ARCH COAL INC Form 4 March 01, 2006

FORM 4

OMB APPROVAL

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

OMB 3235-0287 Number:

Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16.

January 31, Expires: 2005

Form 4 or Form 5 obligations STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF **SECURITIES**

Estimated average burden hours per response... 0.5

may continue. See Instruction

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

1(b).

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person * Taylor Wes M

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

ARCH COAL INC [ACI]

(Check all applicable)

(Last)

Security

(Instr. 3)

(First) (Middle) 3. Date of Earliest Transaction

(Month/Day/Year)

02/27/2006

X_ Director 10% Owner Officer (give title

ONE CITYPLACE DRIVE

4. If Amendment, Date Original

Filed(Month/Day/Year)

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check

Other (specify

(Street)

Applicable Line)

X Form filed by One Reporting Person Form filed by More than One Reporting

Person

below)

ST. LOUIS, MO 63141

(City) (State) (Zip) 1.Title of 2. Transaction Date 2A. Deemed

(Month/Day/Year) Execution Date, if Code (Month/Day/Year)

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

Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned 5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported

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

(A) or Code V Amount (D) Price

Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4)

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

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 control number.

SEC 1474 (9-02)

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

1. Title of Derivative Conversion Security or Exercise (Instr. 3) Price of

3. Transaction Date 3A. Deemed (Month/Day/Year)

Execution Date, if (Month/Day/Year)

4. Transactionof Code Derivative (Instr. 8) Securities

5. Number 6. Date Exercisable and **Expiration Date** (Month/Day/Year)

7. Title and Amount of 8. Price **Underlying Securities** (Instr. 3 and 4)

Derivati Security (Instr. 5)

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	ecurity			(] ((A) or Disposof (D) (Instr. and 5)	sed 3, 4,					
			Code	V	(A)	(D)	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of Shares	
Phantom	<u>(1)</u>	02/27/2006	I		500		(2)	(2)	Common	500	<u>(1)</u>

Stock

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships						
reporting Owner France / Francess	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other			
Taylor Wes M							
ONE CITYPLACE DRIVE	X						
ST. LOUIS, MO 63141							

Signatures

Stock

/s/ Gregory A. Billhartz,
Attorney-in-Fact
03/01/2006

**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).

Each share of phantom stock represents a right to receive the value in cash of one share of Arch Coal, Inc. common stock. The shares of phantom stock are held by the director through the Arch Coal, Inc. Deferred Compensation Plan for Non-Employee Directors (the "Plan")

- (1) and represent past compensation that the director elected to defer under the Plan into a hypothetical investment in shares of Arch Coal, Inc. common stock and/or dividends attributable to such deferred amounts. This report is being filed to report that the director transferred \$36,573 from an alternative investment account into a hypothetical investment in shares of Arch Coal, Inc. common stock.
- (2) Shares of phantom stock are payable in cash following termination of the director's service as a director of Arch Coal, Inc. The director may transfer certain portions of the phantom stock account into an alternative investment account at any time.

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.

Reporting Owners 2