

MESSEY ROBERT J  
 Form 5  
 February 14, 2006

**FORM 5**

**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).  
 Form 3 Holdings Reported Form 4 Transactions Reported

**ANNUAL 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

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person \*  
**MESSEY ROBERT J**  
 (Last) (First) (Middle)

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

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer  
 (Check all applicable)

**ONE CITYPLACE DRIVE**  
 (Street)

3. Statement for Issuer's Fiscal Year Ended (Month/Day/Year)  
**12/31/2005**

\_\_\_\_ Director \_\_\_\_\_ 10% Owner  
 Officer (give title below) \_\_\_\_\_ Other (specify below)  
 Senior Vice President & CFO

**ST. LOUIS, MO 63141**  
 (City) (State) (Zip)

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

6. Individual or Joint/Group Reporting  
 (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) (A) or (D) Price	5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned at end of Issuer's Fiscal Year (Instr. 3 and 4)	6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4)	7. Nature of Ownership (Instr. 4)
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Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially owned directly or indirectly.

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SEC 2270 (9-02)

**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	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)	6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year)	7. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities (Instr. 3 and 4)	8. De
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	Derivative Security				or Disposed of (D)		Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of Shares	
		(A)	(D)		(Instr. 3, 4, and 5)						
Phantom Stock	Â	01/14/2005	Â	A	1,113	Â	Â (2)	Â (2)	Common Stock	1,113	\$
Phantom Stock	Â	01/31/2005	Â	A	5,582	Â	Â (2)	Â (2)	Common Stock	5,582	\$
Phantom Stock	Â	03/15/2005	Â	A	13	Â	Â (2)	Â (2)	Common Stock	13	\$
Phantom Stock	Â	06/15/2005	Â	A	10	Â	Â (2)	Â (2)	Common Stock	10	\$
Phantom Stock	Â	09/14/2005	Â	A	8	Â	Â (2)	Â (2)	Common Stock	8	\$
Phantom Stock	Â	12/14/2005	Â	A	7	Â	Â (2)	Â (2)	Common Stock	7	\$
Phantom Stock	Â	01/13/2006	Â	A	1,113	Â	Â (2)	Â (2)	Common Stock	1,113	\$
Phantom Stock	Â	01/30/2006	Â	A	5,581	Â	Â (1)	Â (2)	Common Stock	5,581	\$

## Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships			
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other
MESSEY ROBERT J ONE CITYPLACE DRIVE ST. LOUIS, MO 63141	Â	Â	Â Senior Vice President & CFO	Â

## Signatures

/s/ Gregory A. Billhartz,  
Attorney-in-Fact

02/14/2006

\*\*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).
- (1) 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") and represent past compensation, the vested portion of restricted stock awards and/or payouts under other incentive compensation arrangements that the executive officer elected to defer under the Plan into a hypothetical investment in shares of Arch Coal, Inc. common stock and/or

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dividends paid with respect to such deferred amounts.

- (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 or all of the phantom stock account into an alternative investment account at any time.

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