

UNITED STATES  
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

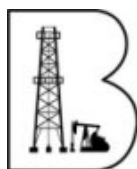
Washington, D.C. 20549

**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): August 31, 2007



**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))

**Item 5.02. Departure of Directors or Principal Officers; Election of Directors; Appointment of Principal Officers; Compensatory Arrangements of Certain Officers.**

(c) On August 31, 2007, Berry Petroleum Company ("Company") issued a press release announcing that Mr. Michael Duginski, age 41, was appointed to the newly created position of executive vice president and chief operating officer of the Company, effective September 1, 2007. The press release is attached as Exhibit 99.1 and is incorporated herein by reference.

**Item 9.01 Financial Statements and Exhibits.**

(d) Exhibits

<b>Exhibit No.</b>	<b>Description</b>
99.1	News Release dated August 31, 2007 titled "Berry Petroleum Company Names Michael Duginski Chief Operating Officer."

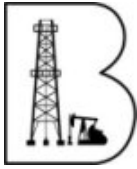
**SIGNATURES**

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: August 31, 2007



## Berry Petroleum Company News

Contact: Berry Petroleum Company  
5201 Truxtun Ave., Ste. 300  
Bakersfield, CA 93309  
1-661-616-3900



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Contacts: Robert F. Heinemann, President and CEO - - Ralph J. Goehring, Executive Vice President and CFO

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### **Berry Petroleum Company Names Michael Duginski Chief Operating Officer**

**Bakersfield, Calif. -- (BUSINESS WIRE) -- August 31, 2007--**Berry Petroleum Company (NYSE: BRY) ("Company") today announced that Michael Duginski, 41, has been appointed executive vice president and chief operating officer effective September 1, 2007. Mr. Duginski will continue to report to Mr. Robert F. Heinemann, president and chief executive officer.

In announcing the appointment Mr. Heinemann said, "Mr. Duginski has been an integral part of Berry's growth and success over the past five years. His appointment to the role of executive vice president and chief operating officer is a reflection of the increased responsibilities Mr. Duginski has undertaken since his appointment as executive vice president of Corporate Development and California in 2005."

Mr. Duginski has been the Company's executive vice president of Corporate Development and California since October 2005. Mr. Duginski was senior vice president of Corporate Development from June 2004 through October 2005 and was vice president of Corporate Development from February 2002, when he joined Berry, through June 2004. Mr. Duginski was previously with Texaco, Inc. from 1988 to 2002 where his positions included director of new business development, production manager and gas and power operations manager. Mr. Duginski is also an assistant secretary of Berry.

#### **About Berry Petroleum Company**

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

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