WILLIAMS MARK R

Form 4

January 30, 2012

FORM 4

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

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF

SECURITIES

OMB

OMB APPROVAL

Number:

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Form 5 obligations may continue. See Instruction

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

1(b).

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and A WILLIAMS	2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol WHITING PETROLEUM CORP [WLL]					5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable)				
(Last) 1700 BROA	(First) (I		of Earliest Transaction //Day/Year) /2012				Director 10% Owner X Officer (give title Other (specify below) Senior Vice President			
DENVER,	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				
(City)	(State)	(Zip)	Table	e I - Non-D	erivative	Secur	rities Acq	uired, Disposed o	f, or Beneficial	ly Owned
1.Title of Security (Instr. 3)	2. Transaction Data (Month/Day/Year)	Execution any	med on Date, if Day/Year)	3. Transaction Code (Instr. 8)	4. Securion(A) or D (Instr. 3,	ispose	d of (D)	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 Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4)
Common Stock	01/26/2012			A	2,900 (3)	A	\$ 0	45,374 <u>(1)</u>	D	
Common Stock	01/26/2012			F	972	D	\$ 50.38	44,402	D	

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

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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. Transactic Code (Instr. 8)	5. Dr.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 of Underlying Securities (Instr. 3 and 4)		8. Price Deriva Securit (Instr.
				Code V	(A) (D)	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of Shares	
2011 Stock Option - Right to Purchase	\$ 60.285 (1)					<u>(2)</u>	01/18/2021	Common Stock	7,028 (1)	
Stock Option - Right to Purchase	\$ 34.31 (1)					(2)	01/26/2020	Common Stock	2,572 (1)	
Stock Option - Right to Purchase	\$ 51.22 (1)					(2)	01/18/2022	Common Stock	4,848 (1)	

Reporting Owners

Relationships						
Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other			
		Senior Vice President				
	Director		Director 10% Owner Officer Senior Vice			

Signatures

/s/ Bruce R. DeBoer, Attorney-in-Fact 01/30/2012

**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).

Reporting Owners 2

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- (1) Adjusted to reflect the two-for-one split of Whiting Petroleum Corporation common stock distributed on February 22, 2011 to holders of record as of February 7, 2011.
- Grant to reporting person of option to buy shares of common stock under the Whiting Petroleum Corporation 2003 Equity Incentive Plan.
- (2) The option vests and becomes exercisable as follows: 1/3 on 1st anniversary of the date of grant, 2/3 on 2nd anniversary of the date of grant and 3/3 on 3rd anniversary of the date of grant.
- Vesting to reporting person of restricted stock under the Whiting Petroleum Corporation 2003 Equity Incentive Plan upon attainment of performance criteria.

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, *see* Instruction 6 for procedure. Potential persons who are to respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB number.