

BURLINGTON RESOURCES INC

Form 11-K

June 29, 2005

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

Form 11-K

(Mark One)

- þ Annual report pursuant to Section 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2004

Or

- o Transition report pursuant to Section 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 for the transition period from ___ to ___

Commission file number 1-9971

A. Full title of the plan and the address of the plan, if different from that of the issuer named below:
Burlington Resources Inc. Retirement Savings Plan

B. Name of issuer of the securities held pursuant to the plan and the address of its principal executive office:

Burlington Resources Inc., 717 Texas Ave., Suite 2100, Houston, Texas 77002

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**Burlington Resources Inc.
Retirement Savings Plan**

**Financial Statements and Supplemental Schedule
December 31, 2004 and 2003**

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* Other schedules required by Section 29 CFR 2520.103-10 of the Department of Labor Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA have been omitted because they are not applicable.

Consent of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm

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Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm

To the Participants and Administrator of
Burlington Resources Inc. Retirement Savings Plan

In our opinion, the accompanying statements of net assets available for benefits and the related statement of changes in net assets available for benefits present fairly, in all material respects, the net assets available for benefits of the Burlington Resources Inc. Retirement Savings Plan (the Plan) at December 31, 2004 and 2003, and the changes in net assets available for benefits for the year ended December 31, 2004 in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Plan's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audits. We conducted our audits of these statements in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States). Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements, assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, and evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

Our audits were conducted for the purpose of forming an opinion on the basic financial statements taken as a whole. The supplemental Schedule of Assets (Held at End of Year) as of December 31, 2004 is presented for the purpose of additional analysis and is not a required part of the basic financial statements but is supplementary information required by the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974. This supplemental schedule is the responsibility of the Plan's management. The supplemental schedule has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audits of the basic financial statements and, in our opinion, is fairly stated in all material respects in relation to the basic financial statements taken as a whole.

PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP

Houston, Texas
June 27, 2005

Table of Contents**Burlington Resources Inc. Retirement Savings Plan
Statements of Net Assets Available for Benefits
December 31, 2004 and 2003**

| | 2004 | 2003 |
|--|----------------|----------------|
| Investments | | |
| At fair value | | |
| Burlington Resources Inc. common stock | \$ 40,117,454 | \$ 22,946,112 |
| Registered investment companies | 165,698,855 | 141,188,816 |
| Common collective trust | 1,988,123 | 871,401 |
| Participants' notes receivable | 5,289,852 | 5,579,062 |
| Cash and cash equivalents | 5,279,516 | 3,845,691 |
| At contract value | | |
| Unallocated investment contracts | 1,384,511 | 4,798,286 |
| Synthetic investment contracts | 85,752,390 | 83,647,868 |
| Total investments | 305,510,701 | 262,877,236 |
| Receivables | | |
| Accrued interest | 35,060 | 35,823 |
| Total assets | 305,545,761 | 262,913,059 |
| Liabilities | | |
| Excess contributions payable | (6,498) | (169,039) |
| Net assets available for benefits | \$ 305,539,263 | \$ 262,744,020 |

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

Table of Contents**Burlington Resources Inc. Retirement Savings Plan
Statement of Changes in Net Assets Available for Benefits
Year Ended December 31, 2004****Investment income**

| | |
|---|--------------|
| Interest income | \$ 4,139,825 |
| Dividend income | 6,281,872 |
| Net appreciation in the fair value of investments | 27,096,085 |
| Net investment income | 37,517,782 |

Contributions

| | |
|---|----------------|
| Company | 8,220,320 |
| Participant | 11,659,631 |
| Rollover | 862,093 |
| Total contributions | 20,742,044 |
| Total additions | 58,259,826 |
| Participant withdrawals and distributions | (15,367,305) |
| Administrative expenses | (97,278) |
| Total deductions | (15,464,583) |
| Net increase | 42,795,243 |
| Net assets available for benefits | |
| Beginning of year | 262,744,020 |
| End of year | \$ 305,539,263 |

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

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**Burlington Resources Inc. Retirement Savings Plan
Notes to Financial Statements
December 31, 2004**

1. Plan Description

The following description of the Burlington Resources Inc. (BR or the Company) Retirement Savings Plan (the Plan) provides only general information. Participants should refer to the Plan Document for a more complete description of the Plan s provisions.

General

The Plan is a trustee, defined contribution plan, administered by a committee of BR corporate executives, for participants of the employer companies BR and Burlington Resources Oil & Gas Company LP (a wholly owned subsidiary of BR). The Plan is subject to the provisions of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA), as amended. The Plan s assets are held by Charles Schwab Trust Company (the Trustee) and individual participant accounts are maintained by Charles Schwab Retirement Plan Services.

Investments

A participant may direct his or her contributions, account balances and the company match among the following investment funds.

Company Stock Fund

Invested in common stock of BR.

S&P 500 Institutional Index Fund

Invested in a portfolio of common stock and other equity securities. This fund is managed to achieve results similar to those of the overall stock market as measured by the Standard & Poor s 500 Index.

International Equity Fund

Invested primarily in the equity securities of companies based outside the United States of America (U.S.).

Balanced Fund

Invested in equity securities, which attempt to mirror the Willshire 5000 Equity Index and in high-quality bonds, which attempt to mirror the Lehman Brothers Aggregate Bond Index.

Small-Cap Equity Fund

Invested in common stocks, or other equity securities including preferred stocks, rights and warrants of the second 1,000 largest U.S. corporations.

Growth Equity Fund

Invested primarily in common stocks of corporations that the trust advisor believes are undervalued and capable of generating strong earnings growth in the near term.

Large Capital Value Fund

Invested primarily in common stocks and other instruments convertible into common stock issued by large corporations.

Global Equity Fund

Invested primarily in equity instruments issued by corporations from the U.S. and abroad.

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**Burlington Resources Inc. Retirement Savings Plan
Notes to Financial Statements
December 31, 2004**

Stable Value Fund

Invested primarily in a diversified portfolio of investment contracts offered by major insurance companies and financial institutions.

Small Cap Growth Fund

Invested primarily in common stocks of U.S. and foreign companies within the range of capitalizations of companies included in the Lipper, Inc. Small Cap category.

Passive Bond Market Index Fund

Invested primarily in government, corporate, mortgage-backed and asset-backed securities representative of the broad domestic bond market, which attempt to mirror the Lehman Brothers Aggregate Bond Index.

Eligibility

All employees are eligible to participate in the Plan beginning the first day of the month following full time employment, or upon completion of 1,000 hours of service.

Participant Accounts

A separate account is maintained for each participant that reflects the participant's contributions and the participant's share of Company contributions and Plan investment income (loss) net of (or in addition to) withdrawals. Each participant can authorize the transfer of account balances among funds or change investment options for future contributions at any time.

Appreciation (depreciation) is allocated to participants based upon their proportionate share of assets in each investment fund.

Participants' Notes Receivable

The Plan may make loans to actively employed participants of up to 50% of their account balance (excluding any remaining Individual Retirement Account balance that was entered into prior to 1998), subject to a minimum loan of \$1,000 and a maximum loan of \$50,000. The \$50,000 limit is reduced by the participant's highest outstanding loan balance during the prior 12 months. Loans are secured by the balance in a participant's account. Interest on loans accrues at 1% above the Wall Street Journal published prime rate, which is determined at the time the loan is taken, and remains fixed for the term of the loan. Interest rates ranged from 5.00% to 10.50% for loans outstanding as of December 31, 2004. The repayment period may be from 12 to 60 months. Repayments are made through payroll deductions and are reinvested in Plan funds according to the borrowing participant's current investment elections. Loan balances due from terminated participants are deemed distributed to the participants during the quarter following the quarter in which the last loan payment was made unless the participant elects full loan repayment. During 2004, \$143,525 of such distributions are included in participant withdrawals and distributions in the accompanying financial statements. There were no loans in default as of December 31, 2004 and 2003.

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**Burlington Resources Inc. Retirement Savings Plan
Notes to Financial Statements
December 31, 2004**

Contributions

A participant may elect to make regular semi-monthly pre-tax and/or after-tax contributions from 1% to 13% of his or her total eligible compensation via regular payroll deduction. Pre-tax contributions are subject to an Internal Revenue Service (IRS) limitation of \$13,000 for the 2004 plan year. Under the IRS' s Catch-up Contribution provision, participants who are at least age 50 by the plan year-end may contribute each year on a pre-tax basis an additional amount, which was \$3,000 for the 2004 plan year. The Company matches 100% of employee contributions up to 6% of total eligible compensation for a participant with less than 10 years of service and up to 8% of total eligible compensation for a participant with 10 or more years of service. In addition, a participant may make an approved rollover contribution from another qualified employer benefit plan, subject to IRS rules. All regular Company and participant contributions are paid to the Plan' s trustee semi-monthly, and allocated among the investment options consistent with the participant' s investment elections.

Excess Contributions Payable

After-tax contributions for certain participants were refunded in order to comply with Section 401(m) of the Internal Revenue Code (the Code) or the actual contribution percentage test. These amounts were refunded subsequent to the Plan' s December 31 year end, but prior to March 15 of the next Plan year.

Vesting

Participant accounts are 100% vested and nonforfeitable at all times.

Participant Withdrawals and Distributions

Withdrawals are permitted in the event of termination of employment, retirement, permanent disability, and death, as defined by the Plan. The Plan provides for limited in-service withdrawals by participants from certain funds depending on their source. Upon separation from service, a participant' s account balance is either distributed as a lump sum or deferred no later than age 70-1/2, at which time funds are to be distributed in a lump sum. A participant whose account balance exceeds \$5,000 may elect to defer distribution until no later than age 70-1/2.

Termination of the Plan

While the Board of Directors of BR has not expressed any intention to do so, it may at any time terminate the Plan. Upon termination, the Plan' s assets will be distributed to the participants on the basis of their account balances existing at the date of termination.

2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

Basis of Accounting

The Plan' s financial statements are presented on the accrual basis of accounting, except for participant withdrawals and distributions, which are recorded when paid in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles for defined contribution plans. Amounts for benefit claims that have been processed and approved for payment prior to December 31, but not paid as of that date were \$19,696 and \$36,368 at December 31, 2004 and 2003, respectively.

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**Burlington Resources Inc. Retirement Savings Plan
Notes to Financial Statements
December 31, 2004**

Use of Estimates

The preparation of the Plan's financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America requires Plan management to make significant estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of net assets available for benefits at the date of the financial statements and the changes in net assets available for benefits during the reporting period and, when applicable, disclosures of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

Risks and Uncertainties

Due to the level of risk associated with certain investment securities and the level of uncertainty related to changes in their value, it is at least reasonably possible that changes in the near term could materially affect the amounts reported in the statement of net assets available for benefits.

Income Taxes

The Plan is intended to be a qualified plan pursuant to Section 401(a) of the Code. The Plan received a favorable tax determination letter dated October 25, 2002, from the IRS advising that the Plan, as designed, was in compliance with the applicable requirements of the Code, and is therefore exempt from income taxes. There have been no amendments to the Plan since that date. The plan administrator believes that the Plan is designed and is currently being operated in compliance with the applicable requirements of the Code.

Valuation of Investments

The Plan's investments, except for its investment contracts, are stated at fair value. Investment contracts, which are fully benefit-responsive, are stated at contract value. Fair values for investments other than participants' notes receivable and cash are determined by quoted market prices. Participants' notes receivable are carried at original loan principal balance, less principal repayments, which approximates fair value. Cash is stated at account value. Investment transactions are recorded on a trade date basis.

Cash and Cash Equivalents

All short-term investments purchased with an original maturity of three months or less are considered cash equivalents. Cash equivalents are stated at fair value.

Investment Income

Investment income includes the net appreciation or depreciation in the fair value of the Plan's fair value investments, consisting of realized and unrealized gains and losses. Investment income also includes interest income related to the Plan's guaranteed investment contracts. Dividend and interest income from investments are recorded as earned and allocated to participants based upon their proportionate share of assets in each investment fund.

Administrative Expenses

Certain administrative expenses and professional fees incurred by the Plan are paid by BR. BR paid approximately \$263,420 of Plan administrative expenses for the year ended December 31, 2004.

Table of Contents**Burlington Resources Inc. Retirement Savings Plan
Notes to Financial Statements
December 31, 2004****3. Net Appreciation in Investments Accounted for at Fair Value**

Following is a summary of the components of the net appreciation in the Plan's fair value investments for the year ended December 31, 2004.

| | |
|---|-------------------|
| Net appreciation in investments accounted for at fair value | |
| BR common stock | \$ 12,522,145 |
| Registered investment companies | 14,519,154 |
| Common collective trust | 54,786 |
| Total net appreciation in investments accounted for at fair value | \$ 27,096,085 |

4. Investments

Investments that comprised 5% or more of the net assets available for benefits for the years ended December 31, 2004 and 2003 are as follows:

| | 2004 | 2003 |
|--|---------------|---------------|
| BR common stock | \$ 40,117,454 | \$ 22,946,112 |
| Vanguard Institutional Index Fund | 45,092,477 | 44,334,655 |
| Dodge & Cox Stock Fund | 28,652,863 | 17,078,959 |
| Rice Hall James Micro Cap Fund | 33,080,361 | 26,684,533 |
| Vanguard Balanced Index Institutional Fund | 15,450,000 | 13,488,619 |
| Vanguard International Growth Adm Fund | 27,614,750 | 14,458,372 |
| Primco Fixed Income Fund* | 87,136,901 | 88,446,154 |

* Investment contracts (Note 5)

5. Investment Contracts

The Plan's investment contracts consist of guaranteed investment contracts (GICs) and synthetic investment contracts (SICs). The GICs are promises by a bank or insurance company to repay principal plus a fixed rate of return through contract maturity. SICs differ from GICs in that there are specific assets supporting the SICs, and these assets are owned by the Plan. The bank or insurance company issues a benefit-responsive wrapper contract that allows participant-directed transactions to be made at contract value. The fair value of the investment contracts as of December 31, 2004 and 2003 was approximately \$94,100,000 and \$95,500,000, respectively. Fair value of the investment contracts was determined using a discounted cash flow analysis assuming market rates for similar contracts.

The average yield for these investment contracts during 2004 and 2003 was 4.49% and 4.31%, respectively. The crediting interest rates ranged from 2.08% to 7.80% and 1.01% to 7.80% at December 31, 2004 and 2003, respectively. Crediting rate resets are applied to specific investment contracts as determined at the date of purchase. There are no minimum crediting interest rates applicable to the investment contracts as of December 31, 2004.

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**Burlington Resources Inc. Retirement Savings Plan
Notes to Financial Statements
December 31, 2004**

6. Party-in-Interest Transactions

The Plan invests in shares of BR common stock, which qualify as party-in-interest transactions. These party-in-interest transactions are permissible under provisions of ERISA. BR pays the costs of administering the Plan and a committee of BR corporate executives administers the Plan.

Table of Contents**Burlington Resources Inc. Retirement Savings Plan
Schedule H, Item 4i Schedule of Assets (Held at End of Year)
December 31, 2004**

| | Contract Value/ Fair Value |
|---|---|
| Unallocated Investment Contracts | |
| Prudential Cap MAC Insd #10041-212, 5.97%, matures January 18, 2005 | \$ 1,384,511 |
| Total Unallocated Investment Contracts | 1,384,511 |
| Synthetic Investment Contracts | |
| Monumental Life Ins. Co. #00085TR | |
| United States Treasury, 2.375%, matures August 2006 | 499,739 |
| United States Treasury, 2.625%, matures November 2006 | 498,013 |
| United States Dollars | 56,466 |
| Monumental Life Ins. Co. Wrapper | (136,108) |
| Metropolitan Life Insurance #28538, 4.13%, no maturity date | 16,158,601 |
| Metropolitan Life Insurance Wrapper John Hancock Mutual Life Insurance Company | (215,017) |
| #7474, 6.31%, no maturity date | 2,394,991 |
| John Hancock Mutual Life Insurance Company Wrapper | (113,154) |
| Bank of America NT & SA #03-091, 4.35%, no maturity date | 16,864,593 |
| Bank of America Wrapper | (244,782) |
| UBS AG #5194, 4.77%, no maturity date | 17,239,796 |
| UBS AG Wrapper | (456,360) |
| ING Life Insurance and Annuity Co. #60096, 5.78%, no maturity date | 14,691,911 |
| ING Life Insurance and Annuity Co. Wrapper | (420,352) |
| Rabobank Nederland #BRS 100201, 4.02%, no maturity date | 19,054,686 |
| Rabobank Nederland Wrapper | (120,633) |
| Total Synthetic Investment Contracts | 85,752,390 |
| Total Investment Contracts | 87,136,901 |
| Registered Investment Companies | |
| Vanguard Balanced Index Institutional Fund | 15,450,000 |
| Ivy Small Cap Growth Y Fund | 7,746,404 |
| ABN AMRO/Montag and Caldwell Growth N Fund | 8,062,000 |
| Vanguard Institutional Index Fund | 45,092,477 |
| Vanguard International Growth Adm Fund | 27,614,750 |

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| | |
|--|----------------|
| Rice Hall James Micro Cap Fund | 33,080,361 |
| Dodge & Cox Stock Fund | 28,652,863 |
| Total registered investment companies | 165,698,855 |
| Common collective trust SSgA Passive Bond Market Index Fund | 1,988,123 |
| Cash and cash equivalents | 5,279,516 |
| Burlington Resources Inc. common stock* | 40,117,454 |
| Participants notes receivable, at interest rates ranging from 5.00% to 10.50% %* | 5,289,852 |
| Total investments | \$ 305,510,701 |

* Denotes investment issued by a party-in-interest to the Plan.

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Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the person who administers the employee benefit plan has duly caused this annual report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned hereunto duly authorized.

Retirement Savings Plan

Date: June 27, 2005

/s/ Steven J. Shapiro
Steven J. Shapiro
On behalf of Burlington Resources Inc.
Benefits Committee, the Administrator of
the Plan

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Exhibit Index

Exhibit

23 Consent of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP