

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
Washington, D.C. 20549

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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) December 9, 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 7.01. Regulation FD

Regulation FD Disclosure

(c) Exhibits

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

Exhibit 99 - News Release dated December 9, 2004 regarding the  
Registrant's announcing the promotion of Shawn Canaday to the  
postion of treasurer.

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

December 9, 2004



News Release

Berry Petroleum Company Phone (661) 616-3900  
5201 Truxtun Avenue, Suite 300 E-mail: ir@bry.com  
Bakersfield, California 93309-0640 Internet: www.bry.com

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

BERRY PETROLEUM COMPANY PROMOTES SHAWN CANADAY TO TREASURER

Bakersfield, CA - December 9, 2004 - Berry Petroleum Company (NYSE:BRY) announced the promotion of Shawn Canaday to the position of treasurer, effective December 1, 2004. Mr. Canaday joined Berry in 2003 as a senior financial analyst and has worked under the direction of Ralph Goehring, executive vice president and chief financial officer, and Kenneth Olson, corporate secretary/treasurer. The Company is dividing the role of corporate secretary/treasurer, with Mr. Olson continuing in the role of corporate secretary, to better align these positions with the Company's recent and planned growth.

Mr. Canaday, a Certified Public Accountant, is a graduate of California State University, Fresno, and has experience in both public accounting and the oil and gas industry, having previously worked for ChevronTexaco.

In announcing the promotion, Ralph Goehring said, "Shawn has ably assisted the Berry financial team in the role of senior financial analyst since joining Berry last year and we believe that as treasurer he will provide the Company with continued excellent oversight of the finance, capital structure and risk management responsibilities."

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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