ARCH COAL INC Form 4

December 18, 2006

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. See Instruction

1(b).

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

(Print or Type Responses)

(Last)

(City)

1. Title of

Security

(Instr. 3)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person *

BESTEN CHENRY JR

(First)

(Middle)

ONE CITYPLACE DRIVE, SUITE 300

(Street)

(State)

(Month/Day/Year)

ST. LOUIS, MO 63141

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading

Symbol

ARCH COAL INC [ACI]

3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)

12/15/2006

4. If Amendment, Date Original

Filed(Month/Day/Year)

Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned

2. Transaction Date 2A. Deemed Execution Date, if

(Zip)

(Month/Day/Year)

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

(Instr. 3, 4 and 5)

Owned Following Reported (A) Transaction(s)

(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. 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.

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

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

Execution Date, if any

5. TransactionNumber Code of

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

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

OMB APPROVAL

3235-0287

January 31,

2005

0.5

OMB

Number:

Expires:

response...

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to

(Check all applicable)

Senior VP-Strategic Dev.

6. Ownership

Form: Direct

(D) or Indirect Beneficial

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check

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

(I)

(Instr. 4)

below)

10% Owner

Other (specify

7. Nature of

Ownership

(Instr. 4)

SEC 1474

(9-02)

Indirect

Issuer

below)

Person

5. Amount of

Securities

Beneficially

Director

Applicable Line)

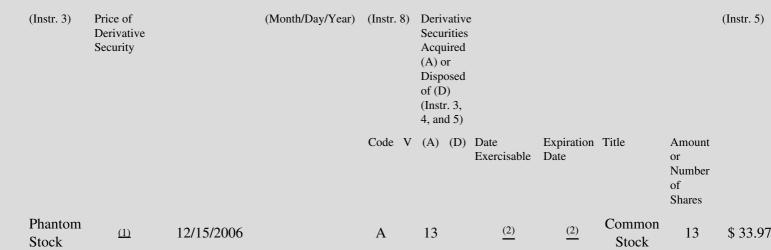
X_ Officer (give title

Estimated average

burden hours per

Derivative Security

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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

12/18/2006

**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 Executive Officer through the Arch Coal, Inc. Deferred Compensation Plan (the "Plan"). The shares of phantom stock acquired by the executive officer represent dividends attributable to amounts that the executive officer 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 on the date or dates elected by the executive officer, subject to the terms of the Plan. The executive officer may transfer any and all 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. size="2">(1)Options for 80% of the shares are exercisable on 12/30/04. Options for 20% of the shares are exercisable on 6/3/2005.(2)Options for 60% of the shares are exercisable on 12/30/2004. Options for 20% of the shares are exercisable on 6/2/2005. Options for 20% of the shares will become exercisable on 6/2/2006.(3)Options for 25% of the shares are each exercisable on 7/20/05, 7/20/06, 7/20/07, 7/20/08, respectively.(4)Options for 25% of the shares are each exercisable on 7/29/06, 7/29/07, 7/29/08, and 7/29/09, respectively.(5)Each restricted stock unit represents a contingent right to receive one share of AngioDynamics, Inc. common stock.

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Reporting Owners 2