

NIELSEN ARNE R  
Form 4  
January 12, 2010

**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 \*  
NIELSEN ARNE R

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol  
VAALCO ENERGY INC /DE/ [EGY]

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

(Check all applicable)

(Last) (First) (Middle)  
4600 POST OAK PLACE, SUITE 309

3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)  
01/08/2010

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

(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)
				Code V	Amount	(A) or (D)	Price
Common Stock	01/08/2010		M		50,000	A	\$ 3.85
Common Stock	01/08/2010		F <sup>(1)</sup>		41,848	D	\$ 4.6 9,152

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

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**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 Securities (Instr. 3 and 4)
				Code	V (A) (D)	Date Exercisable Expiration Date	Title Amount or Number of Shares
No Qualified Stock Option (right to buy)	\$ 3.85	01/08/2010		M	50,000	(2) 01/12/2010	Common 50,000

## Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships			
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other
NIELSEN ARNE R 4600 POST OAK PLACE SUITE 309 HOUSTON, TX 77027		X		

## Signatures

//Arne R. Nielsen 01/12/2010

\_\_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).
- The Reporting Person exercised 50,000 non-statutory options, which options were otherwise due to expire on January 12, 2010. The
- (1) Reporting Person executed cashless exercise to effectuate the transaction. The cashless exercise resulted in a net gain of 8,152 shares of directly held common stock. To cover the cost of the options and associated taxes, the Issuer withheld 41,848 shares.
  - (2) The options vested 1/3 on each of 01/12/2005, 2006 and 2007

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.