

STEARNS ERIC R  
Form 4  
March 20, 2006

**FORM 4**

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

OMB APPROVAL

OMB Number: 3235-0287  
Expires: January 31, 2005  
Estimated average burden hours per response... 0.5

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 \*  
STEARNS ERIC R

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol  
PETROLEUM DEVELOPMENT CORP [PETD]

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

(Check all applicable)

(Last) (First) (Middle)

3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)  
03/16/2006

\_\_\_\_ Director  
 Officer (give title below) \_\_\_\_\_ Other (specify below)  
Executive Vice President

C/O PETROLEUM DEVELOPMENT CORP, 103 E MAIN STREET

(Street)

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

BRIDGEPORT, WV 26330

(City) (State) (Zip)

**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                                      |
| Restricted Common Stock         | 03/16/2006                           |  | A                              |   | 5,441<br>(1)  | A  | \$ 43.74                                   |
|                                 |                                      |  |                                |   | 60,521  | D  |  |

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

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SEC 1474 (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) |              |                            |
|--|--|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|--|---|--------------|----------------------------|
|  |  |                                      |  | Code                           | V (A) (D)   | Date Exercisable   | Expiration Date   | Title        | Amount or Number of Shares |
| Options (Common Stock)                     | \$ 43.74   | 03/16/2006                           |  | A                              | 1,093   | 03/16/2007   | 03/16/2016  | Common Stock | 1,093                      |
| Options (Common Stock)                     | \$ 43.74   | 03/16/2006                           |  | A                              | 1,094   | 03/16/2008   | 03/16/2016  | Common Stock | 1,094                      |
| Options (Common Stock)                     | \$ 43.74   | 03/16/2006                           |  | A                              | 1,094   | 03/16/2009   | 03/16/2016  | Common Stock | 1,094                      |
| Options (Common Stock)                     | \$ 43.74   | 03/16/2006                           |  | A                              | 1,094   | 03/16/2010   | 03/16/2016  | Common Stock | 1,094                      |

## Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address  | Relationships |           |                          |       |
|---|---------------|-----------|--------------------------|-------|
|   | Director      | 10% Owner | Officer                  | Other |
| STEARNS ERIC R<br>C/O PETROLEUM DEVELOPMENT CORP<br>103 E MAIN STREET<br>BRIDGEPORT, WV 26330 |               |           | Executive Vice President |       |

## Signatures

/s/ Eric R. Stearns 03/20/2006

\_\_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).
- (1) These shares vest 25% upon the passage of each year following the grant.

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