Ayers William B Form 4 January 10, 2012

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

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OMB APPROVAL

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF **SECURITIES**

Form 5 obligations may continue. See Instruction

Check this box

if no longer

subject to

Section 16.

Form 4 or

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

1(b).

Class A

Stock

Common

01/10/2012

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person * 5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to 2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Ayers William B Issuer Symbol BERRY PETROLEUM CO [BRY] (Check all applicable) (Last) (First) (Middle) 3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year) Director 10% Owner Other (specify Officer (give title C/O BERRY PETROLEUM 01/09/2012 below) COMPANY, 1999 BROADWAY, VP of Human Resources **SUITE 3700** (Street) 4. If Amendment, Date Original 6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Filed(Month/Day/Year) Applicable Line) _X_ Form filed by One Reporting Person Form filed by More than One Reporting **DENVER, CO 80202** Person (City) (State) (Zip) Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned 2. Transaction Date 2A. Deemed 5. Amount of 7. Nature of 1. Title of 3. 4. Securities Acquired 6. Security (Month/Day/Year) Execution Date, if Transaction(A) or Disposed of (D) Securities Ownership Indirect (Instr. 3) Code (Instr. 3, 4 and 5) Beneficially Form: Direct Beneficial (Month/Day/Year) (Instr. 8) Ownership Owned (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4) Following Reported (Instr. 4) (A) Transaction(s) or (Instr. 3 and 4) Price Code V Amount (D) Class A 2,294 Common 01/09/2012 M 5,746 D (5) 44.395 Stock

679 (7) D

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

S

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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)	Transactio Code (Instr. 8)	5. Number not Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5)			7. Title and A Underlying So (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
- 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.

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