FORM 4

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

## **UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**

Washington, D.C. 20549

## STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP

9.01, 2.0. 200 10	OMB APF	OMB APPROVAL				
	OMP Number:	2225 (				

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

OMB APPROVAL								
OMB Number:	3235-0287							
Estimated average burden								
hours per response:	0.5							

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person*  BALLOU ROBERT C						2. Issuer Name <b>and</b> Ticker or Trading Symbol QUANEX CORP [ NX ]									all ap	plicable)	011	o Issuer o Owner er (specify								
(Last) (First) (Middle) 1900 WEST LOOP SOUTH SUITE 1500					3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year) 04/01/2004										belo	w) ``	X Oth belo hicular Proc	w)								
(Street) HOUSTO	ON TZ		77027 (Zip)		_ 4. If	4. If Amendment, Date of Original Filed (Month/Day/Year)							6. Indiv Line) X													
		Tab	le I - N	on-Deri	<b>vative</b>	Sec	uritie	s Ac	quire	d, Di	sposed c	of, or E	Benefic	cially	Own	ed										
1. Title of Security (Instr. 3)  2. Transact Date (Month/Day						Execution Date,		3. Transaction Code (Instr. 8)				and 5) Secu Bene		ount of rities ficially ed Following	6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4)	of Indirect										
										v	Amount	(A) o (D)	r Price	,	Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4)			(								
Common Stock 04/01/2				2004 04/		4/02/2	004	<b>J</b> (1)		26.752	A	\$42	2.9876 3		020.615	D										
		Та	able II								osed of, convertib				wned											
1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 3)	2. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security	3. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	Executi Day/Year) if any	emed ion Date, /Day/Year)	4. Transa Code ( 8)		5. Number of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5)		6. Date Expira (Month	tion D		7. Title and Amount of Securities Underlying Derivative Security (Instr. and 4)		Deri Sec (Ins	Price of rivative curity str. 5)	9. Number of derivative Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction( (Instr. 4)	Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4)	Beneficial Ownership t (Instr. 4)								
													Code	v	(A)	(D)	Date Exerci	sable	Expiration Date	Title	Amoun or Numbe of Shares					

## **Explanation of Responses:**

1. Shares acquired through Employee Stock Purchase Plan.

<u>Terry M. Murphy, Power of Attorney</u>

04/02/2004

\*\* Signature of Reporting Person

Date

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

- $^{\star}$  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).

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.