

Saltiel Robert J.  
 Form 4  
 December 13, 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 \*  
 Saltiel Robert J.

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol

ATWOOD OCEANICS INC [ATW]

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

(Check all applicable)

(Last) (First) (Middle)  
 15835 PARK TEN PLACE DRIVE  
 (Street)

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

12/09/2010

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

President & CEO

HOUSTON, TX 77084

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)
				(A) or (D) Price			
Common Stock	12/09/2010		A	30,406 A 11	124,018	D	

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)**

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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)	Amount or Number of Shares
				Code V (A) (D)		Date Exercisable Expiration Date	Title	
Nonqualified Stock Options	\$ 37.41	12/09/2010		A	72,360	(2) 12/09/2020	Common Stock	72,360

## Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships			
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other
Saltiel Robert J. 15835 PARK TEN PLACE DRIVE HOUSTON, TX 77084			President & CEO	

## Signatures

Robert J. Saltiel                      12/13/2010  
 \*\*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) These shares of common stock were granted as a Restricted Stock Award under the Atwood Oceanics, Inc. 2007 Long-Term Incentive Plan. One-hundred percent (100%) of the restricted stock award vests at the end of three (3) years.
- (2) These Nonqualified Stock Options were granted under the Atwood Oceanics, Inc. 2007 Long-Term Incentive Plan. Twenty-five percent (25%) of such options become exercisable at the end of one year, two years, three years and four years, respectively from the date of grant.

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.