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) May 17, 2004

Berry Petroleum Company (Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware	1-9735	77-0079387
(State or other	(Commission	IRS Employer
jurisdiction of	File Number)	Identification No.
incorporation)		

5201 Truxtun Avenue, Suite 300 Bakersfield, CA 93309 (Address of principal executive offices)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code (661) 616-3900

 $$\rm N/A$$ (Former name or former address, if changed since last report)

Item 9. Regulation FD Disclosure

(c) Exhibits

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

Exhibit 99 - Press Release dated May 17, 2004 regarding the Registrant's announcing the webcasting of the company's annual shareholder meeting of May 20, 2004.

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

Ву	/s/	Kenneth A. Olson	
Name:		Kenneth A. Olson	
Title:		Corporate Secretary	
		and Treasurer	

May 17, 2004

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