

BARNETT E WILLIAM
 Form 4
 January 05, 2006

FORM 4

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

OMB APPROVAL

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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 *
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)
 01/03/2006

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	(D)	Price
Common Stock	01/03/2006		A		3,105	A	\$ 0 (1)
					59,926	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. (Instr. 3 and 4)	
				Code	V (A) (D)	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of Shares
Stock Option-Right To Buy	\$ 3.515					<u>(2)</u> 03/12/2013		Common Stock	5,000
Stock Option-Right To Buy	\$ 9.84					<u>(3)</u> 06/02/2014		Common Stock	5,000
Stock Option-Right To Buy	\$ 12.465					<u>(4)</u> 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 01/05/2006
 **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).
- (1) Comprised of (i) 2,484 shares of common stock and (ii) 621 shares of restricted stock representing director fees earned during the fourth quarter of 2005.
- (2) 3,333 of such stock options have vested. The remaining 1,667 become exercisable beginning March 12, 2006.
- (3) 1,666 of such stock options have vested. The remaining 3,334 become exercisable in two equal installments beginning June 2, 2006.
- (4) These stock options vest in three equal 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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