ARCH COAL INC Form 4 December 16, 2008

UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

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

Check this box

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF **SECURITIES**

obligations may continue. See Instruction

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)

(Last)

(City)

(Instr. 3)

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

(First)

(Street)

(State)

ONE CITY PLACE, SUITE 300

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol

ARCH COAL INC [ACI]

3. Date of Earliest Transaction

(Month/Day/Year) 12/15/2008

4. If Amendment, Date Original

Filed(Month/Day/Year)

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to

OMB

Number:

Expires:

response...

Estimated average

burden hours per

OMB APPROVAL

3235-0287

January 31,

2005

0.5

Issuer

(Check all applicable)

Director 10% Owner X_ Officer (give title Other (specify below)

Sr. V.P. and CFO

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check

Applicable Line)

X 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

ST. LOUIS, MO 63141

1. Title of 2. Transaction Date 2A. Deemed Security (Month/Day/Year)

Execution Date, if (Month/Day/Year)

(Middle)

(Zip)

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

5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported

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

7. Nature of Indirect Ownership

(Instr. 4)

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

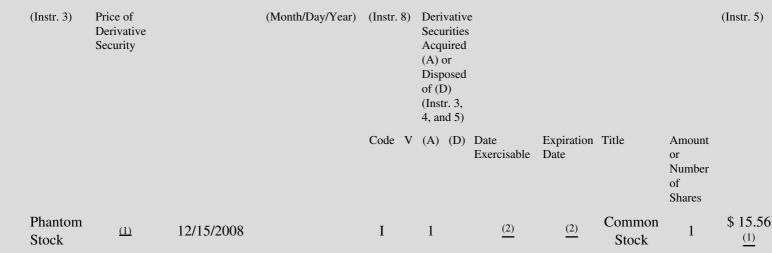
Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially owned directly or indirectly.

Persons who respond to the collection of SEC 1474 information contained in this form are not (9-02)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	2.	3. Transaction Date	3A. Deemed	4.	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

Drexler John T. ONE CITY PLACE SUITE 300 ST. LOUIS, MO 63141

Sr. V.P. and CFO

Signatures

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

12/16/2008

**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.

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