

WILLIFORD CHRIS E  
Form 4  
March 18, 2011

**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 \*  
**WILLIFORD CHRIS E**

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol  
**ABRAXAS PETROLEUM CORP  
[AXAS]**

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer  
  
(Check all applicable)

(Last) (First) (Middle)  
  
18803 MEISNER DRIVE  
  
(Street)

3. Date of Earliest Transaction  
(Month/Day/Year)  
03/15/2011

\_\_\_\_ Director \_\_\_\_\_ 10% Owner  
 Officer (give title below) \_\_\_\_\_ Other (specify below)  
EVP/CFO

SAN ANTONIO, TX 78258

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

(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 Ownership (Instr. 4) |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|---|--|-----------------------------------|
|                                 |                                      |  | Code                           | V   | Amount (A) or (D) Price   |  |                                   |
| Abraxas Common Stock            | 03/15/2011                           |  | A                              |   | 1,582 A \$ 4.72   | D  |                                   |

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

**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.**

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 Amount of Underlying Security (Instr. 3 and 4) |                                |         |
|--|--|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|--|---|--------------------------------|---------|
|  |  |                                      |  | Code                           | V (A) (D)   | Date Exercisable   | Expiration Date   | Title                          | Amount  |
| Employee Stock Option                      | \$ 4.72  | 03/15/2010                           |  | A                              | 30,000  | 03/15/2012 <sup>(1)</sup>                                | 03/15/2021  | Abraxas Petroleum Common Stock | 30,000  |
| Employee Stock Option                      | \$ 2.09  |                                      |  |                                |   | 03/16/2011   | 03/16/2020  | Abraxas Petroleum Common Stock | 60,000  |
| Employee Stock Option                      | \$ 1.75  |                                      |  |                                |   | 10/05/2010   | 10/05/2015  | Abraxas Petroleum Common Stock | 66,000  |
| Employee Stock Option                      | \$ 0.99  |                                      |  |                                |   | 03/17/2010   | 03/17/2019  | Abraxas Petroleum Common Stock | 50,000  |
| Employee Stock Option                      | \$ 3.6   |                                      |  |                                |   | 08/28/2011   | 08/28/2017  | Abraxas Petroleum Common Stock | 15,000  |
| Employee Stock Option                      | \$ 4.59  |                                      |  |                                |   | 09/13/2009   | 09/13/2015  | Abraxas Petroleum Common Stock | 100,000 |
| Employee Stock Option                      | \$ 0.65  |                                      |  |                                |   | 11/22/2006   | 11/22/2012  | Abraxas Petroleum Common Stock | 43,000  |
| Employee Stock Option                      | \$ 0.66  |                                      |  |                                |   | 03/23/2005   | 03/23/2011  | Abraxas Petroleum Common Stock | 20,000  |

## Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address | Relationships |           |         |       |
|--------------------------------|---------------|-----------|---------|-------|
|                                | Director      | 10% Owner | Officer | Other |

WILLIFORD CHRIS E  
18803 MEISNER DRIVE  
SAN ANTONIO, TX 78258

EVP/CFO

## Signatures

Chris E.  
Williford

03/18/2011

\*\*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) Options vest at 25% per year beginning one year 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.  
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