

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP

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

OMB APPROVAL	
OMB Number:	3235-0287
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1. Name and Address of Reporting Person* <u>GAUL J HERBERT JR</u> _____ (Last) (First) (Middle) <u>C/O BERRY PETROLEUM COMPANY</u> <u>5201 TRUXTUN AVE., SUITE 300</u> _____ (Street) <u>BAKERSFIELD CA 93309</u> _____ (City) (State) (Zip)			2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol <u>BERRY PETROLEUM CO [BRY]</u>			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) <u>12/31/2003</u>					
			4. If Amendment, Date of Original Filed (Month/Day/Year)			6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing (Check Applicable Line) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Form filed by One Reporting Person _____ Form filed by More than One Reporting Person		

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								2,000	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
Phantom Stock Units ⁽²⁾⁽³⁾	\$0 ⁽¹⁾	12/31/2003		A		539		08/08/1988 ⁽²⁾	08/08/1988 ⁽³⁾	Class A Common Stock	539	\$20.25	9,171	D	
Non-Statutory Stock Option (NSO) ⁽⁴⁾	\$14.0625							12/02/1999	12/02/2009	Class A Common Stock	5,000		5,000	D	
Non-Statutory Stock Option (NSO) ⁽⁴⁾	\$15.69							12/02/2000	12/02/2010	Class A Common Stock	5,000		5,000	D	
Non-Statutory Stock Option (NSO) ⁽⁴⁾	\$15.45							12/02/2001	12/02/2011	Class A Common Stock	5,000		5,000	D	
Non-Statutory Stock Option (NSO) ⁽⁴⁾	\$16.14							12/02/2002	12/02/2012	Class A Common Stock	5,000		5,000	D	
Non-Statutory Stock Option (NSO) ⁽⁴⁾	\$19.22							12/02/2003	12/02/2013	Class A Common Stock	5,000		5,000	D	

Explanation of Responses:

- 1 for 1
- Phantom Stock Units acquired under the Company's Non-Employee Director Deferred Stock and Compensation Plan in a transaction exempt under Rule 16b-3(c). Shares are exercisable under the terms of the Plan upon resignation from the Board.
- Phantom Stock Units acquired under the Company's Non-Employee Director Deferred Stock and Compensation Plan in a transaction exempt under Rule 16b-3(c). Shares expire under the terms of the Plan upon resignation from the Board.
- NSO - Right to buy Berry Petroleum Company Class A Common Stock

Remarks:

Kenneth A. Olson under POA 12/31/2003
for Herbert J. Gaul Jr.

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.