

HARPER JOSEPH P JR  
 Form 3  
 September 10, 2010

**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 <b>and</b> Ticker or Trading Symbol                         |  |
| Â HARPER JOSEPH P JR                      |         | (Month/Day/Year)                     | STERLING CONSTRUCTION CO INC [STRL]  |  |
| (Last)                                    | (First) | (Middle)                             | 09/01/2010   |  |
| 20810 FERNBUSH LANE                       |         |                                      | 4. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer                           | 5. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year)                   |
| (Street)                                  |         |                                      | (Check all applicable)   |  |
| HOUSTON,Â TXÂ 77073                       |         |                                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Director <input type="checkbox"/> 10% Owner       | 6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line)             |
| (City)                                    | (State) | (Zip)                                | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Officer <input type="checkbox"/> Other | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Form filed by One Reporting Person |
|   |         |                                      | (give title below) (specify below)   | <input type="checkbox"/> Form filed by More than One Reporting Person  |
|   |         |                                      | Exec. VP-Finance   |  |

**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                    | 214,677   | 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)<br>(Instr. 5) |   |
|---|------------|------------|--------------|--------|----------|-------------------|---|
| Employee Stock Option (right to buy)                | Â (1)      | 08/20/2013 | Common Stock | 600    | \$ 3.05  | D                 | Â |
| Employee Stock Option (right to buy)                | Â (2)      | 08/12/2014 | Common Stock | 1,400  | \$ 3.1   | D                 | Â |
| Employee Stock Option (right to buy)                | Â (3)      | 09/12/2010 | Common Stock | 1,500  | \$ 16.78 | D                 | Â |
| Employee Stock Option (right to buy)                | 07/18/2007 | 07/18/2011 | Common Stock | 7,500  | \$ 24.96 | D                 | Â |
| Employee Stock Option (right to buy)                | Â (4)      | 09/08/2011 | Common Stock | 1,000  | \$ 25.21 | D                 | Â |
| Warrant to Purchase Common Stock (right to buy) (5) | 07/18/2001 | 07/18/2011 | Common Stock | 13,119 | \$ 1.5   | D                 | Â |

## Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address                                 | Relationships |           |                    |       |
|--|---------------|-----------|--------------------|-------|
|  | Director      | 10% Owner | Officer            | Other |
| HARPER JOSEPH P JR<br>20810 FERNBUSH LANE<br>HOUSTON, TX 77073 | Â             | Â         | Â Exec. VP-Finance | Â     |

## Signatures

Roger M. Barzun under a Power of Attorney 09/10/2010

\*\*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) These shares are exercisable in five equal annual installments commencing on the first anniversary of the August 20, 2003 grant date.

(2) These shares are exercisable in five equal annual installments commencing on the first anniversary of the August 12, 2004 grant date.

(3) These shares are exercisable in five equal annual installments commencing on the first anniversary of the August 12, 2005 grant date.

(4) These shares are exercisable in five equal annual installments commencing on the first anniversary of the August 8, 2006 grant date.

(5) These warrants were issued as partial consideration for the purchase of shares of the entity now known as Texas Sterling Construction Co.

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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