

Ayers William B
 Form 4
 June 05, 2006

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)

(Last) (First) (Middle)
 5201 TRUXTUN AVE., SUITE 300

3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)
 05/18/2006

____ Director
 ____ Officer (give title below)
 ____ 10% Owner
 ____ Other (specify below)
 VP

(Street)

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

BAKERSFIELD, CA 93309

(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)
Class A Common Stock				(A) or (D) Price	0	D	

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

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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 or Number of S
Non-Statutory Stock Option	\$ 31.615 <u>(1)</u>	05/18/2006		A		10,000 <u>(2) (3)</u>		05/18/2007	05/17/2016	Class A Common Stock <u>(5)</u>	10

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships			
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other
Ayers William B 5201 TRUXTUN AVE., SUITE 300 BAKERSFIELD, CA 93309			VP	

Signatures

Kenneth A. Olson under POA for W. B. Ayers	06/05/2006
<small>**Signature of Reporting Person</small>	<small>Date</small>

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) All amounts and prices have been adjusted to reflect the Company's 2-for-1 stock split to shareholders of record on May 17, 2006.
- (2) 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.
- (3) All amounts and prices have been adjusted to reflect the Company's 2-for-1 stock split to shareholders of record on May 17, 2006.
- (4) 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.
- (5) All amounts and prices have been adjusted to reflect the Company's 2-for-1 stock split to shareholders of record on May 17, 2006.

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.