

VOLKER JAMES J  
 Form 4  
 February 21, 2012

**FORM 4**

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

OMB APPROVAL

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

**STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF SECURITIES**

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

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person \*  
**VOLKER JAMES J**

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol  
**WHITING PETROLEUM CORP [WLL]**

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

(Check all applicable)

(Last) (First) (Middle)  
 1700 BROADWAY, SUITE 2300  
 (Street)

3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)  
 02/18/2012

Director  10% Owner  
 Officer (give title below)  Other (specify below)  
 Chairman and CEO

DENVER, CO 80290

(City) (State) (Zip)

4. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year)

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line)  
 Form filed by One Reporting Person  
 Form filed by More than One Reporting Person

**Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned**

1. Title of Security (Instr. 3)	2. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	2A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year)	3. Transaction Code (Instr. 8)	4. Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5)	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 Ownership (Instr. 4)
			Code	V	Amount (A) or (D) Price		
Common Stock	02/18/2012		A		33,986 (2)	A	\$ 0 108,630 D
Common Stock	02/18/2012		F		13,962	D	\$ 55.16 94,668 D

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

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 (9-02)

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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. Transaction Code (Instr. 8)	5. 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. Pr Deriv Secur (Instr	
				Code	V (A) (D)	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of Shares
2011 Stock Option - Right to Purchase	\$ 60.285					(1) 01/18/2021	Common Stock	24,890	
Stock Option - Right to Purchase	\$ 12.755					(1) 02/18/2019	Common Stock	149,720	
Stock Option - Right to Purchase	\$ 34.31					(1) 01/26/2020	Common Stock	19,290	
Stock Option - Right to Purchase	\$ 51.22					(1) 01/18/2022	Common Stock	18,352	

## Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships			
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other
VOLKER JAMES J 1700 BROADWAY, SUITE 2300 DENVER, CO 80290	X		Chairman and CEO	

## Signatures

/s/ Bruce R. DeBoer,  
 Attorney-in-Fact 02/21/2012

        \*\*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).

Grant to reporting person of option to buy shares of common stock under the Whiting Petroleum Corporation 2003 Equity Incentive Plan.

(1) 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.

(2) 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.

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