

Ayers William B  
 Form 4  
 December 17, 2010

**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

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

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

(Check all applicable)

\_\_\_\_ Director  
 \_\_\_\_ Officer (give title below)  
 \_\_\_\_ 10% Owner  
 \_\_\_\_ Other (specify below)  
 VP of Human Resources

(Last) (First) (Middle)  
 C/O BERRY PETROLEUM COMPANY, 1999 BROADWAY, SUITE 3700  
 (Street)

3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)  
 12/15/2010

4. 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

DENVER, CO 80202

(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)		
				Code	V	Amount	(A) or (D)	Price	
Class A Common Stock	12/15/2010		M	A	1,250 (9)			\$ 42.895 3,840	D
Class A Common Stock	12/17/2010		S	D	388 (11)			\$ 43.0674 3,452	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)

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 Underlying Security (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
2007 Restricted Stock Unit <sup>(1)</sup>	\$ 0 <sup>(2)</sup>					12/14/2008 <sup>(3)</sup>	12/13/2017 <sup>(4)</sup>	Class A Common Stock
NSO 2007	\$ 43.61					12/14/2008	12/13/2017	Class A Common Stock
2008 Restricted Stock Units <sup>(5)</sup>	\$ 0 <sup>(6)</sup>					12/12/2009 <sup>(7)</sup>	12/11/2018 <sup>(8)</sup>	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
2006 Restricted Stock Units	\$ 0	12/15/2010		M	1,250 <sup>(10)</sup>	12/15/2007	12/14/2016	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

12/17/2010

\*\*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 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) 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) Vested shares issued pursuant to Rule 16b-3 plan.
- (10) Vesting of 25% of RSUs granted 12-15-2006 under a Rule 16b-3 Plan
- (11) Shares sold to cover taxes on RSU vesting under Rule 16b-3 Plan.

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.