

HELMERICH & PAYNE INC
 Form 4
 May 16, 2006

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 *
 DOTSON GEORGE S

(Last) (First) (Middle)

1437 SOUTH BOULDER AVE.

(Street)

TULSA, OK 74119

(City) (State) (Zip)

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol

HELMERICH & PAYNE INC [HP]

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

05/11/2006

4. If Amendment, Date Original Filed (Month/Day/Year)

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

(Check all applicable)

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

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 Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4)
			Code	V	Amount	(A) or (D)	Price
Common Stock	05/11/2006		M		41,240	A	\$ 28.0394
					120,093		
Common Stock	05/11/2006		S		41,240	D	\$ 80.06
					78,853		
Common Stock	05/11/2006		M		8,760	A	\$ 18.8356
					87,613		
Common Stock	05/11/2006		S		8,760	D	\$ 80.06
					78,853		

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

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SEC 1474 (9-02)

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- (3) These options were granted under the Helmerich & Payne, Inc. 1996 Stock Incentive on 12/1/99 at an exercise price of \$24.75, becoming \$18.8356 post-spinoff. These options vested over 4 years in 25% increments. The noted date is the date options first vested.

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.