

MERIDIAN RESOURCE CORP

Form 3

January 16, 2008

FORM 3 UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549

OMB APPROVAL

OMB Number: 3235-0104

Expires: January 31, 2005

Estimated average burden hours per response... 0.5

INITIAL STATEMENT OF 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 *

Â Ching Paul David
 (Last) (First) (Middle)

1401 ENCLAVE
 PKWY,Â SUITE 300

(Street)

HOUSTON,Â TXÂ 77077

(City) (State) (Zip)

2. Date of Event Requiring Statement

(Month/Day/Year)
 01/02/2008

3. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol
 MERIDIAN RESOURCE CORP [TMR]

4. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

(Check all applicable)

Director 10% Owner
 Officer Other
 (give title below) (specify below)

5. 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

Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned

1. Title of Security (Instr. 4)

2. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned (Instr. 4)

3. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 5)

4. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 5)

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

SEC 1473 (7-02)

Persons who respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Table II - Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned (e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)

1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 4)

2. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year)

Date Exercisable Expiration Date

3. Title and Amount of Securities Underlying Derivative Security (Instr. 4)

Title Amount or Number of Shares

4. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security

5. Ownership Form of Derivative Security: Direct (D) or Indirect (I)

6. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 5)

(Instr. 5)

Stock option 01/02/2008⁽¹⁾ 01/02/2013 Common Stock 15,000 \$ 1.79 D Â

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships			
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other
Ching Paul David 1401 ENCLAVE PKWY SUITE 300 HOUSTON, TX 77077	Â X	Â	Â	Â

Signatures

/s/ Paul D. Ching 01/15/2008

 **Signature of Date
Reporting Person

Explanation of Responses:

- * If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, *see* Instruction 5(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) Grant to reporting person of option to buy 15,000 shares of common stock under the The Meridian Resource Corporation 2006 Non-Employee Directors' Incentive Plan in transaction exempt from old rule 16b-3. 25% of the shares of common stock covered by any such directors' option vest one year after the date of grant, an additional 25% of such shares of common stock vest after two years and all the remaining shares of common stock vest three years after grant.

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.