

BERRY PETROLEUM CO  
Form 4  
December 15, 2008

**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 \*  
Ayers William B

(Last) (First) (Middle)  
1999 BROADWAY, SUITE 300  
(Street)

DENVER, CO 80202

(City) (State) (Zip)

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

3. Date of Earliest Transaction  
(Month/Day/Year)  
12/12/2008

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)  
VP

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)
Class A Common Stock				(A) or (D)	Amount Price		
					861	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)

**Table II - Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned (e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)**

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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 Underlying (Instr. 3 and 4)
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
2006 Restricted Stock Units <sup>(1)</sup>	\$ 0 <sup>(2)</sup>					12/15/2007 <sup>(3)</sup> 12/14/2016 <sup>(4)</sup>	Class A Common Stock
2007 Restricted Stock Unit <sup>(5)</sup>	\$ 0 <sup>(6)</sup>					12/14/2008 <sup>(7)</sup> 12/13/2017 <sup>(8)</sup>	Class A Common Stock
NSO 2007	\$ 43.61					12/14/2008 12/13/2017	Class A Common Stock
2008 Restricted Stock Units <sup>(9)</sup>	\$ 0 <sup>(10)</sup>	12/12/2008		A	12,333 <sup>(11)</sup>	12/12/2009 <sup>(12)</sup> 12/11/2018 <sup>(13)</sup>	Class A Common Stock

## Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships			
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other
Ayers William B 1999 BROADWAY, SUITE 300 DENVER, CO 80202			VP	

## Signatures

Kenneth A. Olson under POA for W. B. Ayers  
 12/15/2008  
 \*\*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 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.
- (4) 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.
- (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) 1 for 1
- (10) Each RSU represents a contingent right to receive one share of Berry Petroleum Company Class A Common Stock
- (11) Grant of Nonstatutory Stock Option (NSO) under the Company's 2005 Equity Incentive Plan in a transaction exempt under Rule 16b-3(c). Shares vest 25% per year from date of grant.
- (12) 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.
- (13) 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.

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.