

WATSON ROBERT L G  
Form 4  
September 16, 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 \*  
WATSON ROBERT L G

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)  
09/15/2011

\_\_\_\_ Director \_\_\_\_\_ 10% Owner  
 Officer (give title below) \_\_\_\_\_ Other (specify below)  
President/CEO

SAN ANTONIO, TX 78258

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

(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 Ownership (Instr. 4)
			Code	V	Amount (D) Price		
Abraxas Petroleum Common Stock	09/15/2011		M		6,856 A \$ 0.66	1,208,087	D
Abraxas Petroleum Common Stock	09/15/2011		M		6,857 A \$ 2.21	1,214,944	D

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

**Persons who respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not**

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		6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year)		7. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities (Instr. 3 and 4)		
					Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5)		Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount Number of Shares	
Employee Stock Option	\$ 2.21	09/15/2011		M	V	(A) 6,857	(D)	09/17/2005	09/17/2011	Abraxas Common Stock	6,857
Employee Stock Option	\$ 0.66	09/15/2011		M	V	(A) 6,856	(D)	09/17/2005	09/17/2011	Abraxas Common Stock	6,856
Employee Stock Option	\$ 4.72							03/15/2012	03/15/2021	Abraxas Petroleum Common Stock	60,000
Employee Stock Option	\$ 2.09							03/16/2011	03/16/2020	Abraxas Common Stock	90,000
Employee Stock Option	\$ 1.75							10/05/2010	10/05/2019	Abraxas Common Stock	267,750
Employee Stock Option	\$ 0.99							03/17/2010	03/17/2019	Abraxas Common Stock	125,000
Employee Stock Option	\$ 3.6							08/28/2011	08/28/2017	Abraxas Common Stock	41,624
Employee Stock Option	\$ 0.65							11/22/2006	11/22/2012	Abraxas Common Stock	90,000
Employee Stock Option	\$ 4.59							09/13/2009	09/13/2015	Abraxas Common Stock	100,000

## Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships			
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other
WATSON ROBERT L G 18803 MEISNER DRIVE SAN ANTONIO, TX 78258			President/CEO	

## Signatures

Robert L.G.  
Watson

09/16/2011

\_\_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).

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.