

PIONEER NATURAL RESOURCES CO
 Form 4
 September 10, 2012

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 *
 SHEFFIELD SCOTT D

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol
 PIONEER NATURAL RESOURCES CO [PXD]

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer
 (Check all applicable)
 ___ Director ___ 10% Owner
 ___ Officer (give title below) ___ Other (specify below)
 Chairman & CEO

(Last) (First) (Middle)
 5205 N. O'CONNOR BLVD.,
 SUITE 200
 (Street)
 IRVING, TX 75039
 (City) (State) (Zip)

3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)
 09/06/2012
 4. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year)

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line)
 X 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 Ownership (Instr. 4) |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|---|--|--|
| | | | Code | V | Amount or Price | | |
| Common Stock | | | | | 22,040 ⁽¹⁾ | I | 401(k) |
| Common Stock | 09/06/2012 | | M | | 1,883 A \$ 15.62 | D | |
| Common Stock | 09/06/2012 | | S ⁽²⁾ | | 1,883 D \$ 100.1008 | D | |
| Common Stock | 09/07/2012 | | M | | 18,117 A \$ 15.62 | D | |
| Common Stock | 09/07/2012 | | S ⁽³⁾ | | 7,826 D \$ 100.647 | D | |

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|--------------|------------|------------------|-------|---|-------------|---------|---|
| Common Stock | 09/07/2012 | S ⁽⁴⁾ | 5,114 | D | \$ 101.3202 | 714,435 | D |
| Common Stock | 09/07/2012 | S ⁽⁵⁾ | 4,268 | D | \$ 102.452 | 710,167 | D |
| Common Stock | 09/07/2012 | S ⁽⁶⁾ | 909 | D | \$ 103.1381 | 709,258 | D |

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 (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 Security (Instr. 3 and 4) | Amount or Number of Shares |
|--|--|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|---------|--|-----------------|---|----------------------------|
| | | | | | V | (A) (D) | Date Exercisable | Expiration Date | | |
| Non-Qualified Stock Option (right to buy) | \$ 15.62 | 09/06/2012 | | M | | 1,883 | 02/18/2012 | 02/18/2019 | Common Stock | 1,883 |
| Non-Qualified Stock Option (right to buy) | \$ 15.62 | 09/07/2012 | | M | | 18,117 | 02/18/2012 | 02/18/2019 | Common Stock | 18,117 |

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address

Relationships

Director 10% Owner Officer Other

SHEFFIELD SCOTT D
5205 N. O'CONNOR BLVD., SUITE 200
IRVING, TX 75039

Chairman & CEO

Signatures

Mark H. Kleinman, Attorney-in-Fact For Scott D. Sheffield

09/10/2012

**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) Consists of shares beneficially owned as a result of reporting person's ownership of units in the Pioneer Natural Resources USA, Inc. 401(k) Plan

This transaction was executed in multiple trades at prices ranging from \$100.00 to \$100.26. The price reported above reflects the

- (2) weighted average sale price. The reporting person will provide upon request to the SEC staff, the issuer or a security holder of the issuer full information regarding the number of shares and prices at which the transaction was effected.

This transaction was executed in multiple trades at prices ranging from \$100.00 to \$100.96. The price reported above reflects the

- (3) weighted average sale price. The reporting person will provide upon request to the SEC staff, the issuer or a security holder of the issuer full information regarding the number of shares and prices at which the transaction was effected.

This transaction was executed in multiple trades at prices ranging from \$101.00 to \$101.81. The price reported above reflects the

- (4) weighted average sale price. The reporting person will provide upon request to the SEC staff, the issuer or a security holder of the issuer full information regarding the number of shares and prices at which the transaction was effected.

This transaction was executed in multiple trades at prices ranging from \$102.00 to \$102.99. The price reported above reflects the

- (5) weighted average sale price. The reporting person will provide upon request to the SEC staff, the issuer or a security holder of the issuer full information regarding the number of shares and prices at which the transaction was effected.

This transaction was executed in multiple trades at prices ranging from \$103.1275 to \$103.19. The price reported above reflects the

- (6) weighted average sale price. The reporting person will provide upon request to the SEC staff, the issuer or a security holder of the issuer full information regarding the number of shares and prices at which the transaction was effected.

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.