
**UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**

Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM 8-K

CURRENT REPORT

Pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

Date of Report (Date of earliest event reported): May 3, 2005 (May 3, 2005)

BERRY PETROLEUM COMPANY

(Exact Name of Registrant as Specified in its Charter)

DELAWARE

(State or Other Jurisdiction of
Incorporation or Organization)

1-9735

(Commission File Number)

77-0079387

(IRS Employer
Identification Number)

5201 TRUXTUN AVE., STE. 300, BAKERSFIELD, CA
(Address of Principal Executive Offices)

93309
(Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: **(661) 616-3900**

Check the appropriate box below if the Form 8-K filing is intended to simultaneously satisfy the filing obligation of the registrant under any of the following provisions:

- Written communications pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act (17 CFR 230.425)
 - Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14a-12)
 - Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d-2(b) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14d-2(b))
 - Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13e-4(c) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.13e-4(c))
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Item 8.01 Other Events

On May 3, 2005 Berry Petroleum Company (the "Company") issued a press release announcing that its Board of Directors had reviewed the 2005 Equity Incentive Plan (the "Plan") and decided to remove paragraph 8(e) from the Plan. With this change, the Company will not buyback, exchange or re-price options without shareholder consent.

The information in this Current Report on Form 8-K and Exhibit 99.1 is being furnished and shall not be deemed "filed" for the purposes of Section 18 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, or otherwise subject to the liabilities of that Section.

Item 9.01 Financial Statements and Exhibits

(c) Exhibits

99.1 Press Release of Berry Petroleum Company dated May 3, 2005.

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned hereto duly authorized.

**BERRY PETROLEUM
COMPANY**

By: /s/ Kenneth A. Olson
Kenneth A. Olson
Corporate Secretary

Date: May 3, 2005

News Release

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BERRY PETROLEUM COMPANY MODIFIES ITS 2005 EQUITY INCENTIVE PLAN

Bakersfield, CA - May 03, 2005 - Berry Petroleum Company (NYSE:BRY) announced that the Board of Directors has reviewed the 2005 Equity Incentive Plan ("Plan") that is to be brought to a shareholder vote during Berry's Annual Meeting of Shareholders on May 11, 2005. Berry's Board has deleted paragraph 8(e) to the Plan. With this change, Berry will not buyback, exchange or re-price options without shareholder consent.

Berry Petroleum Company is a publicly traded independent oil and gas production and exploitation company with its headquarters in Bakersfield, California.

This release may contain descriptions of the Company's expectations regarding future business activities. These forward-looking statements are made in reliance upon safe harbor provisions of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. Accordingly, actual results may differ materially from those contemplated by the forward- looking statements.

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