

CROPPER STEVE
Form 4
December 16, 2005

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 *
CROPPER STEVE

(Last) (First) (Middle)

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

(Street)

BAKERSFIELD, CA 93309

(City) (State) (Zip)

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

3. Date of Earliest Transaction
(Month/Day/Year)
12/15/2005

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)

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) Code V Amount (D) Price | 2,500 | 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 (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) | Amount or Number of Shares |
|-------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Non-Statutory Stock Option (NSO) ⁽¹⁾ | \$ 16.14 | | | | | 12/02/2002 12/02/2012 | Class A Common Stock | 5,000 |
| Non-Statutory Stock Option (NSO) ⁽¹⁾ | \$ 19.22 | | | | | 12/02/2003 12/02/2013 | Class A Common Stock | 5,000 |
| Non-Statutory Stock Option (NSO) ⁽¹⁾ | \$ 43.54 | | | | | 12/02/2004 12/02/2014 | Class A Common Stock | 5,000 |
| Non-Statutory Stock Option (NSO) ⁽¹⁾ | \$ 61.29 | 12/15/2005 | | A ⁽²⁾ | 5,000 | 12/15/2005 12/15/2015 | Class A Common Stock | 5,000 |

Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address | Relationships | | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|-----------|---------|-------|
| | Director | 10% Owner | Officer | Other |
| CROPPER STEVE C/O BERRY PETROLEUM COMPANY 5201 TRUXTUN AVE., SUITE 300 BAKERSFIELD, CA 93309 | X | | | |

Signatures

Kenneth A. Olson under POA for Stephen L. Cropper
 Date: 12/16/2005

**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) NSO - Right to buy Berry Petroleum Company Class A Common Stock

(2) Grant of Nonstatutory Stock Option under the Company's 2005 Equity Incentive Plan in a transaction exempt under Rule 16b-3(c). Shares vest at 25% annually from date of 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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