

WILLIFORD CHRIS E  
Form 4  
March 18, 2011

**FORM 4**

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

OMB APPROVAL

OMB Number: 3235-0287  
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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 \*  
**WILLIFORD CHRIS E**

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol  
**ABRAXAS PETROLEUM CORP  
[AXAS]**

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

(Check all applicable)

(Last) (First) (Middle)  
**18803 MEISNER DRIVE**  
  
(Street)

3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)  
**03/15/2011**

\_\_\_\_ Director \_\_\_\_\_ 10% Owner  
 Officer (give title below) \_\_\_\_\_ Other (specify below)  
**EVP/CFO**

**SAN ANTONIO, TX 78258**

(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 Ownership (Instr. 4)
			Code	V Amount (A) or (D) Price			
Abraxas Common Stock	03/15/2011		A	1,582 A \$ 4.72	183,509	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)

**Table II - Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned (e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)**

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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 Security (Instr. 3 and 4)		
				Code	V (A) (D)	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount Number of Shares
Employee Stock Option	\$ 4.72	03/15/2010		A	30,000	03/15/2012 <sup>(1)</sup>	03/15/2021	Abraxas Petroleum Common Stock	30,000
Employee Stock Option	\$ 2.09					03/16/2011	03/16/2020	Abraxas Petroleum Common Stock	60,000
Employee Stock Option	\$ 1.75					10/05/2010	10/05/2015	Abraxas Petroleum Common Stock	66,000
Employee Stock Option	\$ 0.99					03/17/2010	03/17/2019	Abraxas Petroleum Common Stock	50,000
Employee Stock Option	\$ 3.6					08/28/2011	08/28/2017	Abraxas Petroleum Common Stock	15,000
Employee Stock Option	\$ 4.59					09/13/2009	09/13/2015	Abraxas Petroleum Common Stock	100,000
Employee Stock Option	\$ 0.65					11/22/2006	11/22/2012	Abraxas Petroleum Common Stock	43,000
Employee Stock Option	\$ 0.66					03/23/2005	03/23/2011	Abraxas Petroleum Common Stock	20,000

## Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships			
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other

WILLIFORD CHRIS E  
18803 MEISNER DRIVE  
SAN ANTONIO, TX 78258

EVP/CFO

## Signatures

Chris E.  
Williford

03/18/2011

\*\*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) Options vest at 25% per year beginning one year after grant.

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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