ARCH COAL INC Form 4

December 16, 2008

Check this box

if no longer

subject to

OMB APPROVAL

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

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF

SECURITIES

OMB Number:

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Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5 obligations

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

See Instruction

1(b).

(Print or Type Responses)

may continue.

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person * **HUNT DOUGLAS H**

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

Symbol ARCH COAL INC [ACI]

ONECITYPLACE DRIVE

3. Date of Earliest Transaction

(Check all applicable)

(First) (Middle) (Last)

(Month/Day/Year)

Filed(Month/Day/Year)

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

12/15/2008

4. If Amendment, Date Original

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check

Applicable Line)

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

ST. LOUIS, MO 63141

(City) (State) (Zip)

(Street)

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

1.Title of 2. Transaction Date 2A. Deemed Security (Instr. 3)

(Month/Day/Year) Execution Date, if (Month/Day/Year)

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

6. Ownership 7. Nature of Form: Direct Indirect (D) or Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4) (Instr. 4)

SEC 1474

Reported (A) Transaction(s) or (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.

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(9-02)

Table II - Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned (e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)

1. Title of 3. Transaction Date 3A. Deemed 5. Number 6. Date Exercisable and 7. Title and Amount of 8. Price 4. Derivative Conversion (Month/Day/Year) Execution Date, if Transactionof **Expiration Date Underlying Securities** Derivati Security or Exercise Code Derivative (Month/Day/Year) (Instr. 3 and 4) Security (Instr. 3) Price of (Month/Day/Year) (Instr. 8) Securities (Instr. 5)

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Security (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5) Code V (A) (D) Date Expiration Title Amount Exercisable Date or Number of Shares Phantom Common (2) (1) 12/15/2008 251 (2) 251 \$ 15.5 Α Stock Stock

Acquired

Reporting Owners

Derivative

Signatures

/s/ Gregory A. Billhartz, 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).
- 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 director through the Arch Coal, Inc. Deferred Compensation Plan for Non-Employee Directors (the "Plan"). The shares of phantom stock acquired by the director represent dividends attributable to amounts that the director 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 following termination of the director's service as a director of Arch Coal, Inc. The director may transfer amounts held in 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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