FORM 4

## **UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**

Washington, D.C. 20549

## STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP

| OMB APPRO                | VAL       |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|--------------------------|-----------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| OMB Number:              | 3235-0287 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Estimated average burden |           |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| hours per response:      | 0.5       |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5 obligations may continue. See Instruction 1(b).

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person\*

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

2. Issuer Name **and** Ticker or Trading Symbol

| BUSCH RALPH B III   |  |       |                 |                                |                       | BERRY PETROLEUM CO [ BRY ]                                  |   |     |   |                         |  |   |                                   | X Director 10% Owner   |   |  |   |                  |  |   |
|---|--|-------|-----------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------|---|---|-----|---|-------------------------|--|---|-----------------------------------|--|---|--|---|------------------|--|---|
| (Last) (First) (Middle) C/O BERRY PETROLEUM COMPANY 5201 TRUXTUN AVE. SUITE 300   |  |       |                 |                                |                       | 3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year) 03/28/2006 |   |     |   |                         |  |   |                                   |  | Officer (give title Other (specify below)                                 |  |   |                  |  |   |
| (Last) (First) (Middle) C/O BERRY PETROLEUM COMPANY 5201 TRUXTUN AVE., SUITE 300  (Street) BAKERSFIELD CA  Salve   City |  |       |                 | _   4.                         | 4. If Amendment, Date |   |   |     | nal Fi                                  | led (Month/Day          |  | 6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing (Check Applic<br>Line)  X Form filed by One Reporting Person Form filed by More than One Reportin<br>Person |                                   |  |   |  |   |                  |  |   |
| (City)  | (S   | tate) |                 |                                |                       |   |   |     |   |                         |  |   |                                   |  |   |  |   |                  |  |   |
|   |  |       | ble I - N       |                                |                       | _   |   |     | cquire                                  | ed, C                   | <del> </del>   |   |                                   | ally   |   |  |   |                  |  |   |
| 1. Title of Security (Instr. 3)   |  |       |                 | 2. Transa<br>Date<br>(Month/Da |                       | Exe<br>) if a   | 2A. Deemed<br>Execution Date,<br>if any<br>(Month/Day/Year) |     | 3.<br>Transaction<br>Code (Instr.<br>8) |                         | 4. Securities Acquired (A) or<br>Disposed Of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 an                               |   | (A) or<br>3, 4 and                | 5)   | 5. Amount of<br>Securities<br>Beneficially<br>Owned Following<br>Reported |  | 6. Ownership<br>Form: Direct<br>(D) or Indirect<br>(I) (Instr. 4) |                  | 7. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4)              |   |
|   |  |       |                 |                                |                       |   |   |     | Code                                    | v                       | Amount   | (A) or<br>(D)   | Price                             |  | Transaction(s)<br>(Instr. 3 and 4)  |  |   |                  |  |   |
| Class A C   | Common Sto   | ock   |                 | 03/28/2006                     |                       | _   |   |     | S                                       |                         | 2,500  | D   | \$70.58                           | 308  | 76,189  |  | D   |                  |  |   |
| Class A (   | Common St  | ock   |                 | 03/29/                         | 2006                  |   |   |     | J <sup>(4)</sup>                        |                         | 1,000  | D   | \$0                               |  | 48,87   | 75   | 1   | Į.               | Trus<br>a<br>Cha   | As Co-<br>stee of<br>ritable<br>nainder<br>st |
| Class A C   |  |       |                 |                                |                       |   |   |     |   |                         |  | 64,020  |                                   | I  |   | (2) As Co-<br>Trustee of<br>shares held<br>in a trust at<br>Union<br>Bank of<br>California |   |                  |  |   |
| C/O BERRY PETROLEUM COMPANY 5201 TRUXTUN AVE., SUITE 300    Street  |  |       |                 |                                |                       |   |   |     |   |                         |  |   | 4,000                             |  | I   |  | Busch<br>Family<br>Foundation                                     |                  |  |   |
|   |  |       | Table I         |                                |                       |   |   |     |   |                         | sposed of,<br>s, convertib   |   |                                   |  | Owned   |  |   |                  |  |   |
| Derivative<br>Security  | of 2. Conversion Date Content (Month/Day/Year) Or Exercise Price of Derivative |       | med<br>on Date, | ed 4. Date, Transaction        |                       |   | 5. Number tion of   |     |   | sable and<br>e<br>eaar) | 7. Title and<br>Amount of<br>Securities<br>Underlying<br>Derivative Securi<br>(Instr. 3 and 4) |   |                                   | 8. Price of Derivative Security (Instr. 5)  Benef Owne Follov Repor Trans. (Instr. |   | ative cities Form: ficially displaying (I) (Instituted) action(s)                          |   | hip<br>D)<br>ect | 11. Nature<br>of Indirect<br>Beneficial<br>Ownership<br>(Instr. 4) |   |
|   |  |       |                 |                                | Code                  | v   | (A)   | (D) | Date<br>Exercisa                        | ıble                    | Expiration<br>Date   | Title   | Amou<br>or<br>Numl<br>of<br>Share | ber  |   |  |   |                  |  |   |
| Stock   | \$0 <sup>(1)</sup>   |       |                 |                                |                       |   |   |     | 08/08/19                                | 88 <sup>(2)</sup>       | 08/08/1988 <sup>(2)</sup>  | Class A<br>Commo<br>Stock   | on 6,06                           | 62   |   | 6,0  | )62   | D                |  |   |
| Statutory<br>Stock<br>Option  | \$15.69  |       |                 |                                |                       |   |   |     | 12/02/2                                 | 000                     | 12/02/2010   | Class A<br>Commo<br>Stock   | on 5,00                           | 00   |   | 5,0  | 000   | D                |  |   |
| Statutory<br>Stock<br>Option  | \$15.45  |       |                 |                                |                       |   |   |     | 12/02/2                                 | 001                     | 12/02/2011   | Class A<br>Commo<br>Stock   | on 5,00                           | 00   |   | 5,0  | 000   | D                |  |   |
| Statutory<br>Stock<br>Option  | \$16.14  |       |                 |                                |                       |   |   |     | 12/02/2                                 | 002                     | 12/02/2012   | Class A<br>Commo<br>Stock   | on 5,00                           | 00   |   | 5,0  | 000   | D                |  |   |

| Table II - Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned (e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities) |   |  |                             |      |   |     |     |   |                    |  |  |   |  |  |  |
|--|---|--|-----------------------------|------|---|-----|-----|---|--------------------|--|--|---|--|--|--|
| 1. Title of<br>Derivative<br>Security<br>(Instr. 3)  | 2.<br>Conversion<br>or Exercise<br>Price of<br>Derivative<br>Security | 3. Transaction<br>Date<br>(Month/Day/Year) | Execution Date, Transaction |      |   |     |     | 6. Date Exerci<br>Expiration Dat<br>(Month/Day/Ye | te                 | 7. Title and<br>Amount of<br>Securities<br>Underlying<br>Derivative Security<br>(Instr. 3 and 4) |  | 8. Price of<br>Derivative<br>Security<br>(Instr. 5) | 9. Number of<br>derivative<br>Securities<br>Beneficially<br>Owned<br>Following<br>Reported<br>Transaction(s)<br>(Instr. 4) | 10.<br>Ownership<br>Form:<br>Direct (D)<br>or Indirect<br>(I) (Instr. 4) | 11. Nature<br>of Indirect<br>Beneficial<br>Ownership<br>(Instr. 4) |
|  |   |  |                             | Code | v | (A) | (D) | Date<br>Exercisable                               | Expiration<br>Date | Title  | Amount<br>or<br>Number<br>of<br>Shares |   |  |  |  |
| Non-<br>Statutory<br>Stock<br>Option<br>(NSO) <sup>(3)</sup>   | \$19.22   |  |                             |      |   |     |     | 12/02/2003  | 12/02/2013         | Class A<br>Common<br>Stock   | 5,000                                  |   | 5,000  | D  |  |
| Non-<br>Statutory<br>Stock<br>Option<br>(NSO) <sup>(3)</sup>   | \$43.54   |  |                             |      |   |     |     | 12/02/2004  | 12/02/2014         | Class A<br>Common<br>Stock   | 5,000                                  |   | 5,000  | D  |  |
| Non-<br>Statutory<br>Stock<br>Option<br>(NSO) <sup>(3)</sup>   | \$61.29   |  |                             |      |   |     |     | 12/15/2005  | 12/15/2015         | Class A<br>Common<br>Stock   | 5,000                                  |   | 5,000  | D  |  |

## **Explanation of Responses:**

- 1. 1 for 1
- 2. Phantom Stock Units acquired under the Company's Non-Employee Director Deferred Stock and Compensation Plan in a transaction exempt under Rule 16b-3(c). Shares are issued under the terms of the Plan upon resignation from the Board.
- 3. NSO Right to buy Berry Petroleum Company Class A Common Stock
- 4. Required distribution from a charitable trust as per terms of trust document.

## Remarks:

Kenneth A. Olson under POA for Ralph B. Busch III.

03/30/2006

\*\* Signature of Reporting Person

Date

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

- \* 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).

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, see Instruction 6 for procedure.

Persons who respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB Number.