

BARNETT E WILLIAM
 Form 4
 May 23, 2006

FORM 4

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

OMB APPROVAL

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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 *
BARNETT E WILLIAM

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol
RELIANT ENERGY INC [RRI]

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

(Check all applicable)

(Last) (First) (Middle)
 1000 MAIN STREET
 (Street)

3. Date of Earliest Transaction
 (Month/Day/Year)
 05/19/2006

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

HOUSTON, TX 77002
 (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 | | | |
| Common Stock | 05/19/2006 | | A | 6,000 A \$ 0 (1) | 65,926 | 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 Securities (Instr. 3 and 4) | 8. Amount or Number of Shares |
|--|--|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|--|---|-------------------------------|
| Stock Option-Right To Buy | \$ 3.515 | | | | (2) | 03/12/2013 | Common Stock | 5,000 |
| Stock Option-Right To Buy | \$ 9.84 | | | | (3) | 06/02/2014 | Common Stock | 5,000 |
| Stock Option-Right To Buy | \$ 12.465 | | | | (4) | 06/07/2015 | Common Stock | 5,000 |

Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address | Relationships | | | |
|--|---------------|-----------|---------|-------|
| | Director | 10% Owner | Officer | Other |
| BARNETT E WILLIAM 1000 MAIN STREET HOUSTON, TX 77002 | | X | | |

Signatures

/s/ E. William
Barnett 05/23/2006

**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).
Comprised entirely of restricted stock. In accordance with the Director Compensation Program, amended by the Company's Compensation Committee in November 2005, each non-employee director of Reliant Energy, Inc. receives an annual grant of 6,000 shares of restricted stock under the terms of the Reliant Energy, Inc. 2002 Long Term Incentive Plan.
- (1) All such stock options have vested.
- (2) 1,666 of such stock options have vested. The remaining 3,334 become exercisable in two equal annual installments beginning June 2, 2006.
- (3)

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(4) These stock options vest in three equal annual installments beginning June 7, 2006.

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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