

**INITIAL STATEMENT OF BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF SECURITIES**

| OMB APPROVAL                                 |           |
|--|-----------|
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Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

|   |   |   |  |
|---|---|---|--|
| 1. Name and Address of Reporting Person*<br><u>Hawkins Thomas F.</u><br><br>(Last) (First) (Middle)<br>500 WEST TEXAS AVENUE<br>SUITE 700<br><br>(Street)<br>MIDLAND TX 79701<br><br>(City) (State) (Zip) | 2. Date of Event Requiring Statement (Month/Day/Year)<br>04/17/2017 | 3. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol<br><u>Diamondback Energy, Inc. [ FANG ]</u>   |  |
|   |   | 4. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable)<br>Director _____ 10% Owner _____<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Officer (give title below) _____ Other (specify below) _____<br><p style="text-align: center;">Sr. VP - Land</p> | 5. If Amendment, Date of Original Filed (Month/Day/Year)<br><br>6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing (Check Applicable Line)<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Form filed by One Reporting Person<br><input type="checkbox"/> Form filed by More than One Reporting Person |

**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                    | 3,900 <sup>(1)</sup>                                  | D  |   |

**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: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 5) | 6. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 5) |
|--|--|-----------------|---|----------------------------|--|--|---|
|  | Date Exercisable   | Expiration Date | Title   | Amount or Number of Shares |  |  |   |
|  |  |                 |   |                            |  |  |   |

**Explanation of Responses:**

1. Amount includes 2,600 restricted stock units that were granted under the issuer's equity incentive plan, which will vest in two equal annual installments beginning on February 16, 2018.

**Remarks:**

/s/Thomas F. Hawkins                      04/27/2017  
 \*\* 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 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).

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.