BERRY PETROLEUM CO

Form 4

December 20, 2004

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

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF

OMB APPROVAL OMB

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SECURITIES Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934,

obligations Section 17(a) of the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935 or Section may continue. 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

See Instruction 1(b).

(Print or Type Responses)

(Last)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person * **BUSH WILLIAM E JR**

(First)

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol

BERRY PETROLEUM CO [BRY]

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to

Issuer

(Middle)

3. Date of Earliest Transaction

(Check all applicable)

(Month/Day/Year) 12/16/2004

_X__ Director 10% Owner Other (specify Officer (give title

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

> (Street) 4. If Amendment, Date Original

> > Filed(Month/Day/Year)

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check

Applicable Line)

X Form filed by One Reporting Person Form filed by More than One Reporting

Person

BAKERSFIELD, CA 93309

(State)

(City)	(State)	(Zip) Tab	le I - No	on-I	Derivative	Secu	rities A	cquired, Dispose	ed of, or Benef	ficially Owned
1.Title of Security (Instr. 3)	2. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	2A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year)	Code	TransactionAcquired (A) or Code Disposed of (D) (Instr. 8) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5)		5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported	6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I)	7. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4)		
Class A Common Stock	12/16/2004		Code G	v V	Amount 100 (1)	` ′	Price \$ 0 (1)	Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4) 233,253	(Instr. 4)	
Class A Common Stock	12/16/2004		G	V	100 (2)	A	\$ 0 (2)	100	I	As custodian of shares for minor grandchildren

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

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SEC 1474 (9-02)

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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)	Code of (Instr. 8) Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3,		6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year)		7. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities (Instr. 3 and 4)	
				Code \	4, and 5)	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of Shares
Non-Statutory Stock Option	\$ 43.54					12/02/2004	12/02/2014	Class A Common Stock	5,000

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships					
•	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other		
BUSH WILLIAM E JR C/O BERRY PETROLEUM COMPANY 5201 TRUXTUN AVE., SUITE 300 BAKERSFIELD, CA 93309	X					

Signatures

Kenneth A. Olson under POA for William E.

Bush
12/20/2004

**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) Shares were gifted to grandchildren.
- (2) Indirect ownership of shares as custodian for minor grandchildren
- (3) NSO Right to buy Berry Petroleum Company Class A Common Stock

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.

Reporting Owners 2