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BERRY PETROLEUM CO  
Form 8-K  
May 14, 2004

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
Washington, D.C. 20549

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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 14, 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

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

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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 14, 2004 regarding the Registrant's announcing the designation of interim governance procedures and the formation of a search committee for a permanent president and chief executive officer.

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

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

May 14, 2004