Gerlich Michael A Form 4 May 16, 2012

FORM 4

Form 4 or

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

Check this box if no longer subject to **SECURITIES** Section 16.

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF

Form 5 Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, obligations Section 17(a) of the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935 or Section may continue. 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940 See Instruction

1(b).

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person * Gerlich Michael A

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading

Symbol

GASTAR EXPLORATION LTD

[GST]

(Last) (First) (Middle) 3. Date of Earliest Transaction

(Month/Day/Year) 05/16/2012

(Street)

(State)

(Zip)

4. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year)

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to

OMB

Number:

Expires:

response...

Estimated average

burden hours per

OMB APPROVAL

3235-0287

January 31,

2005

0.5

Issuer

(Check all applicable)

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

below) Chief Financial Officer & VP

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

HOUSTON, TX 77010

(City)

1331 LAMAR, SUITE 650

1.Title of 2. Transaction Date 2A. Deemed 3. 4. Securities Acquired 5. Amount of 6. Ownership 7. Nature of Security (Month/Day/Year) Execution Date, if Transaction(A) or Disposed of Securities Form: Direct Indirect (Instr. 3) Code (D) Beneficially (D) or Beneficial (Instr. 3, 4 and 5) Indirect (I) Ownership (Month/Day/Year) (Instr. 8) Owned Following (Instr. 4) (Instr. 4) Reported (A) Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4) Code V Amount (D) Price

Restricted 05/16/2012 shares

 $F^{(1)}$ 2,645 D

473,938

D

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

Persons who respond to the collection of SEC 1474 information contained in this form are not (9-02)required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB control number.

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

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1. Title of	2.	3. Transaction Date		4.	5.	6. Date Exerc		7. Title a		8. Price of	9. Nu
Derivative Security (Instr. 3)	Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security	(Month/Day/Year)	execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year)	Code (Instr. 8)	onNumber of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5)	Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year)		Amount of Underlying Securities (Instr. 3 and 4)		Derivative Security (Instr. 5)	Deriv Secur Bene Owne Follo Repo Trans (Instr
				Code V	(A) (D)	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	or Title N of	umber		

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address Relationships

Director 10% Owner Officer Other

Gerlich Michael A 1331 LAMAR, SUITE 650 HOUSTON, TX 77010

Chief Financial Officer & VP

Signatures

/s/ Michael A.

Gerlich 05/16/2012

**Signature of Date Reporting Person

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) Shares forfeited to meet tax obligation of restricted share 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.

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