

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) April 26, 2004

Berry Petroleum Company  
(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware (State or other jurisdiction of incorporation)	1-9735 (Commission File Number)	77-0079387 IRS Employer Identification No.
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5201 Truxtun Avenue, Suite 300 Bakersfield, CA 93309  
(Address of principal executive offices)

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

N/A  
(Former name or former address, if changed since last report)

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Item 9. Regulation FD Disclosure

(c) Exhibits

The following Exhibits are hereby filed as part of this Current Report on Form 8-K:

Exhibit 99.1 Press Release dated April 26, 2004 regarding the Registrant's announcing the retirement of Jerry V. Hoffman as president and chief executive officer.

SIGNATURE

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 thereunto duly authorized.

BERRY PETROLEUM COMPANY

By /s/ Kenneth A. Olson  
Name: Kenneth A. Olson  
Title: Corporate Secretary  
and Treasurer

April 26, 2004



News Release

Berry Petroleum Company  
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Bakersfield, California 93309-0640

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Contacts:

Robert F. Heinemann, Chairman and Interim President and Interim CEO  
Ralph J. Goehring, Senior Vice President and CFO

BERRY PETROLEUM COMPANY ANNOUNCES THE RETIREMENT OF JERRY V. HOFFMAN

Bakersfield, CA - April 26, 2004 - Berry Petroleum Company (NYSE:BRY) announced that effective today, Mr. Jerry V. Hoffman is retiring as president and chief executive officer of Berry Petroleum Company for personal and health reasons. Mr. Robert F. Heinemann, the current chairman of the board, has been named interim president and chief executive officer. The board is immediately proceeding to engage in a search for a successor president and chief executive officer.

The board of directors is confident Mr. Hoffman's departure will have no adverse affect on the Company's ongoing operations, management team or financial results. First quarter results will be released as scheduled on May 5, 2004.

The board of directors wishes Mr. Hoffman well in his retirement and acknowledges the Company's appreciation for his almost 20 years of service to the Company during which time the Company experienced tremendous growth and success.

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.