ARCH COAL INC Form 4 December 16, 2008

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

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)

(Last)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person * Taylor Wes M

(First)

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol

ARCH COAL INC [ACI]

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

12/15/2008

(Street) 4. If Amendment, Date Original

Filed(Month/Day/Year)

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to

Issuer

(Check all applicable)

OMB

Number:

Expires:

response...

Estimated average

burden hours per

OMB APPROVAL

3235-0287

January 31,

2005

0.5

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

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line)

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

6. Ownership

Form: Direct

(Instr. 4)

(D) or Indirect Beneficial

7. Nature of

Ownership

(Instr. 4)

(9-02)

Indirect

Person

5. Amount of

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

ST. LOUIS, MO 63141

ONE CITYPLACE DRIVE

(City) (State) (Zip) 1.Title of 2. Transaction Date 2A. Deemed

Security (Month/Day/Year) Execution Date, if (Instr. 3)

(Middle)

(Month/Day/Year)

4. Securities TransactionAcquired (A) or Code Disposed of (D) (Instr. 8)

Code V Amount (D) Price

(e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)

(Instr. 3, 4 and 5) (A)

or

Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported

Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4)

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 required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Table II - Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned

1. Title of Derivative Conversion Security or Exercise

Price of

(Instr. 3)

3. Transaction Date 3A. Deemed (Month/Day/Year)

Execution Date, if (Month/Day/Year)

4. 5. TransactionNumber Code of (Instr. 8) Derivative

6. Date Exercisable and **Expiration Date** (Month/Day/Year)

7. Title and Amount of 8. Price of **Underlying Securities** (Instr. 3 and 4)

Derivative Security (Instr. 5)

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De	rıvatıve				Secu	rities					
Sec	curity				Acqu	iired					
					(A) (or					
					Disp	osed					
					of (E))					
				(Instr. 3,							
					4, an	d 5)					
			Code	V	(A)	(D)	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of Shares	
Phantom Stock	<u>(1)</u>	12/15/2008	A		53		(2)	(2)	Common Stock	53	\$ 15.56

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships							
•	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other				
Taylor Wes M ONE CITYPLACE DRIVE ST. LOUIS, MO 63141	X							

Signatures

/s/ Gregory A. Billhartz, 12/16/2008 Attorney-in-Fact Date

**Signature of Reporting Person

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.
- 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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