
**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, 2005 (August 31, 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(b) Departure of Director

On August 31, 2005, Berry Petroleum Company issued a news release announcing the retirement of Director John A. Hagg effective August 30, 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 August 31, 2005 announcing the retirement of Director John A. Hagg, effective August 30, 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: August 31, 2005

News Release

Berry Petroleum Company

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Internet: www.bry.com

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

BERRY PETROLEUM COMPANY ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT OF DIRECTOR JOHN A. HAGG

Bakersfield, CA - August 31, 2005 - Mr. John A. Hagg has retired from the Berry Petroleum Company Board of Directors effective August 30, 2005. Mr. Hagg has served on the Berry Board since 1994. Mr. Martin H. Young, Chairman of the Board, stated "The Board of Directors is grateful for John's long service in a period of tremendous growth and diversification for the Company." Mr. Robert F. Heinemann, President and CEO, added "John's service on the Board of Directors has been a significant part of making Berry a stronger Company over the last 12 years."

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

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