

BALLOU ROBERT C  
 Form 4  
 January 10, 2005

**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 \*  
**BALLOU ROBERT C**

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol  
**QUANEX CORP [NX]**

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

(Check all applicable)

(Last) (First) (Middle)  
**1900 WEST LOOP SOUTH, SUITE 1500**

3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)  
**12/01/2004**

\_\_\_\_ Director  
 \_\_\_\_ Officer (give title below)  Other (specify below)

President - Vehicular Products

(Street)  
**HOUSTON, TX 77027**

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

(City) (State) (Zip)

**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)		
				(A) or (D)	Code	V	Amount	(D)	Price

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

**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.**

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 Security (Instr. 3 and 4)
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(Instr. 3)	Price of Derivative Security	(Month/Day/Year)	(Instr. 8)	Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5)	Code	V	(A)	(D)	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	AN No Sh
Stock Options (Right to buy)	\$ 21.3333								12/05/2003	12/04/2012	Common Stock	1
Stock Options (Right to buy)	\$ 24								07/30/2003	07/30/2012	Common Stock	
Stock Options (Right to buy)	\$ 26.4								12/04/2004	12/03/2013	Common Stock	1
Stock Options (Right to buy)	\$ 39.4667								12/01/2005	12/01/2014	Common Stock	1
Phantom Stock Units <sup>(1)</sup>	\$ 0 <sup>(2)</sup>	12/01/2004		A				2,128.38	12/01/2004 <sup>(3)</sup>	08/08/1988 <sup>(3)</sup>	Common Stock	2

## Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships			
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other
BALLOU ROBERT C 1900 WEST LOOP SOUTH SUITE 1500 HOUSTON, TX 77027			President - Vehicular Products	

## Signatures

Terry M. Murphy, Power of Attorney  
 01/10/2005  
 \*\*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) Units that are credited to the participants account under the Quanex Corporation Deferred Compensation Plan as a result of the participant's deferral of income or fees, as the case may be.

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- (2) Conversion price is 1-for-1.

All units credited under the Deferred Compensation Plan are 100% vested at all times; provided, however, that if a participant receives a benefit from the Deferred Compensation Plan for any reason other than death, disability or retirement within three years after a deferral is

- (3) credited to a participant's account, any matching awards made by the Company with respect to such deferral will be forfeited.

Distributions under the Deferred Compensation Plan are made beginning on a specified date selected by the participant or upon a participant's death, disability, or termination of employment.

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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