

Starzer Michael R
 Form 3
 December 14, 2011

FORM 3 UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549

OMB APPROVAL

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INITIAL STATEMENT OF 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 * Â Starzer Michael R (Last) (First) (Middle) 410 17TH STREET,Â SUITE 1500 (Street) DENVER,Â COÂ 80202 (City) (State) (Zip) | 2. Date of Event Requiring Statement (Month/Day/Year) 12/14/2011 | 3. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol Bonanza Creek Energy, Inc. [BCEI] | 4. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Director <input type="checkbox"/> 10% Owner <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Officer <input type="checkbox"/> Other (give title below) (specify below) President & CEO | 5. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year) | 6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Form filed by One Reporting Person <input type="checkbox"/> Form filed by More than One Reporting Person |
|---|--|--|--|--|---|

Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned

| 1. Title of Security (Instr. 4) | 2. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned (Instr. 4) | 3. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 5) | 4. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 5) |
|-------------------------------------|--|---|--|
| Class A Common Stock | 92,067 | D | Â |
| Class A Common Stock | 1,903,970 | I ⁽¹⁾ | Footnote ⁽¹⁾ |
| Class A Common Stock | 197,867 | I ⁽²⁾ | Footnote ⁽²⁾ |
| Class B Common Stock ⁽³⁾ | 2,500 ⁽³⁾ | D | Â |

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

SEC 1473 (7-02)

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Table II - Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned (e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)

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| 1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 4) | 2. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date <small>(Month/Day/Year)</small> | 3. Title and Amount of Securities Underlying Derivative Security (Instr. 4) | 4. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security | 5. Ownership Form of Derivative Security: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 5) | 6. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 5) |
|---|---|--|--|--|---|
| | Date Exercisable | Expiration Date | | | |
| | | | Amount or Number of Shares | | |
| | | Title | | | |

Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address | Relationships | | | |
|--|---------------|-----------|-----------------|-------|
| | Director | 10% Owner | Officer | Other |
| Starzer Michael R 410 17TH STREET SUITE 1500 DENVER, CO 80202 | X | | President & CEO | |

Signatures

Chris Humber as
Attorney-in-Fact

12/14/2011

**Signature of Reporting Person

Date

Explanation of Responses:

- * If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, *see* Instruction 5(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) Includes (i) 1,811,903 shares of Class A common stock ("Shares") over which Mr. Starzer has voting power as sole trustee of the BCEC Investment Trust and (ii) 92,067 Shares held by The Starzer Revocable Living Trust.
 - (2) 197,867 Shares held by Bonanza Creek Employee Holdings, LLC ("BCEH"), over which Messrs. Starzer and Gary Grove exercise joint voting and dispositive control.
- Shares of Class B common stock have been issued in the form of restricted stock subject the following vesting schedule: 1/3 per year for three years following the initial public offering of the Issuer's common stock. Pursuant to the amended and restated certificate of incorporation of the Issuer, immediately prior to the closing of an initial public offering of the Issuer's common stock, all shares of Class B common stock automatically will convert into shares of Class A common stock, at which time each share of Class A common stock will be reclassified as one share of common stock of the Issuer. Shares of common stock previously held as Class B Common Stock will remain subject to vesting.

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.