

BETHEA MORRISON C
Form 4
June 05, 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 * BETHEA MORRISON C			2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol MCMORAN EXPLORATION CO /DE/ [MMR]		5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable)	
(Last)	(First)	(Middle)	3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)		<input type="checkbox"/> Director	<input type="checkbox"/> 10% Owner
1615 POYDRAS STREET			06/01/2012		<input type="checkbox"/> Officer (give title below)	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify below)
(Street)			4. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year)		Advisory Director	
NEW ORLEANS, LA 70112					6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Form filed by One Reporting Person <input type="checkbox"/> Form filed by More than One Reporting Person	
(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 Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4)
Common Stock ⁽¹⁾	06/01/2012		A ⁽²⁾	2,500	A \$ 0 26,500	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)

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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 Underlying Security (Instr. 3 and 4)
Options (right to buy)	\$ 8.82	06/01/2012		A	10,000	06/01/2013 ⁽³⁾ 06/01/2022	Common Stock

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships			
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other
BETHEA MORRISON C 1615 POYDRAS STREET NEW ORLEANS, LA 70112				Advisory Director

Signatures

Kelly C. Simoneaux on behalf of Morrison C. Bethea pursuant to a power of attorney 06/05/2012

**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).
- (1) Amount beneficially owned following the reported transaction includes 6,250 Common Stock Restricted Stock Units.
- (2) Represents a grant of common stock restricted stock units.
- (3) 25% exercisable on the date indicated and 25% exercisable on each of the next three anniversaries thereof.

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.