

BUSCH RALPH B III  
Form 4  
December 27, 2011

**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

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

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

(Check all applicable)

(Last) (First) (Middle)

3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)  
12/16/2011

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

C/O BERRY PETROLEUM COMPANY, 1999 BROADWAY, SUITE 3700

(Street)

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

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line)  
\_X\_ Form filed by One Reporting Person  
\_\_\_ Form filed by More than One Reporting Person

DENVER, CO 80202

(City) (State) (Zip)

**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 Ownership (Instr. 4) |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|---|--|--|
|                                 |                                      |  | Code                           | V Amount (D) Price  |   |  |  |
| Class A Common Stock            |                                      |  |                                |   | 70,000  | I  | As Co-Trustee of Charitable Trust          |
| Class A Common Stock            |                                      |  |                                |   | 6,250   | I  | Busch Family Foundation                    |
| Class A Common Stock            |                                      |  |                                |   | 13,432  | I  | As Custodian for Minor                     |

Children

Class A  
Common Stock 12/16/2011 G V 225 A \$ 0 142,185 D

Class A  
Common Stock 12/22/2011 S 82 D \$ 43.23 123,583 I

As  
Co-Trustee  
of Union  
Bank Trust  
Shares

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

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SEC 1474  
(9-02)

**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 Underlying Security (Instr. 3 and 4) | Amount or Number of Shares |
|--|--|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|---|---|----------------------------|
| Nonstatutory Stock Options 12-2-02         | \$ 8.07  |                                      |  |                                |   | Date Exercisable 12/02/2002<br>Expiration Date 12/02/2012 | Class A Common Stock  | 10,000                     |
| Nonstatutory Stock Options 12-2-03         | \$ 9.61  |                                      |  |                                |   | Date Exercisable 12/02/2003<br>Expiration Date 12/02/2013 | Class A Common Stock  | 10,000                     |
| Nonstatutory Stock Options 12-2-04         | \$ 21.77   |                                      |  |                                |   | Date Exercisable 12/02/2004<br>Expiration Date 12/02/2014 | Class A Common Stock  | 10,000                     |
| Nonstatutory Stock Option 12-15-05         | \$ 30.645  |                                      |  |                                |   | Date Exercisable 12/15/2005<br>Expiration Date 12/15/2015 | Class A Common Stock  | 10,000                     |

|                                       |                 |                           |                           |                      |      |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------|------|
| Phantom Stock Units <u>(1)</u>        | \$ 0 <u>(1)</u> | 08/08/1988 <sup>(2)</sup> | 08/08/1988 <sup>(2)</sup> | Class A Common Stock | 44,2 |
| Nonstatutory Stock Option 12-15-06    | \$ 32.565       | 12/15/2006                | 12/14/2016                | Class A Common Stock | 10,0 |
| 2007 Restricted Stock Unit <u>(1)</u> | \$ 0            | 01/01/2008 <sup>(3)</sup> | 12/13/2017 <sup>(4)</sup> | Class A Common Stock | 1,3  |
| NSO 2007                              | \$ 43.61        | 12/14/2007                | 12/13/2017                | Class A Common Stock | 3,9  |
| March 2011 Director RSU               | \$ 0            | 03/02/2011                | 03/02/2021                | Class A Common Stock | 2,4  |

## Reporting Owners

### Reporting Owner Name / Address

### Relationships

Director    10% Owner    Officer    Other

BUSCH RALPH B III  
C/O BERRY PETROLEUM COMPANY  
1999 BROADWAY, SUITE 3700  
DENVER, CO 80202

## Signatures

Kenneth A Olson under POA for Ralph Busch

12/27/2011

\*\*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) 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.

(3) 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.

(4) 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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