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HERRON HAROLD F
 Form 4
 February 27, 2003

UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
 WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549
 FORM 4

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP

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

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person
 HERRON, HAROLD F.
 877 NORTH 8TH WEST
 RIVERTON, WY 82501
 USA
2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol
 U.S. ENERGY CORP.
 USEG
3. IRS or Social Security Number of Reporting Person (Voluntary)
4. Statement for Month/Year
 December 18, 2002
5. If Amendment, Date of Original (Month/Year)
6. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable)
 (X) Director (X) 10% Owner (X) Officer (give title below) () Other
 (specify below)
 VICE PRESIDENT
7. 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 | 2. Transaction Date | 3. Code | 4. Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) | | 5. Amount or Price | 6. Amount or Price | 7. Amount or Price | 8. Amount or Price |
|------------------------------|---------------------|---------|---|-------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| | | | Amount | Price | | | | |
| \$.01 Par Value Common Stock | 12/18/02 | M | | | 29,500 (a) | A | \$2.40 | |
| \$.01 Par Value Common Stock | 12/18/02 | F | | | 20,000 (b) | D | \$3.54 | 129,999 |
| \$.01 Par Value Common Stock | N/A | | | | NONE | | N/A | 2,895 |
| \$.01 Par Value Common Stock | N/A | | | | NONE | | N/A | 24,236 |
| \$.01 Par Value Common Stock | N/A | | | | NONE | | N/A | 163,648 |
| \$.01 Par Value Common Stock | N/A | | | | NONE | | N/A | 155,811 |
| \$.01 Par Value Common Stock | 12/14/98 | J (h) | | | 1,400 | | NIL | |

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| | | | | | | | | |
|----|----|--------------------------|----------|-------|-------|--|-----|---------|
| to | ck | \$.01 Par Value Common S | 04/25/01 | J (i) | 3,000 | | NIL | 7,600 |
| to | ck | \$.01 Par Value Common S | N/A | | NONE | | N/A | 125,556 |
| to | ck | \$.01 Par Value Common S | N/A | | NONE | | N/A | 1,581 |

Table II -- Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned

| 1. Title of Derivative Security | 2. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security | 3. Transaction Date | 4. Transaction Code | 5. Number of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) | 6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date | 7. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities | 8. Percentage of Total Shares Owned |
|---------------------------------|--|---------------------|---------------------|--|---|--|-------------------------------------|
| Stock Option (Right to Buy) (m) | \$2.875/sh | | | | 12/04/98 - 09/25/08 | Common Stock | 34,782 |
| Stock Option (Right to Buy) (m) | \$2.00/sh | | | | 12/04/98 - 09/25/08 | Common Stock | 40,218 |
| Stock Option (Right to Buy) (m) | \$2.40/sh | 12/18/02 | M | 29,500 | 01/10/01 - 01/09/11 | Common Stock | 29,500 |
| Stock Option (Right to Buy) (n) | \$3.90/sh | | | | 12/07/01 - 12/06/11 | Common Stock | 100,000 |
| Stock Option (Right to Buy) (n) | \$2.25/sh | | | | 08/08/02 - 12/07/11 | Common Stock | 97,000 |

Explanation of Responses:

Attachment to Form 4 dated December 18, 2002.

(a) Exercise of options, paid for by surrender of directly owned shares.

(b) Shares surrendered by the Reporting Persons to issuer as payment for exercise of options.

(c) Consists of 47,986 shares held directly by the Reporting Person, 11,000 shares held in an Individual Retirement Account for the benefit of the Reporting Person; 18,900 shares and 52,113 shares subject to forfeiture.

The 18,900 shares issued under the USEG Restriction Stock Bonus Plan, are deemed "earned out" by the

Reporting Person: (i) if he is continuously employed by USEG until he retires; (ii) if he becomes disabled; (iii) upon his death, or (iv) if the shares are claimed within three years following the occurrence of (i), (ii) or (iii). The 52,113

shares, issued under the 1996 Stock Award program, vest at the rate of 20% each

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year over a five year period and are subject to the forfeiture conditions noted previously. The treasurer of USEG holds the shares in trust for the benefit of the Reporting Person, while the non-employee directors of USEG exercise shared voting and dispositive rights over all 61,013 shares. The shares do not come under the control of the Reporting Person until termination of employment. The total number of shares is presently reported; distributions to the Reporting Person will not be separately reported. The acquisitions of the shares by the Reporting Person from both the Bonus Plan and the Award Program are exempt under Rule 16b-3.

(d) Consists of shares held directly by the Reporting Person's wife.

(e) Consists of shares held in the U.S. Energy Corp. Employee Stock Ownership Plan (the "ESOP") in an account established for the benefit of the Reporting Person.

(f) Consists of shares held in ESOP accounts established to benefit members of the Reporting Person's "immediate family", as that term is defined in Rule 16 a-1(e), in accordance with Rule 16a-8(b) (2).

(g) Consists of shares held in the ESOP which are not allocated to accounts established for the benefit of specific plan participants. The Reporting Person, as an ESOP Trustee, exercises the voting powers with respect to such unallocated shares.

(h) Shares surrendered to a non-affiliated party for payment of debt incurred by the child for whom the shares were held.

(i) Shares indirectly held by the Reporting Person for his minor child under the Wyoming Uniform Transfers to Minors Act were released to a child who is no longer a minor, and does not reside in the same household as the Reporting Person.

(j) Consists of shares indirectly held by the Reporting Person through his minor children. The Reporting Person is Custodian over 3,000 shares, while his brother-in-law, Mark J. Larsen, is Custodian over 4,600 shares for the children under the Wyoming Uniform Transfers to Minors Act.

(k) Consists of shares held by Plateau Resources Limited ("Plateau"), a wholly-owned subsidiary of USEG. The Reporting Person is an officer and director of both USEG and Plateau. The Reporting Person is not a controlling shareholder of Plateau, and therefore the Reporting Person does not have a pecuniary interest in the USEG shares held by Plateau, under Rule 16a-1(a) (2) (iii).

(l) Consists of shares held by Northwest Gold, Inc. ("NWG"), a subsidiary of USEG. The Reporting Person is an officer and director of both USEG and NWG. The Reporting Person is not a controlling shareholder of NWG, and therefore the Reporting Person does not have a pecuniary interest in the USEG shares held by NWG, under Rule 16a-1(a) (2) (iii).

(m) Stock options granted under the Issuer's 1998 Incentive Stock Option Plan, and exempt under Rule 16b-3.

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(n) Stock options granted under the Issuer's 2001 Incentive Stock Option Plan, and exempt under Rule 16b-3.

NOTE: Pursuant to SEC Rule 16a-1(a) (2), information on Plateau and NWG is not required, however, Registrant has undertaken

comprehensive disclosure and reports shares held by Plateau and NWG as indirectly owned by the Reporting Person.

The Reporting Person disclaims beneficial and pecuniary interest in the shares reported under footnotes d, f, g, j and k.

NOTE: None of the 20,000 shares "disposed of" (as of 12/18/02) were sold. These 20,000 shares were surrendered to the issuer

as payment for 29,500 shares pursuant to incentive stock option.

SIGNATURE OF REPORTING PERSON

/s/ HAROLD F. HERRON

DATE

February 24, 2003