

Holcomb James Michael
 Form 3
 January 06, 2012

FORM 3 UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549

OMB APPROVAL

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INITIAL STATEMENT OF 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 * | | 2. Date of Event Requiring Statement | 3. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol | |
| Â Holcomb James Michael | | (Month/Day/Year) | PATTERSON UTI ENERGY INC [PTEN] | |
| (Last) | (First) | (Middle) | 4. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer | 5. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year) |
| 450 GEARS ROAD, SUITE 500 | | | (Check all applicable) | |
| (Street) | | | <input type="checkbox"/> Director | <input type="checkbox"/> 10% Owner |
| HOUSTON,Â TXÂ 77067 | | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Officer | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |
| (City) | (State) | (Zip) | (give title below) | (specify below) |
| | | | President-Drilling Subsidiary | 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 |

Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned

| 1. Title of Security (Instr. 4) | 2. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned (Instr. 4) | 3. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 5) | 4. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 5) |
|---|---|--|---|
| Common Stock, \$.01 par value per share | 125,064 ⁽¹⁾ | D | Â |

Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially owned directly or indirectly. SEC 1473 (7-02)

Persons who respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Table II - Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned (e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)

| 1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 4) | 2. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year) | 3. Title and Amount of Securities Underlying Derivative Security (Instr. 4) | 4. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security | 5. Ownership Form of Derivative Security: Direct (D) or Indirect | 6. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 5) |
|--|--|---|--|--|---|
| | Date Exercisable | Expiration Date | Title | Amount or Number of | |

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| | | | | Shares | | (I) (Instr. 5) | |
|-----------------------------|------------|------------|---|-----------------------|----------|-------------------|---|
| Stock Option (Right to Buy) | 10/29/2012 | 10/28/2018 | Common Stock, \$.01 par value per share | 44,445 ⁽²⁾ | \$ 12.32 | D | Â |

Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address | Relationships | | | |
|---|---------------|-----------|------------------------------------|-------|
| | Director | 10% Owner | Officer | Other |
| Holcomb James Michael 450 GEARS ROAD, SUITE 500 HOUSTON, TX 77067 | Â | Â | Â President-Drilling Subsidiary | Â |

Signatures

By Gregory W. Pipkin pursuant to a Limited Power of Attorney filed with the SEC on 1/6/2012./s/Gregory W. Pipkin

01/06/2012

__Signature of Reporting Person

Date

Explanation of Responses:

- * If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, *see* Instruction 5(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) Includes 58,334 shares of restricted stock. 28,334 of these shares will vest on June 9, 2012; 20,000 of these shares will vest on June 9, 2013; and 10,000 of these shares will vest on June 9, 2014.
- (2) As of January 1, 2012, options for 16,668 shares are fully vested. The remaining options for 27,777 shares will vest in equal monthly installments from January 29, 2012 through October 29, 2012.

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.