ARCH COAL INC Form 4 March 17, 2006

FORM 4

UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

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

obligations

may continue.

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN 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

See Instruction 1(b).

(Last)

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person * **HUNT DOUGLAS H**

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading

Symbol

ARCH COAL INC [ACI]

3. Date of Earliest Transaction

(Month/Day/Year)

ONE CITYPLACE DRIVE, SUITE 300

(Street)

(First)

(Middle)

03/15/2006

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check

Officer (give title

Filed(Month/Day/Year)

4. If Amendment, Date Original

Applicable Line) _X_ Form filed by One Reporting Person Form filed by More than One Reporting

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to

(Check all applicable)

10% Owner

Other (specify

Issuer

below)

X_ Director

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) (Instr. 3)

Execution Date, if (Month/Day/Year)

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

5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported

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

OMB APPROVAL

3235-0287

January 31,

2005

0.5

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Number:

Expires:

response...

Estimated average

burden hours per

(A) Transaction(s) or (Instr. 3 and 4) Code V Amount (D) Price

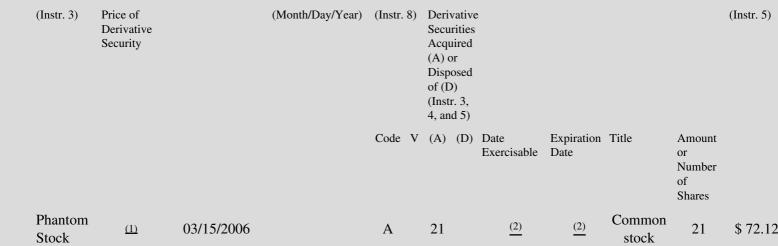
Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially owned directly or indirectly.

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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 3. Transaction Date 3A. Deemed 5. 6. Date Exercisable and 7. Title and Amount of 8. Price of Derivative Conversion (Month/Day/Year) Execution Date, if TransactionNumber **Expiration Date Underlying Securities** Derivative Security or Exercise any Code of (Month/Day/Year) (Instr. 3 and 4) Security

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Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address Relationships

Director 10% Owner Officer Other

HUNT DOUGLAS H
ONE CITYPLACE DRIVE, SUITE 300 X
ST. LOUIS, MO 63141

Signatures

Gregory A. Billhartz, Attorney-in-Fact

**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"). The shares of phantom stock acquired by the director represent dividends attributable to amounts that the director elected to defer under the Plan 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.

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