

BERRY PETROLEUM CO
Form POSASR
February 27, 2009

As filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on February 25, 2009

Registration No. 333-135055

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

POST-EFFECTIVE AMENDMENT NO. 1 TO
FORM S-3
REGISTRATION STATEMENT
UNDER
THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933

BERRY PETROLEUM COMPANY
(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware
(State or other jurisdiction of incorporation or organization)

77-0079387
(I.R.S. Employer Identification Number)

1999 Broadway, Suite 3700
Denver, Colorado 80202
(303) 999-4400
(Address, including zip code, and telephone number, including area code,
of registrant's principal executive offices)

Robert F. Heinemann
1999 Broadway, Suite 3700
Denver, Colorado 80202
(303) 999-4400
(Name, address, including zip code, and telephone number, including area code, of agent for service)

Copies of all communications to:

Laura K. McAvoy
Musick, Peeler & Garrett LLP
2801 Townsgate Road, Suite 200
Westlake Village, California 91361
(805) 418-3115

Kelly B. Rose
Baker Botts L.L.P.
One Shell Plaza, 910 Louisiana Street
Houston, Texas 77002
(713) 229-1234

Approximate date of commencement of proposed sale to the public: From time to time after the effective date of this Registration Statement.

If the only securities being registered on this form are being offered pursuant to dividend or interest reinvestment plans, please check the following box:

If any of the securities on this form are to be offered on a delayed or continuous basis pursuant to Rule 415 under the Securities Act of 1933, other than securities offered only in connection with dividend or interest reinvestment plans, check the following box:

If this form is filed to register additional securities for an offering pursuant to Rule 462(b) under the Securities Act, please check the following box and list the Securities Act registration statement number of the earlier effective registration statement for the same offering:

If this form is a post-effective amendment filed pursuant to Rule 462(c) under the Securities Act, check the following box and list the Securities Act registration statement number of the earlier effective registration statement for the same offering:

If this Form is a registration statement pursuant to General Instruction I.D. or a post-effective amendment thereto that shall become effective upon filing with the Commission pursuant to Rule 462(e) under the Securities Act, check the following box.

If this Form is a post-effective amendment to a registration statement filed pursuant to General Instruction I.D. filed to register additional securities or additional classes of securities pursuant to Rule 413(b) under the Securities Act, check the following box.

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, a non-accelerated filer, or a smaller reporting company. See the definitions of "large accelerated filer," "accelerated filer" and "smaller reporting company" in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act. (Check one):

Large accelerated filer

Accelerated filer

Non-accelerated filer

Smaller reporting company

(Do not check if a smaller reporting company)

CALCULATION OF REGISTRATION FEE

Title of Each Class of Securities to be Registered	Amount to be Registered/Proposed Maximum Aggregate Offering Price (1)(2)	Amount of Registration Fee
Debt Securities (which may be senior or subordinated, convertible or non-convertible)		
Preferred Stock, par value \$0.01 per share		
Class A Common Stock, par value \$0.01 per share(3)		
Warrants		
Total	\$750,000,000	\$29,475 (4)

(1) Estimated solely for the purpose of calculating the registration fee pursuant to Rule 457(o) under the Securities Act and exclusive of accrued interest, distributions and dividends, if any. The aggregate initial offering price of all securities issued from time to time pursuant to this registration statement shall not exceed \$750,000,000 or the equivalent thereof in foreign currencies, foreign currency units or composite currencies. If any debt securities are issued at an original issue discount, then the offering price shall be in such greater principal amount as shall result in an aggregate initial offering price of up to \$750,000,000 or the equivalent thereof in foreign currencies, foreign currency units or composite currencies, less the dollar amount of any securities previously issued hereunder. Any securities registered hereunder may be sold separately or with other securities registered hereunder.

(2) There is being registered hereunder such indeterminate number or amount of debt securities, common stock, preferred stock and warrants as may from time to time be issued at indeterminate prices and as may be issuable upon conversion, redemption, exchange, exercise or settlement of any securities registered hereunder, including under any applicable antidilution provisions.

(3) Includes rights to purchase shares of Series B Junior Participating Preferred Stock upon the occurrence of certain events pursuant to the Berry Petroleum Company Rights Agreement dated December 8, 1999.

(4) In accordance with rule 457 (p), the Registrant is offsetting the entire \$29,475 fee against fees previously paid in connection with its Registration Statement on Form S-3 (Registration Nos. 333-157507) initially filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on February 25, 2009, and under which no securities have been or will be sold. Accordingly, no filing fee is paid herewith.

PROSPECTUS

BERRY PETROLEUM COMPANY

Debt Securities

Preferred Stock

Class A Common Stock

Warrants

The following are types of securities that we may offer, issue and sell from time to time, together or separately: debt securities, which may be senior debt securities or subordinated debt securities and may be convertible; shares of our preferred stock; shares of our Class A Common Stock; and warrants to purchase debt or equity securities.

This prospectus contains summaries of the general terms of these securities. At the time of each offering we will provide the specific terms, manner of offering and the initial public offering price of the securities in a supplement to this prospectus. The prospectus supplements may also add, update or change information contained in this prospectus. You should carefully read this prospectus and the applicable prospectus supplement before you decide to invest. This prospectus may not be used to sell securities unless accompanied by a prospectus supplement.

We may offer and sell these securities through one or more underwriters, dealers and agents, through underwriting syndicates managed or co-managed by one or more underwriters, or directly to purchasers, on a continuous or delayed basis. The prospectus supplement for each offering of securities will describe in detail the plan of distribution for that offering.

Our Class A Common Stock is listed on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol "BRY" Each prospectus supplement will indicate if the securities offered thereby will be listed on any securities exchange.

You should consider carefully the risk factors beginning on page 7 of this prospectus before purchasing any of our securities.

Neither the Securities and Exchange Commission nor any state securities commission has approved or disapproved of these securities or determined if this prospectus is truthful or complete. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

This prospectus is dated February 25, 2009.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS [5]	
INCORPORATION BY REFERENCE [5]	
WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION [6]	
FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS [6]	
BERRY PETROLEUM COMPANY [6]	
RISK FACTORS [6]	
UNAUDITED PRO FORMA CONDENSED COMBINED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS [7]	
RATIO OF EARNINGS TO FIXED CHARGES [10]	
USE OF PROCEEDS [10]	
DESCRIPTION OF DEBT SECURITIES [10]	
DESCRIPTION OF PREFERRED STOCK [11]	
DESCRIPTION OF COMMON STOCK [12]	
DESCRIPTION OF WARRANTS [13]	
PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION [14]	
VALIDITY OF OFFERED SECURITIES [15]	
EXPERTS [15]	

ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS

This prospectus is part of a “shelf” registration statement that we filed with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (“SEC”). By using a shelf registration statement, we may sell from time to time in one or more offerings any combination of the securities described in this prospectus. For further information about the securities and us, you should refer to our registration statement and its exhibits. The registration statement can be obtained from the SEC as described below under the heading “Where You Can Find More Information.” References in this prospectus to “we,” “our” or “us” refer to Berry Petroleum Company and its direct and indirect subsidiaries.

This prospectus provides you with a general description of the securities we may offer. Each time we sell securities, we will provide a prospectus supplement that contains more specific information about the terms of those securities. The prospectus supplement may also add, update or change information contained in this prospectus. You should read both this prospectus and any prospectus supplement together with the additional information included in our reports, proxy statements and other information filed with the SEC. If there is any inconsistency between the information in this prospectus and any prospectus supplement, you should rely on the information in the prospectus supplement.

You should rely only on information contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus and any applicable prospectus supplement. We have not authorized anyone to provide different information. If anyone provides you with different or inconsistent information, you should not rely on it. You should assume that the information contained in this prospectus and information that we previously filed with the SEC and incorporated by reference in this prospectus is accurate as of the date on the front cover of this prospectus. Our business, financial condition, results of operations and prospects may have changed since that date. We are not making an offer to sell these securities in any jurisdiction where the offer or sale is not permitted.

INCORPORATION BY REFERENCE

The SEC allows us to “incorporate by reference” information we file with it. This means that we can disclose important information to you by referring you to those documents. Any information we reference in this manner is considered part of this prospectus. Information we file with the SEC after the date of this prospectus will automatically update and, to the extent inconsistent, supersede the information contained in this prospectus.

We incorporate by reference the documents listed below and future filings we make with the SEC pursuant to Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (excluding, unless otherwise provided therein or herein, information furnished pursuant to Item 2.02 and Item 7.01 on any Current Report on Form 8-K) after the effectiveness of this registration statement and before the termination of the offering.

- Our Annual Report on Form 10-K/A for the year ended December 31, 2007 as amended on February 27, 2008;
- Our Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q for the quarterly periods ended March 31, 2008, June 30, 2008 and September 30, 2008;
 - Our Current Reports on Form 8-K and 8-K/A filed on May 30, 2008, June 11, 2008, June 19, 2008, June 26, 2008, July 16, 2008, July 31, 2008, August 6, 2008, September 29, 2008, October 17, 2008, November 17, 2008, November 21, 2008, November 21, 2008, December 4, 2008, December 19, 2008, December 29, 2008, December 30, 2008, January 12, 2009, January 26, 2009 and February 20, 2009;
- The description of our Class A Common Stock contained in our Registration Statement on Form 8-A which was declared effective by the Securities and Exchange Commission on or about October 20, 1987;

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- The description of our Rights to Purchase Series B Junior Participating Preferred Stock contained in our Registration Statement on Form 8-A filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on December 7, 1999; and
- All other documents filed by us with the SEC under Sections 13 and 14 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 after the date of this prospectus but before the end of the offering of the securities made by this prospectus.

As a recipient of this prospectus, you may request a copy of any document we incorporate by reference, except exhibits to the documents that are not specifically incorporated by reference, at no cost to you, by writing or calling us at:

Berry Petroleum Company

Attn: Investor Relations

5201 Truxtun Avenue, Suite 300

Bakersfield, California 93309

(661) 616-3900

WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION

We file annual, quarterly and current reports, proxy statements and other information with the SEC. Our filings are available over the Internet at the SEC's web site at <http://www.sec.gov> and at our web site at <http://www.bry.com>. Information on our website or any other website is not incorporated by reference in this prospectus and does not constitute part of this prospectus.

This prospectus is part of a registration statement and, as permitted by SEC rules, does not contain all of the information included in the registration statement. Whenever a reference is made in this prospectus to any of our contracts or other documents, the reference may not be complete and, for a copy of the contract or document, you should refer to the exhibits that are part of the registration statement. You may also read and copy any document we file with the SEC at the SEC's public reference rooms at:

100 F Street, N.E.

Room 1580

Washington, D.C. 20549

You may call the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330 for more information on the public reference rooms and their copy charges. You may also inspect the reports and other information we file with the SEC at:

New York Stock Exchange

20 Broad Street

New York, New York 10005.

FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This prospectus and the information incorporated by reference in this prospectus contains statements that are, or may be deemed to be, "forward-looking statements" within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933 and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. Any statements in this prospectus that are not historical facts are forward-looking statements that involve risks and uncertainties. Words such as "expect," "could," "would," "may," "believe," "estimate," "anticipate," "intend," "plans," other forms of those words and others indicate forward-looking statements, but their absence does not mean that a statement is not forward-looking. A statement is forward-looking if the discussion involves strategy, beliefs, plans, targets, or intentions.

Forward-looking statements are made based on our management's current expectations and beliefs concerning future developments and their potential effects upon us. Important factors which could affect actual results are discussed in detail in the following pages of this document.

BERRY PETROLEUM COMPANY

We are an independent energy company engaged in the production, development, acquisition, exploitation and exploration of crude oil and natural gas. While we were incorporated in Delaware in 1985 and have been a publicly traded company since 1987, we can trace our roots in California oil production back to 1909. Currently, our principal reserves and producing properties are located in California (San Joaquin Valley and Los Angeles Basins), Utah (Uinta

Basin), Colorado (Denver-Julesburg and Piceance Basins) and Texas (East Texas Basin).

Berry Petroleum Company is a Delaware corporation. Our corporate headquarters and principal executive offices are located at 1999 Broadway, Suite 3700, Denver, Colorado 80202, and our telephone number is (303) 999-4400.

RISK FACTORS

An investment in our securities involves risks. You should carefully consider all of the information contained in or incorporated by reference in this prospectus and other information which may be incorporated by reference in this prospectus or any prospectus supplement as provided under “Incorporation by Reference,” including the risks described under “Risk Factors” and “Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations” in our Annual Reports on Form 10-K and our Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q. This prospectus also contains forward-looking statements that involve risks and uncertainties. Please read “Forward-Looking Statements.” Our actual results could differ materially from those anticipated in the forward-looking statements as a result of certain factors, including the risks described elsewhere in this prospectus or any prospectus supplement and in the documents incorporated by reference into this prospectus or any prospectus supplement. If any of these risks occur, our business, financial condition or results of operations could be adversely affected. Additional risks not currently known to us or that we currently deem immaterial may also have a material adverse effect on us.

UNAUDITED PRO FORMA CONDENSED COMBINED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The following unaudited pro forma condensed combined financial statements and related notes give effect to the acquisition by Berry Petroleum Company of certain oil and gas producing properties from O'Brien Resources, LLC, SEPCO II, LLC, Liberty Energy, LLC, Crow Horizons Company, and O'Brien II, LP (collectively referred to as "O'Brien") on July 15, 2008.

The unaudited pro forma condensed combined statements of income are derived from the individual statements of operations of Berry Petroleum Company and the statements of combined revenues and direct operating expenses of O'Brien, and combines the results of operations of Berry Petroleum Company for the nine months ended September 30, 2008 and O'Brien for the period from January 1, 2008 to the acquisition date of July 15, 2008 as if the acquisition occurred on January 1, 2007.

Pro forma data is based on assumptions and include adjustments as explained in the notes to the unaudited pro forma condensed combined financial statements. As adjustments are based on currently available information, actual adjustments may differ from the pro forma adjustments; therefore, the pro forma data is not necessarily indicative of the financial results that would have been attained had the O'Brien transaction occurred on the dates referenced above, and should not be viewed as indicative of operations in future periods. The unaudited pro forma condensed combined financial statements, including any notes thereto, are qualified in their entirety to, and should be read in conjunction with the notes thereto, Berry Petroleum Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K/A for the year ended December 31, 2007 filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission and Form 10-Q for the quarter ended September 30, 2008 filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission, and the Statement of Combined Revenues and Direct Operating Expenses for the Oil and Gas Properties Purchased by Berry Petroleum Company from a Consortium of Private Sellers filed as part of Berry Petroleum Company's Current Report on Form 8-K/A filed on September 29, 2008.

UNAUDITED PRO FORMA CONDENSED COMBINED STATEMENT OF INCOME
FOR THE NINE MONTHS ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2008
(In thousands, except per share amounts)

	BERRY PETROLEUM HISTORICAL	O'BRIEN PROPERTIES HISTORICAL	PRO FORMA ADJUSTMENTS (SEE NOTE 2)	PRO FORMA COMBINED
REVENUES AND OTHER INCOME ITEMS				
Sales of oil and gas	\$ 557,689	\$ 52,706	-	\$ 610,395
Sales of electricity	51,223	-	-	51,223
Gas marketing	28,046	-	-	28,046
Gain on sale of assets	510	-	-	510
Interest and other income, net	4,095	-	-	4,095
	641,563	52,706	-	694,269
EXPENSES				
Operating costs - oil and gas production	152,852	1,870	-	154,722
Operating costs - electricity generation	45,620	-	-	45,620
Production taxes	23,121	7,479	-	30,600
Depreciation, depletion & amortization - oil and gas	96,588	-	9,451 a,d	106,039

production				
Depreciation, depletion & amortization - electricity generation	1,991	-	-	1,991
Gas marketing	26,087	-	-	26,087
General and administrative	37,067	-	2,675 b	39,742
Interest	16,444	-	24,455 c	40,899
Commodity derivatives	172	-	-	172
Dry hole, abandonment, impairment and exploration	9,162	-	-	9,162
	409,104	9,349	36,581	455,034
Income before income taxes	232,459	43,357	(36,581)	239,235
Provision for income taxes	86,939	-	1,873	88,812
Net income	\$ 145,520	\$ 43,357	(38,454)	150,423
Basic net income per share	\$ 3.27		\$ 3.38	
Diluted net income per share	\$ 3.20		\$ 3.31	
Dividends per share	\$.225		\$.225	
Weighted average number of shares of capital stock outstanding used to calculate basic net income per share	44,466		44,466	
Effect of dilutive securities:				
Equity based compensation	914		914	
Director deferred compensation	126		126	
Weighted average number of shares of capital stock used to calculate diluted net income per share	45,506		45,506	

BERRY PETROLEUM COMPANY
NOTES TO UNAUDITED PRO FORMA CONDENSED COMBINED FINANCIAL STATEMENT

NOTE 1 - BASIS OF PRESENTATION

The unaudited pro forma statements of income for the nine months ended September 30, 2008 are based on the unaudited financial statements of Berry Petroleum Company for the nine months ended September 30, 2008, the unaudited statement of combined revenues and direct operating expenses of the O'Brien properties for the period from January 1, 2008 to the acquisition date of July 15, 2008, and the adjustments and assumptions described below.

The financial statements presented are not indicative of the results of operations of the acquired properties going forward due to changes in the business and the need to include certain operating expenses on a prospective basis.

NOTE 2 - ADJUSTMENTS TO PRO FORMA STATEMENT OF INCOME

The unaudited pro forma statement of income gives effect to the following pro forma adjustments necessary to reflect the acquisition:

- a. Record incremental pro forma depreciation, depletion and amortization expense recorded in accordance with the successful efforts method of accounting for oil and gas activities based on the purchase price allocation to depreciable and depletable assets.
- b. Record assumed increase in general and administrative expenses as a result of the purchase of the O'Brien properties primarily relating to an increase of 14 additional employees and other costs incurred to support increased operating activities.
- c. Record interest expense for the additional debt of approximately \$666 million incurred in conjunction with the purchase of O'Brien properties at a rate of 7.715% per annum based on the terms of Berry Petroleum Company's credit agreement. A one-tenth of one percent change in interest rate would have an approximately \$897 thousand annual impact on interest expense.
- d. Record pro forma accretion of asset retirement obligation on properties acquired in accordance Statement of Financial Accounting Standards No. 143, "Accounting for Asset Retirement Obligations," computed using an inflation rate of 2.85% and a discount rate of 8.05%.
- e. Record a pro forma income tax provision on the incremental pre-tax income at a net statutory rate approximating 39% and certain other tax adjustments.

BERRY PETROLEUM COMPANY
NOTES TO UNAUDITED PRO FORMA CONDENSED COMBINED FINANCIAL STATEMENT
(CONTINUED)

NOTE 3 - PURCHASE PRICE ALLOCATION

Record the pro forma allocation of the purchase price of the acquisition of the O'Brien properties using the purchase method of accounting. The following is a calculation and allocation of purchase price to the O'Brien properties and liabilities based on their relative fair values, pending completion of Berry Petroleum Company's valuation analysis in accordance with FAS 141:

Purchase price (in thousands):		
Original purchase price	\$	622,356
Closing adjustments for property costs, and operating expenses in excess of revenues between the effective date and closing date funded by borrowings from senior secured revolving credit facility		
		43,811
Total purchase price allocation		\$666,167
Preliminary Allocation of purchase price (in thousands):		
Gas properties	\$651,803	(i)
Pipeline	17,288	
Total asset acquired		669,091
Current liabilities	1,569	(ii)
Asset retirement obligation	1,355	
Net assets acquired		\$666,167

(i) Determined by reserve analysis.

(ii) Record accrual for royalties payable and transaction costs, which are primarily legal and accounting fees.

NOTE 4 - NET INCOME PER SHARE

Basic net income per share is computed by dividing income available to common shareholders (the numerator) by the weighted average number of shares of capital stock outstanding (the denominator). The Company's Class B stock is included in the denominator of basic and diluted net income. The computation of diluted net income per share is similar to the computation of basic net income per share except that the denominator is increased to include the dilutive effect of the additional common shares that would have been outstanding if all convertible securities had been converted to common shares during the period.

RATIO OF EARNINGS TO FIXED CHARGES

The following table presents our historical ratio of earnings to fixed charges for the nine months ended September 30, 2008 and for each of the years in the five-year period ended December 31, 2007.

	Nine Months	Year Ended December 31,				
	Ended September 30, 2008	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003
Ratio of Earnings to Fixed Charges	7.8x	6.4x	9.5x	27.9x	44.3x	27.1x

For purposes of this table, "earnings" consists of income before income taxes plus fixed charges and less capitalized interest. "Fixed charges" consists of interest expense and capitalized interest.

USE OF PROCEEDS

Unless we have indicated otherwise in the accompanying prospectus supplement, we expect to use the net proceeds we receive from any offering of these securities for our general corporate purposes, including working capital, repayment or reduction of debt, capital expenditures, acquisitions of additional oil and natural gas properties or companies owning oil and natural gas properties and repurchases and redemptions of securities. Pending any specific application, we may initially invest funds in short-term marketable securities or apply them to the reduction of other short-term indebtedness.

DESCRIPTION OF DEBT SECURITIES

The debt securities will either be senior debt securities or subordinated debt securities. Senior debt securities will be issued under a senior indenture and subordinated debt securities will be issued under a subordinated indenture. Unless otherwise specified in the applicable prospectus supplement, the trustee under the indentures will be Wells Fargo Bank, National Association. The forms of indentures are filed as exhibits to the registration statement of which this prospectus forms a part. We will include in a supplement to this prospectus the specific terms of each series of debt securities being offered, including the terms, if any, on which a series of debt securities may be convertible into or exchangeable for our common stock, preferred stock or other debt securities. The statements and descriptions in this prospectus or in any prospectus supplement regarding provisions of the indentures and debt securities are summaries thereof, do not purport to be complete and are subject to, and are qualified in their entirety by reference to, all of the provisions of the indentures (and any amendments or supplements we may enter into from time to time which are permitted under each indenture) and the debt securities, including the definitions therein of certain terms.

Unless otherwise specified in a prospectus supplement, the debt securities will be direct unsecured obligations of Berry Petroleum Company. The senior debt securities will rank equally with any of our other senior and unsubordinated debt. The subordinated debt securities will be subordinate and junior in right of payment to any senior indebtedness. The indentures do not limit the aggregate principal amount of debt securities that we may issue and provide that we may issue debt securities from time to time in one or more series, in each case with the same or various maturities, at par or at a discount. Unless indicated in a prospectus supplement, we may issue additional debt securities of a particular series without the consent of the holders of the debt securities of such series outstanding at the time of the issuance. Any such additional debt securities, together with all other outstanding debt securities of that series, will constitute a single series of debt securities under the applicable indenture.

DESCRIPTION OF PREFERRED STOCK

This section summarizes the general terms of the preferred stock that we may offer. The prospectus supplement relating to a particular series of preferred stock offered will describe the specific terms of that series, which may be in addition to or different from the general terms summarized in this section. The summary in this section and in any prospectus supplement does not describe every aspect of the preferred stock and is subject to and qualified in its entirety by reference to all the provisions of our restated certificate of incorporation, the certificate of designation relating to the applicable series of preferred stock and the Delaware General Corporation Law. The certificate of designation will be filed as an exhibit to or incorporated by reference in the registration statement.

Our restated certificate of incorporation authorizes us to issue 2,000,000 shares of preferred stock, par value of \$.01 per share. As of February 2, 2009, no shares of preferred stock were outstanding, and 500,000 were reserved for issuance under our Shareholder Rights Agreement. We may issue preferred stock from time to time in one or more classes or series with such rights and preferences, including voting, dividend and conversion rights and other terms, as our board of directors may establish without any further authorization by the shareholders.

The preferred stock that we may offer will be issued in one or more classes or series. The prospectus supplement relating to the particular class or series of preferred stock will describe the specific terms of the class or series, including:

the designation and stated value, if any, per share and the number of shares offered;

the amount of liquidation preference per share and any priority relative to any other class or series of preferred stock or common stock;

the initial public offering price at which shares will be issued;

the dividend rate (or method of calculation), the dates on which dividends will be payable and the dates from which dividends will commence to cumulate, if any;

any redemption or sinking fund provisions;

any conversion or exchange rights;

any voting rights; and

any other rights, preferences, privileges, limitations and restrictions.

General

The holders of preferred stock will have no preemptive rights. Upon issuance against full payment of the purchase price, the preferred stock will be fully paid and non-assessable. Unless otherwise provided in the prospectus supplement relating to the particular class or series, the preferred stock will have the rights described below.

Dividends

The preferred stock will be preferred over any class or series of common stock as to payment of dividends. Before we can declare, pay or set apart for payment any dividends or distributions, other than dividends or distributions payable in common stock, on the common stock, we will pay dividends to the holders of shares of each class and series of preferred stock entitled to receive dividends when, as and if declared by our board of directors. We will pay those dividends either in cash, shares of common stock or preferred stock or otherwise, at the rate and on the date or dates

set forth in the prospectus supplement. For each class or series of preferred stock, the dividends on each share of the class or series will be cumulative from the date of issue of the share unless some other date is set forth in the prospectus supplement relating to the series. Accruals of dividends will not bear interest.

Liquidation

The preferred stock will be preferred over the common stock as to asset distributions so that the holders of each class and series of preferred stock will be entitled to be paid the amount stated in the applicable prospectus supplement upon our voluntary or involuntary liquidation, dissolution or winding up and before any distribution is made to the holders of common stock. If upon any liquidation, dissolution or winding up, our net assets are insufficient to permit the payment in full of the respective amounts to which the holders of all outstanding preferred stock are entitled, unless otherwise described in a prospectus supplement, our entire remaining net assets will be distributed among the holders of each class and series of preferred stock in amounts proportional to the full amounts to which the holders of each class and series are entitled.

Redemption or Conversion

The shares of any class or series of preferred stock will be redeemable or will be convertible into shares of common stock or any other class or series of preferred stock to the extent described in the prospectus supplement relating to the series.

DESCRIPTION OF COMMON STOCK

We are authorized to issue up to 100,000,000 shares of Class A Common Stock, par value \$.01 per share, and up to 3,000,000 shares of Class B Common Stock, par value \$.01 per share. As of February 2, 2009, there were 42,782,521 shares of Class A Common Stock and 1,797,784 shares of Class B Common Stock outstanding.

If we issue any common stock under this prospectus, we will issue shares of Class A Common Stock. This section summarizes the general terms of our Class A Common Stock and Class B Common Stock. The prospectus supplement relating to the common stock offered will state the number of shares offered, the initial offering price and market price, dividend information and any other relevant information. The summary in this section and in the prospectus supplement does not describe every aspect of the common stock and is subject to and qualified in its entirety by reference to all the provisions of our restated certificate of incorporation and bylaws and the Delaware General Corporation Law.

General

Shares of Class A Common Stock and Class B Stock are each entitled to one vote and 95% of one vote, respectively. Each share of Class B Stock is entitled to a \$0.50 per share preference in the event of liquidation or dissolution. Further, each share of Class B Stock is convertible into one share of Class A Common Stock at the option of the holder. All shares of common stock have equal rights to participate in dividends. Stockholders have the right to vote their shares on a cumulative basis with respect to the election of directors. Shares of common stock carry no conversion rights, other than the right to convert shares of Class B Common Stock into Shares of Class A Common Stock, carry no preemptive or subscription rights and are not subject to redemption. All outstanding shares of common stock are, and any shares of common stock issued upon conversion of any convertible securities will be, fully paid and non-assessable. We may pay dividends on the common stock when, as and if declared by our board of directors. Dividends may be declared in the discretion of the board of directors from funds legally available, subject to any restrictions under agreements related to our indebtedness.

The outstanding shares of Class A Common Stock are listed on the New York Stock Exchange and trade under the symbol "BRY." The transfer agent, registrar and dividend disbursement agent for the common stock is Mellon Investor Services.

Shareholder Rights

In November 1999, we adopted a Shareholder Rights Agreement and declared a dividend distribution of one Right for each outstanding share of Class A Common Stock and Class B Common Stock on December 8, 1999. Each Right, when exercisable, entitles the holder to purchase one one-hundredth of a share of a Series B Junior Participating Preferred Stock, or in certain cases other securities, for \$19.00. The exercise price and number of shares issuable are subject to adjustment to prevent dilution. The Rights would become exercisable, unless earlier redeemed by us, 10 days following a public announcement that a person or group has acquired, or obtained the right to acquire, 20% or more of the outstanding shares of Class A Common Stock or 10 business days following the commencement of a tender or exchange offer for such outstanding shares which would result in such person or group acquiring 20% or more of the outstanding shares of Class A Common Stock, either event occurring without our prior consent.

The Rights will expire on December 8, 2009 or may be redeemed by us at \$.005 per Right prior to that date unless they have theretofore become exercisable. The Rights do not have voting or dividend rights, and until they become exercisable, have no diluting effect on our earnings. A total of 500,000 shares of our preferred stock has been designated Series B Junior Participating Preferred Stock and reserved for issuance upon exercise of the Rights.

DESCRIPTION OF WARRANTS

The following is a description of the general terms and provisions of the warrants. The particular terms of any series of warrants will be described in a prospectus supplement. If so indicated in a prospectus supplement, the terms of that series may differ from the terms set forth below.

General

We may issue warrants to purchase debt securities, preferred stock or common stock. Warrants may be issued independently or together with any debt securities, preferred stock or common stock and may be attached to or separate from the debt securities, preferred stock or common stock. Each series of warrants will be issued under a separate warrant agreement to be entered into between us and a warrant agent. The warrant agent will act solely as our agent in connection with the warrants and will not assume any obligation or relationship of agency or trust for or with any holders or beneficial owners of warrants.

You should review the applicable prospectus supplement for the specific terms of any warrants that may be offered including the following:

the title of the warrants;

the aggregate number of the warrants;

the price or prices at which the warrants will be issued;

the designation, aggregate principal amount, denominations and terms of the debt securities purchasable upon exercise of a warrant to purchase debt securities and the price at which the debt securities may be purchased upon exercise;

the designation, stated value, terms (including liquidation, dividend, conversion and voting rights), number of shares and purchase price per share of the class or series of preferred stock purchasable upon the exercise of warrants to purchase shares of preferred stock;

the number of shares and the purchase price per share of common stock purchasable upon the exercise of warrants to purchase shares of common stock;

if applicable, the date on and after which the warrants and the related securities will be separately transferable;

the date on which the right to exercise the warrants will commence and the date on which the right will expire;

if applicable, the minimum or maximum number of warrants that may be exercised at any one time;

information relating to book-entry procedures, if any;

if applicable, a discussion of material United States federal income tax considerations; and

any other terms of the warrants, including terms, procedures and limitations relating to the exchange and exercise of the warrants.

PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION

We may sell the securities in and outside the United States through underwriters or dealers, directly to purchasers, through agents or through a combination of these methods. The prospectus supplement will include the following information:

the terms of the offering;

the name of any underwriters or agents;

the purchase price of the securities from us and, if the purchase price is not payable in U.S. dollars, the currency or composite currency in which the purchase price is payable;

the net proceeds to us from the sale of the securities;

any delayed delivery arrangements;

any underwriting discounts, commissions and other items constituting underwriters' compensation;

any initial public offering price;

any discounts or concessions allowed or reallocated or paid to dealers; and

any commissions paid to agents.

Sale Through Underwriters or Dealers

If we use underwriters in the sale of securities, the underwriters will acquire the securities for their own account. The underwriters may resell the securities from time to time in one or more transactions, including negotiated transactions, at a fixed public offering price or at varying prices determined at the time of sale. Underwriters may offer securities to the public either through underwriting syndicates represented by one or more managing underwriters or directly by one or more firms acting as underwriters. Unless we inform you otherwise in the prospectus supplement, the obligations of the underwriters to purchase the securities will be subject to conditions, and the underwriters will be obligated to purchase all the securities if they purchase any of them. The underwriters may change from time to time any initial public offering price and any discounts or concessions allowed or reallocated or paid to dealers.

During and after an offering through underwriters, the underwriters may purchase and sell the securities in the open market. These transactions may include overallotment and stabilizing transactions and purchases to cover syndicate short positions created in connection with the offering. The underwriters may also impose a penalty bid, whereby selling concessions allowed to syndicate members or other broker-dealers for the offered securities sold for their account may be reclaimed by the syndicate if such offered securities are repurchased by the syndicate in stabilizing or covering transactions. These activities may stabilize, maintain or otherwise affect the market price of the offered securities, which may be higher than the price that might otherwise prevail in the open market. If commenced, these activities may be discontinued at any time.

If we use dealers in the sale of securities, we will sell the securities to them as principals. They may then resell those securities to the public at varying prices determined by the dealers at the time of resale. The dealers participating in any sale of the securities may be deemed to be underwriters within the meaning of the Securities Act with respect to any sale of those securities. We will include in the prospectus supplement the names of the dealers and the terms of the transaction.

Direct Sales and Sales Through Agents

We may sell the securities directly. In that event, no underwriters or agents would be involved. We may also sell the securities through agents we designate from time to time. In the prospectus supplement, we will name any agent involved in the offer or sale of the securities, and we will describe any commissions payable by us to the agent. Unless we inform you otherwise in the prospectus supplement, any agent will agree to use its reasonable best efforts to solicit purchases for the period of its appointment.

We may sell the securities directly to institutional investors or others who may be deemed to be underwriters within the meaning of the Securities Act with respect to any sale of those securities. We will describe the terms of any such sales in the prospectus supplement.

Delayed Delivery Contracts

If we so indicate in the prospectus supplement, we may authorize agents, underwriters or dealers to solicit offers from certain types of institutions to purchase securities from us at the public offering price under delayed delivery contracts. These contracts would provide for payment and delivery on a specified date in the future. The contracts would be subject only to those conditions described in the prospectus supplement. The prospectus supplement will describe the commission payable for solicitation of those contracts.

Remarketing

We may offer and sell any of the securities in connection with a remarketing upon their purchase, in accordance with a redemption or repayment by their terms or otherwise, by one or more remarketing firms acting as principals for their own accounts or as our agents. We will identify any remarketing firm, the terms of any remarketing agreement and the compensation to be paid to the remarketing firm in the prospectus supplement. Remarketing firms may be deemed underwriters under the Securities Act.

Derivative Transactions

We may enter int