

BUSCH RALPH B III  
Form 4  
December 18, 2008

**FORM 4**

UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
Washington, D.C. 20549

OMB APPROVAL

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Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5 obligations may continue. See Instruction 1(b).

**STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF SECURITIES**

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, Section 17(a) of the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935 or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person \*  
BUSCH RALPH B III

(Last) (First) (Middle)

C/O BERRY PETROLEUM  
COMPANY 5201 TRUXTUN

(Street)

BAKERSFIELD, CA 93309

(City) (State) (Zip)

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol  
BERRY PETROLEUM CO [BRY]

3. Date of Earliest Transaction  
(Month/Day/Year)  
12/17/2008

4. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year)

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

(Check all applicable)

\_\_\_\_ Director \_\_\_\_\_ 10% Owner  
\_\_\_\_ Officer (give title below) \_\_\_\_\_ Other (specify below)

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line)  
 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 or Disposed of (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 Ownership (Instr. 4) |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|---|--|--|
|                                 |                                      |  |                                | (A) or (D) Code V Amount (D) Price                        |   |  |  |
| Class A Common Stock            |                                      |  |                                |   | 90,000  | I  | As Co-Trustee of Charitable Trust          |
| Class A Common Stock            |                                      |  |                                |   | 125,665   | I  | As Co-Trustee of Union Bank Trust Shares   |
| Class A Common Stock            |                                      |  |                                |   | 7,000   | I  | Busch Family                               |

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| Stock                      |            |   |       |   |           |         |   |  | Foundation                               |
|----------------------------|------------|---|-------|---|-----------|---------|---|--|--|
| Class A<br>Common<br>Stock | 12/17/2008 | P | 1,000 | A | \$ 9.075  | 145,238 | D |  |  |
| Class A<br>Common<br>Stock | 12/17/2008 | P | 1,000 | A | \$ 9.0686 | 146,238 | D |  |  |
| Class A<br>Common<br>Stock | 12/17/2008 | P | 1,000 | A | \$ 9.0519 | 147,238 | D |  |  |
| Class A<br>Common<br>Stock | 12/17/2008 | P | 500   | A | \$ 9.102  | 1,032   | I |  | As<br>Custodian<br>for Minor<br>Children |
| Class A<br>Common<br>Stock | 12/17/2008 | P | 500   | A | \$ 9.094  | 1,532   | I |  | As<br>Custodian<br>for Minor<br>Children |
| Class A<br>Common<br>Stock | 12/17/2008 | P | 500   | A | \$ 9.0868 | 2,032   | I |  | As<br>Custodian<br>for Minor<br>Children |
| Class A<br>Common<br>Stock | 12/17/2008 | P | 500   | A | \$ 9.0668 | 2,532   | I |  | As<br>Custodian<br>for Minor<br>Children |

Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially owned directly or indirectly.

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(9-02)

**Table II - Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned**  
(e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)

| 1. Title of<br>Derivative<br>Security<br>(Instr. 3) | 2. Conversion<br>or Exercise<br>Price of<br>Derivative<br>Security | 3. Transaction Date<br>(Month/Day/Year) | 3A. Deemed<br>Execution Date, if<br>any<br>(Month/Day/Year) | 4. Transaction<br>Code<br>(Instr. 8) | 5. Number<br>of<br>Derivative<br>Securities<br>Acquired<br>(A) or<br>Disposed<br>of (D)<br>(Instr. 3,<br>4, and 5) | 6. Date Exercisable and Expiration<br>Date<br>(Month/Day/Year) | 7. Title and Amount<br>Underlying Security<br>(Instr. 3 and 4) |       |
|---|--|---|---|--------------------------------------|--|--|--|-------|
|   |  |   |   | Code                                 | V (A) (D)  | Date Exercisable   | Expiration Date  | Title |

|   |                 |                           |                           |                            | Amount<br>or<br>Number<br>of Shares |
|---|-----------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Nonstatutory<br>Stock<br>Options<br>12-2-2000 | \$ 7.8438       | 12/02/2000                | 12/02/2010                | Class A<br>Common<br>Stock | 10,000                              |
| Nonstatutory<br>Stock<br>Options<br>12-2-01   | \$ 7.725        | 12/02/2001                | 12/02/2011                | Class A<br>Common<br>Stock | 10,000                              |
| Nonstatutory<br>Stock<br>Options<br>12-2-02   | \$ 8.07         | 12/02/2002                | 12/02/2012                | Class A<br>Common<br>Stock | 10,000                              |
| Nonstatutory<br>Stock<br>Options<br>12-2-03   | \$ 9.61         | 12/02/2003                | 12/02/2013                | Class A<br>Common<br>Stock | 10,000                              |
| Nonstatutory<br>Stock<br>Options<br>12-2-04   | \$ 21.77        | 12/02/2004                | 12/02/2014                | Class A<br>Common<br>Stock | 10,000                              |
| Nonstatutory<br>Stock Option<br>12-15-05      | \$ 30.645       | 12/15/2005                | 12/15/2015                | Class A<br>Common<br>Stock | 10,000                              |
| Phantom<br>Stock Units<br><u>(1)</u>          | \$ 0 <u>(2)</u> | 08/08/1988 <sup>(3)</sup> | 08/08/1988 <sup>(4)</sup> | Class A<br>Common<br>Stock | 15,800                              |
| Nonstatutory<br>Stock Option<br>12-15-06      | \$ 32.565       | 12/15/2006                | 12/14/2016                | Class A<br>Common<br>Stock | 10,000                              |
| 2007<br>Restricted<br>Stock Unit <u>(5)</u>   | \$ 0            | 01/01/2008 <sup>(6)</sup> | 12/13/2017 <sup>(7)</sup> | Class A<br>Common<br>Stock | 1,300                               |
| NSO 2007                                      | \$ 43.61        | 12/14/2007                | 12/13/2017                | Class A<br>Common<br>Stock | 3,900                               |

## Reporting Owners

### Reporting Owner Name / Address

### Relationships

Director 10% Owner Officer Other

BUSCH RALPH B III  
C/O BERRY PETROLEUM COMPANY 5201 TRUXTUN  
BAKERSFIELD, CA 93309

## Signatures

Kenneth A Olson under POA for Ralph  
Busch

12/18/2008

\_\_Signature of Reporting Person

Date

## Explanation of Responses:

\* 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).

(1) 1 for 1

(2) 1 for 1

(3) Phantom Stock Units acquired under the Company's Non-Employee Director Deferred Compensation Plan in a transaction exempt under Rule 16b-3(c). Shares of Common Stock are issued under terms of the Plan upon resignation from the board of directors.

(4) Phantom Stock Units acquired under the Company's Non-Employee Director Deferred Compensation Plan in a transaction exempt under Rule 16b-3(c). Shares of Common Stock are issued under terms of the Plan upon resignation from the board of directors.

(5) 1 for 1

(6) The RSU granted is 100% vested at the date of grant but the receipt of shares are subject to a deferral period which is generally at least four years from the grant date as per the deferral election.

(7) The RSU is subject to a deferral election. Shares of Class A Common Stock will be delivered to the reporting person as per the terms of the deferral election.

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, *see* Instruction 6 for procedure.

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