#### BESTEN C HENRY JR

Form 4

February 01, 2006

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|   | _         |   |   |   |

### UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION Washington, D.C. 20549

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF

**SECURITIES** 

OMB

**OMB APPROVAL** 

Number:

3235-0287

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if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5

obligations

Check this box

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934,

may continue. See Instruction

1(b).

(Last)

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 \* BESTEN CHENRY JR

(First)

(Street)

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading

Issuer

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to

Symbol

ARCH COAL INC [ACI]

3. Date of Earliest Transaction

(Check all applicable)

(Month/Day/Year)

(Middle)

01/30/2006

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

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check

ONE CITYPLACE DRIVE, SUITE

300

below) below) Senior VP-Strategic Dev.

4. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year)

Applicable Line)

\_X\_ Form filed by One Reporting Person Form filed by More than One Reporting

Person

ST. LOUIS, MO 63141

(City) (State) (Zip) Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned

1.Title of 2. Transaction Date 2A. Deemed Security (Month/Day/Year) Execution Date, if (Instr. 3)

3. 4. Securities TransactionAcquired (A) or Code Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5) (Instr. 8)

5. Amount of Securities Beneficially (D) or Owned Following (Instr. 4) Reported

6. Ownership 7. Nature of Form: Direct Indirect Beneficial Indirect (I) Ownership (Instr. 4)

(A) or

Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4)

Code V Amount (D) Price

Common 01/30/2006 A 1,370 A (1) 8,108 D Stock

Common By 401(k) 14 I Stock plan

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

(Month/Day/Year)

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SEC 1474 (9-02)

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# Table II - Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned (e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)

| 1. Title of<br>Derivative<br>Security<br>(Instr. 3) | 2.<br>Conversion<br>or Exercise<br>Price of<br>Derivative<br>Security | 3. Transaction Date<br>(Month/Day/Year) | 4.<br>Transacti<br>Code<br>(Instr. 8) | 5. Number complete Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5) | 6. Date Exer<br>Expiration D<br>(Month/Day) | ate                | 7. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities (Instr. 3 and 4) |  | 8. Pr<br>Deri<br>Secu<br>(Inst |
|---|---|---|---------------------------------------|--|---|--------------------|---|--|--------------------------------|
|   |   |   | Code V                                | (A) (D)  | Date<br>Exercisable                         | Expiration<br>Date | Title   | Amount<br>or<br>Number<br>of<br>Shares |                                |
| Restricted<br>Stock<br>Units                        | <u>(2)</u>  | 01/30/2006                              | M                                     | 1,370  | (3)   | <u>(4)</u>         | Common<br>Stock   | 1,370                                  |                                |

## **Reporting Owners**

Reporting Owner Name / Address Relationships

Director 10% Owner Officer Other

BESTEN C HENRY JR ONE CITYPLACE DRIVE SUITE 300 ST. LOUIS, MO 63141

Senior VP-Strategic Dev.

## **Signatures**

/s/ Gregory A. Billhartz, Attorney-in-Fact

02/01/2006

\*\*Signature of Reporting Person

Date

## **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) The reporting person received 4,109 restricted stock units on January 30, 2004. The restricted stock units vest ratably over a three year period. Upon vesting of 1,370 restricted stock units on January 30, 2006, the reporting person received 1,370 shares of common stock.
- (2) Each restricted stock unit represents a right to receive one share of common stock unless otherwise deferred, at the reporting person's election, pursuant to the Arch Coal, Inc. Executive Deferred Compensation Plan.
- (3) The reporting person received 4,109 restricted stock units on January 30, 2004. The restricted stock units vest ratably over a three-year period. On January 30, 2006, 1,370 restricted stock units vested.
- (4) The restricted stock units do not expire.

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.

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