
**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): October 3, 2005 (October 1, 2005)

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))
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Item 5.02(c) Election of Director

On October 3, 2005, Berry Petroleum Company issued a news release announcing the election of Joseph H. Bryant as a director of Berry Petroleum Company effective October 1, 2005. The information contained in the press release is incorporated herein by reference and furnished as Exhibit 99.1.

The information in this Current Report on Form 8-K and Exhibit 99.1 is being furnished and shall not be deemed "filed" for the purposes of Section 18 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, or otherwise subject to the liabilities of that Section.

Item 9.01 Financial Statements and Exhibits

(c) Exhibits

99.1 News release dated October 3, 2005 announcing the election of Joseph H. Bryant to Berry Petroleum Company Board of Directors, effective October 1, 2005.

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: October 3, 2005

News Release

Berry Petroleum Company

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

BERRY PETROLEUM COMPANY NAMES JOSEPH H. BRYANT TO BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Bakersfield, CA - October 3, 2005 - Berry Petroleum Company (NYSE:BRY) announced that Joseph H. Bryant has been elected to the Board of Directors, effective October 1, 2005.

Martin H. Young, chairman of the board, said, "We are pleased that Joe Bryant is joining our Board. He brings a wealth of technical and operational knowledge. His advice will be valuable as we grow our Company."

Mr. Robert F. Heinemann, president and chief executive officer of Berry, stated, "Joe's extensive experience in exploration, production and operations further broadens and deepens the expertise of the Board. Joe is joining Berry Petroleum at an exciting time in our history, and his willingness to be part of our team further validates the significant progress Berry has made in its transformation."

Mr. Bryant has more than 28 years of experience in the oil and gas industry having most recently served as the president and chief operating officer of Unocal until September 30, 2005. Prior to his position at Unocal, Mr. Bryant was the president of BP Angola from 2000 to 2004 and prior to that time was president of BP Canada and an Amoco joint venture in China. He has also held numerous leadership positions for Amoco in engineering, financial and operational assignments throughout the continental United States. Mr. Bryant has a Bachelor of Science degree in mechanical engineering from the University of Nebraska.

Berry Petroleum Company is a publicly traded independent oil and gas production and exploitation company with headquarters in Bakersfield, California. Visit www.bry.com for more information.

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