

BUSCH RALPH B III  
Form 4  
December 23, 2010

**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)  
12/23/2010

\_\_\_\_ 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)
				(A) or (D)	Price		
Class A Common Stock					139,119	D	
Class A Common Stock					7,000	I	Busch Family Foundation
Class A Common Stock					12,432	I	As Custodian for Minor Children

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Class A Common Stock	12/23/2010	S	10,000	D	\$ 43.7763	70,000	I	As Co-Trustee of Charitable Trust
Class A Common Stock	12/23/2010	S	1,000	D	\$ 43.7763	123,665	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 Underlying Security (Instr. 3 and 4)	Amount or Number of Sh	
				Code	V (A) (D)	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	
Nonstatutory Stock Options 12-2-01	\$ 7.725					12/02/2001	12/02/2011	Class A Common Stock	10,0
Nonstatutory Stock Options 12-2-02	\$ 8.07					12/02/2002	12/02/2012	Class A Common Stock	10,0
Nonstatutory Stock Options 12-2-03	\$ 9.61					12/02/2003	12/02/2013	Class A Common Stock	10,0
Nonstatutory Stock Options	\$ 21.77					12/02/2004	12/02/2014	Class A Common Stock	10,0

12-2-04						
Nonstatutory					Class A	
Stock Option	\$ 30.645		12/15/2005	12/15/2015	Common	10,0
					Stock	
12-15-05						
Phantom					Class A	
Stock Units	\$ 0 <sup>(2)</sup>		08/08/1988 <sup>(3)</sup>	08/08/1988 <sup>(4)</sup>	Common	42,2
					Stock	
<u>(1)</u>						
Nonstatutory					Class A	
Stock Option	\$ 32.565		12/15/2006	12/14/2016	Common	10,0
					Stock	
12-15-06						
2007					Class A	
Restricted	\$ 0		01/01/2008 <sup>(6)</sup>	12/13/2017 <sup>(7)</sup>	Common	1,3
					Stock	
Stock Unit <u>(5)</u>						
NSO 2007	\$ 43.61		12/14/2007	12/13/2017	Class A	
					Common	3,9
					Stock	

## 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

12/23/2010

    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.

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