares |
| Nonstatutory Stock Option (Right to Buy) NSO | \$ 17.9 | | | | | 08/23/2004 08/23/2013 | Class A Common Stock 5,000 |
| Nonstatutory Stock Option (Right to Buy) NSO | \$ 19.94 | | | | | 12/05/2004 12/05/2013 | Class A Common Stock 1,500 |
| Nonstatutory Stock Option (Right to Buy) NSO | \$ 43.16 | | | | | 11/23/2005 11/23/2014 | Class A Common Stock 15,000 |
| Nonstatutory Stock Option (Right to Buy) NSO | \$ 61.29 | 12/15/2005 | | A ⁽²⁾ | 10,000 | 12/15/2006 12/15/2015 | Class A Common Stock 10,000 |
| Restricted Stock Units (RSU) ⁽³⁾ | <u>(3)</u> | 12/15/2005 | | A ⁽⁴⁾ | 2,500 | <u>(5)</u> <u>(5)</u> | Class A Common Stock 2,500 |

Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address | Relationships | | | |
|---|---------------|-----------|----------------|-------|
| | Director | 10% Owner | Officer | Other |
| Kelso Bruce S C/O BERRY PETROLEUM COMPANY 5201 TRUXTUN AVE., SUITE 300 BAKERSFIELD, CA 93309 | | | Vice President | |

Signatures

Kenneth A. Olson under Power of Attorney
on file

12/16/2005

__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) Between October 3, 2005 and December 15, 2005, the reporting person acquired 20 shares of Berry Petroleum Company common stock in the Company's 401(k) plan. All transactions were at market value and were non-discretionary.
- (2) Grant of Nonstatutory Stock Option under the Company's 2005 Equity Incentive Plan in a transaction exempt under Rule 16b-3(c). Shares vest at 25% annually from date of grant.
- (3) Each RSU represents a contingent right to receive one share of Berry Petroleum Company Class A Common Stock.
- (4) Grant of Restricted Stock Unit (RSU) under the Company's 2005 Equity Incentive Plan in a transaction exempt under Rule 16b-3(c). RSUs vest at 25% annually from date of grant.
- (5) The restricted stock units vest in four equal annual installments beginning December 15, 2006. Shares of Class A Common Stock will be delivered to the reporting person at the time of vesting.

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.