

Drexler John T.  
Form 4  
December 28, 2011

**FORM 4**

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

OMB APPROVAL

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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)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person \*  
Drexler John T.

(Last) (First) (Middle)  
ONE CITY PLACE, SUITE 300  
  
(Street)

ST. LOUIS, MO 63141

(City) (State) (Zip)

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol  
ARCH COAL INC [ACI]

3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)  
12/27/2011

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

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

(Check all applicable)

\_\_\_\_ Director \_\_\_\_\_ 10% Owner  
 Officer (give title below) \_\_\_\_\_ Other (specify below)  
Sr. V.P. and CFO

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line)  
 Form filed by One Reporting Person  
 Form filed by More than One Reporting Person

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

1. Title of Security (Instr. 3)	2. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	2A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year)	3. Transaction Code (Instr. 8)	4. Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5)	5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4)	6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4)	7. Nature of Ownership (Instr. 4)
				(A) or (D)	Price		
Common Stock	12/27/2011		M <sup>(1)</sup>	2,074	A \$ 9.08	13,591	D
Common Stock	12/27/2011		S <sup>(1)</sup>	2,074	D \$ 14.76	11,517	D

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

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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 Derivative Security (Instr. 3)	2. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security	3. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	3A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year)	4. Transaction Code (Instr. 8)	5. Number of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5)	6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year)	7. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities (Instr. 3 and 4)	8. Amount or Number of Shares
Employee Stock Options (right to buy)	\$ 9.08	12/27/2011		M <sup>(1)</sup>	2,074	<sup>(2)</sup> 02/29/2012	Common Stock	2,074

## Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships			
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other
Drexler John T. ONE CITY PLACE SUITE 300 ST. LOUIS, MO 63141			Sr. V.P. and CFO	

## Signatures

/s/ Jon S. Ploetz,  
Attorney-in-Fact

12/28/2011

\*\*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 transactions reported were made pursuant to a Rule 10b5-1 trading plan adopted by the reporting person.

The reporting person received 10,700 stock options on February 28, 2002. The stock options vested as follows: 2,675 stock options vested on February 28, 2003; 2,675 stock options vested on February 29, 2004; 2,675 stock options vested on February 28, 2005; and 2,675 stock options vested on February 28, 2006.

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, see Instruction 6 for procedure.

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