BESTEN C HENRY JR

Form 4

October 20, 2004

FORM 4

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

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF

SECURITIES

OMB APPROVAL

OMB Number: 3235-0287

Expires:

January 31, 2005

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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)

See Instruction

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person ** BESTEN C HENRY JR			2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol	5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer			
			ARCH COAL INC [ACI]	(Check all applicable)			
(Last)	(First)	(Middle)	3. Date of Earliest Transaction				
ONE CITYPLACE DRIVE, SUITE 300		VE, SUITE	(Month/Day/Year) 10/20/2004	Director 10% Owner _X_ Officer (give title Other (specify below) Senior VP-Strategic Dev.			
(Street) ST. LOUIS, MO 63141			4. If Amendment, Date Original	6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check			
			Filed(Month/Day/Year)	Applicable Line) _X_ Form filed by One Reporting Person Form filed by More than One Reporting Person			
(City)	(State)	(Zip)	Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Ac	quired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owner			

(City)	(State)	Tabl	e I - Non-E	Derivative S	Securi	ties Acqu	ired, Disposed of	, or Beneficiall	y Owned
1.Title of Security (Instr. 3)	2. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	2A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year)	3. Transactic Code (Instr. 8)	4. Securition(A) or Dis (Instr. 3, 4)	sposed	of (D)	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 Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4)
Common Stock	10/20/2004		M	30,000	A	\$ 22.9	0	D	
Common Stock	10/20/2004		S	27,800	D	\$ 33.5	15	I	By 401(k) plan
Common Stock	10/20/2004		S	2,200	D	\$ 33.67	1,717	D	

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

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number.

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)	Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security	3. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	SA. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year)	Transactic Code (Instr. 8)	orDerivative Securities		6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year)		7. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities (Instr. 3 and 4)	
				Code V		(D)	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of Shares
Employee Stock Options	\$ 22.9	10/20/2004		M		30,000	01/01/2004	06/30/2006	Common Stock	30,000

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/ Janet L. Horgan, 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).

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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