

**STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP**

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).

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person* <b>GAUL J HERBERT JR</b>  (Last) (First) (Middle) <b>C/O BERRY PETROLEUM COMPANY 5201 TRUXTUN</b>  (Street) <b>BAKERSFIELD CA 93309</b>  (City) (State) (Zip)	2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol <b>BERRY PETROLEUM CO [ BRY ]</b>	5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Director 10% Owner Officer (give title below) Other (specify below)
	3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year) <b>12/31/2008</b>	
	4. If Amendment, Date of Original Filed (Month/Day/Year)	

**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 Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4)
			Code	V	Amount	(A) or (D)	Price			
Class A Common Stock							4,000	D		

**Table II - Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned (e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)**

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 Securities Underlying Derivative Security (Instr. 3 and 4)	8. Price of Derivative Security (Instr. 5)	9. Number of derivative Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 4)	10. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4)	11. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4)	
				Code	V	(A)	(D)	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date						Title
Nonstatutory Stock Options 12-2-99	\$7.0312							12/02/1999	12/02/2009	Class A Common Stock	10,000	10,000	D		
Nonstatutory Stock Options 12-2-2000	\$7.8438							12/02/2000	12/02/2010	Class A Common Stock	10,000	10,000	D		
Nonstatutory Stock Options 12-2-01	\$7.725							12/02/2001	12/02/2011	Class A Common Stock	10,000	10,000	D		
Nonstatutory Stock Options 12-2-02	\$8.07							12/02/2002	12/02/2012	Class A Common Stock	10,000	10,000	D		
Nonstatutory Stock Options 12-2-03	\$9.61							12/02/2003	12/02/2013	Class A Common Stock	10,000	10,000	D		
Nonstatutory Stock Options 12-2-04	\$21.77							12/02/2004	12/02/2014	Class A Common Stock	10,000	10,000	D		
Nonstatutory Stock Option 12-15-05	\$30.645							12/15/2005	12/15/2015	Class A Common Stock	10,000	10,000	D		
Nonstatutory Stock Option 12-15-06	\$32.565							12/15/2006	12/14/2016	Class A Common Stock	10,000	10,000	D		
2007 Restricted Stock Unit <sup>(1)</sup>	\$0							01/01/2008 <sup>(2)</sup>	12/13/2017 <sup>(3)</sup>	Class A Common Stock	1,319	1,319	D		
NSO 2007	\$43.61							12/14/2007	12/13/2017	Class A Common Stock	3,956	3,956	D		
Phantom Stock Units <sup>(4)</sup>	\$0	12/31/2008		A		2,935		08/08/1988	08/08/1988	Class A Common Stock	30,023	\$7.56	32,958	D	

**Explanation of Responses:**

1. 1 for 1
2. The RSU granted is 100% vested at the date of grant but the receipt of shares are subject to a deferral period which is generally at least four years from the grant date as per the deferral election.
3. The RSU is subject to a deferral election. Shares of Class A Common Stock will be delivered to the reporting person as per the terms of the deferral election.
4. Phantom Stock Units acquired under the Company's Non-Employee Director Deferred Compensation Plan in a transaction exempt under Rule 16b-3(c). Shares of Common Stock are issued under terms of the Plan upon resignation from the board of directors.

Kenneth A Olson under POA  
for J. Gaul

01/05/2009

\*\* Signature of Reporting Person

Date

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

\* 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).

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, see Instruction 6 for procedure.

**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 Number.**