

DAY JAMES C  
Form 4  
January 17, 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 \*  
DAY JAMES C

(Last) (First) (Middle)  
13135 SO DAIRY  
ASHFORD, SUITE 800  
(Street)

SUGAR LAND, TX 77478

(City) (State) (Zip)

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol  
NOBLE CORP [NE]

3. Date of Earliest Transaction  
(Month/Day/Year)  
01/17/2006

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)  
Chairman, CEO & President

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 Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4) | 6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4) | 7. Nature of Ownership (Instr. 4) |     |       |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|---|--|-----------------------------------|-----|-------|
|                                 |                                      |  |                                | (A) or (D)  | Code  | V  | Amount                            | (D) | Price |

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)**

| 1. Title of Derivative Security | 2. Conversion or Exercise | 3. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year) | 3A. Deemed Execution Date, if any | 4. Transaction Code | 5. Number of Derivative Securities | 6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year) | 7. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities (Instr. 3 and 4) | 8. Derivative Securities |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------|------------------------------------|--|---|--------------------------|
|---------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------|------------------------------------|--|---|--------------------------|

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| (Instr. 3)                | Price of<br>Derivative<br>Security | (Month/Day/Year) | (Instr. 8) | Acquired (A)<br>or Disposed of<br>(D)<br>(Instr. 3, 4,<br>and 5) | (Instr. 3, 4,<br>and 5) | Code | V | (A) | (D) | Date<br>Exercisable | Expiration<br>Date | Title              | Amount<br>or<br>Number<br>of Shares |
|---------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------|------------|--|-------------------------|------|---|-----|-----|---------------------|--------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Phantom<br>Stock<br>Units | (1)                                | 01/17/2006       | A          | 602.79<br>(2)  |                         |      |   |     |     | 01/17/2006          | (3)                | Ordinary<br>Shares | 602.79 \$                           |

## Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address   | Relationships |           |                           |       |
|--|---------------|-----------|---------------------------|-------|
|  | Director      | 10% Owner | Officer                   | Other |
| DAY JAMES C<br>13135 SO DAIRY ASHFORD<br>SUITE 800<br>SUGAR LAND, TX 77478 | X             |           | Chairman, CEO & President |       |

## Signatures

/s/ James C. Day                      01/17/2006  
 \*\*Signature of                      Date  
 Reporting Person

## 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) 1 for 1

Consists of 602.79 phantom stock units to be allocated to the Reporting Person under the Noble Drilling Corporation 401(k) Savings Restoration Plan (the "Plan") on the last business day of January, February and March 2006. These units represent amounts payable to the

(2) Reporting Person by the Issuer in Ordinary Shares in lieu of a portion of the Reporting Person's cash salary at the election of the Reporting Person. The Reporting Person has elected to defer receipt of the Ordinary Shares under the Plan. These phantom stock units are payable to the Reporting Person in Ordinary Shares or cash upon any distribution of such units from the Plan.

(3) Units of phantom stock are payable to the Reporting Person in Ordinary Shares or cash upon any distribution of such units from the Plan.

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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