

Gates Kevin J.  
Form 3  
May 12, 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 * |         | 2. Date of Event Requiring Statement | 3. Issuer Name <b>and</b> Ticker or Trading Symbol                         |                                                                        |
| Gates Kevin J.                            |         | (Month/Day/Year)                     | USA TRUCK INC [USAK]                                                       |                                                                        |
| (Last)                                    | (First) | (Middle)                             | 05/04/2011                                                                 |                                                                        |
| 3200 INDUSTRIAL PARK ROAD                 |         |                                      | 4. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer                           | 5. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year)                   |
| (Street)                                  |         |                                      | (Check all applicable)                                                     |                                                                        |
| VAN BUREN, AR 72956                       |         |                                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Director <input type="checkbox"/> 10% Owner       | 6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line)             |
| (City)                                    | (State) | (Zip)                                | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Officer <input type="checkbox"/> Other | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Form filed by One Reporting Person |
|                                           |         |                                      | (give title below) (specify below)                                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Form filed by More than One Reporting Person  |
|                                           |         |                                      | Controller                                                                 |                                                                        |

**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) |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| Common Stock                    | 203                                                   | D                                                        | ^                                                     |

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)**

| 1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 4) | 2. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year) | 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) | 6. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 5) |
|--------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|
|                                            | Date Exercisable                                         | Title                                                                       |                                                        |                                                      |                                                       |

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|                             | Expiration Date                      | Amount or Number of Shares | or Indirect (I) (Instr. 5) |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Stock Option (right to buy) | 08/01/2011 <sup>(1)</sup> 08/01/2016 | Common Stock 122 \$ 12.21  | D Â                        |
| Stock Option (right to buy) | 08/01/2011 <sup>(1)</sup> 08/01/2016 | Common Stock 76 \$ 18.58   | D Â                        |
| Stock Option (right to buy) | 08/01/2011 <sup>(1)</sup> 08/01/2016 | Common Stock 70 \$ 16.49   | D Â                        |
| Stock Option (right to buy) | 08/01/2011 <sup>(1)</sup> 08/01/2016 | Common Stock 79 \$ 13.61   | D Â                        |
| Stock Option (right to buy) | 08/01/2012 <sup>(2)</sup> 08/01/2017 | Common Stock 149 \$ 12.2   | D Â                        |
| Stock Option (right to buy) | 08/01/2012 <sup>(2)</sup> 08/01/2017 | Common Stock 204 \$ 12.52  | D Â                        |

## Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address                                     | Relationships |           |                 |       |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|-----------|-----------------|-------|
|                                                                    | Director      | 10% Owner | Officer         | Other |
| Gates Kevin J.<br>3200 INDUSTRIAL PARK ROAD<br>VAN BUREN, AR 72956 | Â             | Â         | Â<br>Controller | Â     |

## Signatures

/s/ Kevin J. Gates, by Clifton R. Beckham, Attorney-in-fact pursuant to POA filed herewith

05/12/2011

\_\_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).

The stock option shares will vest in annual increments of one-third beginning on August 1, 2011 and continuing through and including (1) August 1, 2013. The stock option shares expire in annual increments of one-third beginning on August 1, 2014 and continuing through and including August 1, 2016.

The stock option shares will vest in annual increments of one-third beginning on August 1, 2012 and continuing through and including (2) August 1, 2014. The stock option shares expire in annual increments of one-third beginning on August 1, 2015 and continuing through and including August 1, 2017.

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.