

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

FORM 4

Statement of changes in beneficial ownership of securities

Filing Date: **2013-01-28** | Period of Report: **2013-01-24**
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REPORTING OWNER

WHITMIRE C DONALD JR

CIK: **1200687**

Type: **4** | Act: **34** | File No.: **001-07791** | Film No.: **13552933**

ISSUER

MCMORAN EXPLORATION CO /DE/

CIK: **64279** | IRS No.: **721424200** | State of Incorporation: **DE** | Fiscal Year End: **1231**
SIC: **1311** Crude petroleum & natural gas

Mailing Address
1615 POYDRAS ST
NEW ORLEANS LA 70112

Business Address
1615 POYDRAS ST
NEW ORLEANS LA 70112
5045824000

FORM 4

Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5 obligations may continue. See Instruction 1(b).

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

OMB APPROVAL	
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STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP

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

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person WHITMIRE C DONALD JR			2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol MCMORAN EXPLORATION CO /DE/ [MMR]		5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable) <input type="checkbox"/> Director <input type="checkbox"/> 10% Owner <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Officer (give title below) <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify below)	
(Last)	(First)	(Middle)	3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year) 01/24/2013		VP & Controller - Fin. Rep	
1615 POYDRAS STREET			4. 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	
(Street)						
NEW ORLEANS, LA 70112						
(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 Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4)
			Code	V	Amount	(A) or (D)	Price			
Common Stock								33	I	IRA for Self
Common Stock	01/24/2013		M		1,000	A	\$7.515	8,500	D	
Common Stock	01/24/2013		F (2)		667	D	\$15.97	7,833	D	

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 Securities Underlying Derivative Security (Instr. 3 and 4)	8. Price of Derivative Security (Instr. 5)	9. Number of Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 4)	10. Ownership Form of Derivative Security: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4)	11. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4)	
				Code	V	(A)	(D)	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date						Title
Option (right to buy)	\$7.515	01/24/2013		M		1,000		02/03/2004 (1)	02/03/2013	Common Stock	1,000	\$ 0	0	D	

Explanation of Responses:

1. 25% exercisable on the date indicated and 25% exercisable on each of the next three anniversaries thereof.

2. Shares delivered and withheld in payment of the exercise price of the options and resulting taxes.

Signatures

Kelly C. Simoneaux, on behalf of C. Donald Whitmire, Jr. pursuant to a power of attorney

01/28/2013

** Signature of Reporting Person

Date

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

* 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).

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, see Instruction 6 for procedure.

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 Number.