

PEABODY ENERGY CORP

Form S-8

November 19, 2007

As filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on November 19, 2007

Registration No. 333-_____

UNITED STATES

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM S-8

REGISTRATION STATEMENT

UNDER

THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933

Peabody Energy Corporation

(Exact name of Registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware

(State or other jurisdiction
of incorporation or
organization)

13-4004153

(I.R.S. Employer
Identification No.)

701 Market Street

St. Louis, Missouri 63101-1826

(Address of Principal Executive Offices) (Zip Code)

Peabody Energy Corporation Australian Employee Stock Purchase Plan

(Full title of the plan)

Alexander C. Schoch, Esq.

Executive Vice President and Chief Legal Officer

Peabody Energy Corporation

701 Market Street

St. Louis, Missouri 63101-1826

(Name and address of agent for service)

(314) 342-3400

(Telephone number, including area code, of agent for service)

Copy to:

R. Randall Wang, Esq.

Bryan Cave LLP

211 North Broadway, Suite 3600

St. Louis, Missouri 63102-2750

Phone: (314) 259-2000; Fax: (314) 259-2020

CALCULATION OF REGISTRATION FEE

Title of Securities To Be Registered	Amount To Be Registered	Proposed Maximum Offering Price Per Share ⁽¹⁾	Proposed Maximum Aggregate Offering Price ⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾	Amount Of Registration Fee ⁽¹⁾
Common Stock, \$0.01 par value and Preferred Share Purchase Rights (2)	1,000,000 shares ⁽³⁾	\$52.635	\$52,635,000	\$1,615.89

(1) Estimated solely for the purpose of calculating the registration fee in accordance with Rule 457(h) and Rule 457(c) under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended. The Proposed Maximum Offering Price Per Share and the Proposed Maximum Aggregate Offering Price are computed on the basis of the average of the high and low trading prices for the Common Stock on November 13, 2007, as reported on the New York Stock Exchange.

(2) Each share of Common Stock issued, par value \$0.01 (the Common Stock), also represents one Preferred Share Purchase Right. Preferred Share Purchase Rights currently cannot trade separately from the underlying Common Stock and, therefore, do not carry a separate

price or necessitate an additional registration fee.

(3) This Registration Statement also covers such additional shares as may be issued pursuant to anti-dilution provisions.

PART I

INFORMATION REQUIRED IN THE SECTION 10(a) PROSPECTUS

The documents containing the information specified in Part I of Form S-8 will be sent or given to participants in the Peabody Energy Corporation Australian Employee Stock Purchase Plan (the Plan) as specified in Rule 428(b)(1) under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended. In accordance with the instructions to Part I, those documents are not filed with the Commission as part of this Registration Statement or a prospectus under Rule 424 of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended.

PART II

INFORMATION REQUIRED IN THE REGISTRATION STATEMENT

Item 3. Incorporation of Documents by Reference.

The following documents filed by Peabody Energy Corporation (the Registrant or Company) with the Securities and Exchange Commission are hereby incorporated by reference:

- (i) The Registrant's Annual Report filed on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2006, as amended by the 10-K/A filed on September 10, 2007 (File No. 001-16463);
- (ii) The Registrant's Quarterly Reports filed on Form 10-Q for the quarterly periods ended March 31, 2007, June 30, 2007 and September 30, 2007 (File No. 001-16463);
- (iii) The Registrant's Current Reports on Form 8-K dated April 19, 2007 and filed on April 20, 2007; May 14, 2007 and filed on May 18, 2007; June 19, 2007 and filed on June 25, 2007; July 31, 2007 and filed on August 2, 2007; October 16, 2007 and filed on October 17, 2007 (as amended on Form 8-K/A filed on November 9, 2007); October 22, 2007 and filed on October 25, 2007; October 31, 2007 and filed on November 6, 2007 (File No. 001-16463);
- (iv) The description of the Registrant's Common Stock contained in the Registrant's Registration Statement on Form 8-A (File No. 001-16463), filed on May 2, 2001, and any amendment or report filed for the purpose of updating such description; and
- (v) The description of the Registrant's preferred share purchase rights contained in the Registrant's Registration Statement on Form 8-A filed under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (File No. 001-16463) filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on July 24, 2002, as amended by Forms 8-A/A filed on March 29, 2005 and February 22, 2006 including any further amendment or report filed for the purpose of updating such description.

All documents subsequently filed by the Registrant pursuant to Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 and 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, prior to the filing of a post-effective amendment which indicates that all securities offered have been sold or which deregisters all securities then remaining unsold, shall be deemed to be incorporated by reference in this Registration Statement and to be made a part hereof from the date of filing of such documents (but this shall not include any information that is merely furnished to the Securities and Exchange Commission). Any statement contained in a document

incorporated or deemed to be incorporated herein by reference shall be deemed to be modified or superseded for purposes of this Registration Statement to the extent that a statement contained herein or in any other subsequently filed document which also is or is deemed to be incorporated by reference herein modifies or supersedes such statement.

Item 4. Description of Securities.

The securities to be offered are registered under Section 12 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934.

Item 5. Interest of Named Experts and Counsel.

Alexander C. Schoch, Esq., Executive Vice President and Chief Legal Officer of the Company, has rendered an opinion as to the legality of the Company's common stock being registered hereby. Mr. Schoch is paid a salary and bonus by the Company, participates in certain of the Company's employee benefit plans, owns shares of common stock and holds options to acquire shares of common stock.

Item 6. Indemnification of Directors and Officers.

Section 145 of the Delaware General Corporation Law provides that, among other things, a corporation may indemnify directors and officers, as well as other employees and agents of the corporation against expenses (including attorneys' fees), judgments, fines and amounts paid in settlement in connection with specified actions, suits or proceedings, whether civil, criminal, administrative or investigative (other than an action by or in the right of the corporation, a derivative action), if they acted in good faith and in a manner they reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to the best interests of the corporation and, with respect to any criminal action or proceeding, had no reasonable cause to believe their conduct was unlawful. A similar standard is applicable in the case of derivative actions, except that indemnification only extends to expenses (including attorneys' fees) incurred in connection with the defense or settlement of such actions, and the statute requires court approval before there can be any indemnification where the person seeking indemnification has been found liable to the corporation. The statute provides that it is not exclusive of other indemnification that may be granted by a corporation's by-laws, disinterested director vote, stockholder vote, agreement or otherwise.

Article Sixth of the Registrant's third amended and restated certificate of incorporation and Article IV of the Registrant's amended and restated by-laws requires indemnification to the fullest extent permitted by Delaware law. The Registrant has also obtained officers' and directors' liability insurance, which insures against liabilities that officers and directors of the Registrant, in such capacities, may incur. The Registrant's third amended and restated certificate of incorporation requires the advancement of expenses incurred by officers or directors in relation to any action, suit or proceeding.

Section 102(b)(7) of the Delaware General Corporation Law permits a corporation to provide in its certificate of incorporation that a director of the corporation shall not be personally liable to the corporation or its stockholders for monetary damages for breach of fiduciary duties as a director, except for liability (i) for any transaction from which the director derives an improper personal benefit, (ii) for acts or omissions not in good faith or that involve intentional misconduct or a knowing violation of law, (iii) under Section 174 of the Delaware General Corporation Law (certain illegal distributions) or (iv) for any breach of a director's duty of loyalty to the company or its stockholders. Article Sixth of the Registrant's third amended and restated certificate of incorporation includes such a provision.

In connection with the Registrant's existing indemnification procedures and policies and the rights provided for by its third amended and restated certificate of incorporation and amended and restated by-laws, the Registrant has executed indemnification agreements with its directors and certain senior executive officers.

Pursuant to those agreements, to the fullest extent permitted by the laws of the State of Delaware, the Registrant has agreed to indemnify those persons against any threatened, pending or completed action, suit or proceeding, whether civil, criminal, administrative or investigative, by reason of the fact that the indemnified person is or was or has agreed to serve at the request of the Registrant as a director, officer, employee or agent of the Registrant, or while serving as a director or officer of the Registrant, is or was serving or has agreed to serve at the request of the Registrant as a director, officer, employee or agent (which, for purposes of the indemnification agreements, includes a trustee, partner, manager or a position of similar capacity) of another corporation, partnership, joint venture, trust, employee benefit plan or other enterprise, or by reason of any action alleged to have been taken or omitted in such capacity. The indemnification provided by these agreements is from and against expenses (including attorneys' fees), judgments, fines and amounts paid in settlement actually and reasonably incurred by the indemnified person or on his or her behalf in connection with the action, suit or proceeding and any appeal therefrom, but shall only be provided if the indemnified person acted in good faith and in a manner the indemnified person reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to the best interests of the Registrant, and, with respect to any criminal action, suit or proceeding, had no reasonable cause to believe the indemnified person's conduct was unlawful.

Item 7. Exemption from Registration Claimed.

Not applicable.

Item 8. Exhibits.

The Exhibits to this Registration Statement are listed in the Exhibit Index to this Registration Statement, which Index is incorporated herein by reference.

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Item 9. Undertakings.

(a) The undersigned Registrant hereby undertakes:

- (1) To file during any period in which offers or sales are being made, a post-effective amendment to this Registration Statement:
 - (i) To include any prospectus required by Section 10(a)(3) of the Securities Act of 1933;
 - (ii) To reflect in the prospectus any facts or events arising after the effective date of the registration statement (or the most recent post-effective amendment thereof) which, individually or in the aggregate, represent a fundamental change in the information set forth in the registration statement. Notwithstanding the foregoing, any increase or decrease in volume of securities offered (if the total dollar value of securities offered would not exceed that which was registered) and any deviation from the low or high end of the estimated maximum offering range may be reflected in the form of prospectus filed with the Commission pursuant to Rule 424(b) if, in the aggregate, the changes in volume and price represent no more than 20 percent change in the maximum aggregate offering price set forth in the Calculation of Registration Fee table in the effective registration statement;

(iii) To include any material information with respect to the plan of distribution not previously disclosed in the registration statement or any material change to such information in the registration statement;

provided, however, that Paragraphs (a)(1)(i) and (a)(1)(ii) of this section do not apply if the information required to be included in a post-effective amendment by those paragraphs is contained in reports filed with or furnished to the Commission by the Registrant pursuant to Section 13 or Section 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 that are incorporated by reference in the registration statement.

(2) That, for the purpose of determining any liability under the Securities Act of 1933, each such post-effective amendment shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial bona fide offering thereof.

(3) To remove from registration by means of a post-effective amendment any of the securities being registered which remain unsold at the termination of the offering.

(4) That, for the purpose of determining liability of the Registrant under the Securities Act of 1933 to any purchaser in the initial distribution of the securities: The undersigned Registrant undertakes that in a primary offering of securities of the undersigned Registrant pursuant to this Registration Statement, regardless of the underwriting method used to sell the securities to the purchaser, if the securities are offered or sold to such purchaser by means of any of the following communications, the undersigned Registrant will be a seller to the purchaser and will be considered to offer or sell such securities to such purchaser:

(i) Any preliminary prospectus or prospectus of the undersigned Registrant relating to the offering required to be filed pursuant to Rule 424;

(ii) Any free writing prospectus relating to the offering prepared by or on behalf of the undersigned Registrant or used or referred to by the undersigned Registrant;

(iii) The portion of any other free writing prospectus relating to the offering containing material information about the undersigned Registrant or its securities provided by or on behalf of the undersigned Registrant; and

(iv) Any other communication that is an offer in the offering made by the undersigned Registrant to the purchaser.

(b) The undersigned Registrant hereby undertakes that, for purposes of determining any liability under the Securities Act of 1933, each filing of the Registrant's annual report pursuant to Section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (and, where applicable, each filing of an employee benefit plan's annual report pursuant to Section 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934) that is incorporated by reference in the registration statement shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial bona fide offering thereof.

(c) Insofar as indemnification for liabilities arising under the Securities Act of 1933 may be permitted to directors, officers and controlling persons of the Registrant pursuant to the foregoing provisions, or otherwise, the Registrant has been advised that in the opinion of the Securities and Exchange Commission such indemnification is against public policy as expressed in the Securities Act of 1933 and is,

therefore, unenforceable. In the event that a claim for indemnification against such liabilities (other than the payment by the Registrant of expenses incurred or paid by a director, officer or controlling person of the Registrant in the successful defense of any action, suit or proceeding) is asserted by such director, officer or controlling person in connection with the securities being registered, the Registrant will, unless in the opinion of its counsel the matter has been settled by controlling precedent, submit to a court of appropriate jurisdiction the question whether such indemnification by it is against public policy as expressed in the Securities Act of 1933 and will be governed by the final adjudication of such issue.

SIGNATURES

The Registrant. Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, the Registrant certifies that it has reasonable grounds to believe that it meets all of the requirements for filing on Form S-8 and has duly caused this Registration Statement to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized, in the City of St. Louis, State of Missouri, on this 16th day of November, 2007.

PEABODY ENERGY CORPORATION

By: /s/ Gregory H. Boyce
Gregory H. Boyce
Chairman, President and Chief Executive
Officer

POWER OF ATTORNEY

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS, that each person whose signature appears below hereby constitutes and appoints Gregory H. Boyce, Richard A. Navarre and Alexander C. Schoch, or any of them, his or her attorneys-in-fact and agents, each with full power of substitution and resubstitution, for him or her and in his or her name, place and stead, in any and all capacities, to sign any or all amendments (including, without limitation, post-effective amendments and documents in connection therewith) to this Registration Statement with respect to the Peabody Energy Corporation Australian Employee Stock Purchase Plan, and to file the same with all exhibits thereto and other documents in connection therewith, with the Securities and Exchange Commission, granting unto each of said attorneys-in-fact and agents full power and authority to do so and perform each and every act and thing requisite and necessary to be done in connection with this Registration Statement, as fully to all intents and purposes as he or she might or could do in person, hereby ratifying and confirming all that either of said attorneys-in-fact and agents, or his or her substitute or substitutes, may lawfully do or cause to be done by virtue hereof.

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, this Registration Statement has been signed by the following persons in the capacities and on the dates indicated.

/s/ Gregory H. Boyce Gregory H. Boyce *	Chairman, President, Chief Executive Officer and Director (Principal Executive Officer) Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer (Principal Financial and Principal Accounting Officer) Director	November 16, 2007
Richard A. Navarre *	Director	November 19, 2007
William A. Coley *	Director	November 19, 2007
Henry Givens, Jr.		

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*	Director	November 19, 2007
William E. James		
*	Director	November 19, 2007
Robert B. Karn III		
*	Director	November 19, 2007
Henry E. Lentz		
*	Director	November 19, 2007
William C. Rusnack		
*	Director	November 19, 2007
James R. Schlesinger		
*	Director	November 19, 2007
Blanche M. Touhill		
*	Director	November 19, 2007
John F. Turner		
*	Director	November 19, 2007
Sandra A. Van Trease		
*	Director	November 19, 2007
Alan H. Washkowitz		

*By: /s/ Alexander C. Schoch
Alexander C. Schoch
Attorney-in-fact

INDEX TO EXHIBITS

Exhibit

<u>Number</u>	<u>Exhibit</u>
4.1	Third Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation of Peabody Energy Corporation, as amended (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.1 of the Registrant's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended June 30, 2006, filed on August 7, 2006).
4.2	Amended and Restated By-Laws of Peabody Energy Corporation (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.2 of the Registrant's Current Report on Form 8-K dated July 31, 2007, filed on August 2, 2007).
4.3	Rights Agreement, dated as of July 24, 2002, between the Company and EquiServe Trust Company, N.A., as Rights Agent (which includes the form of Certificate of Designations of Series A Junior Preferred Stock of the Company as Exhibit A, the form of Right Certificate as Exhibit B and the Summary of Rights to Purchase Preferred Shares as Exhibit C) (Incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 4.1 to the Company's Registration Statement on Form 8-A, Commission File No. 001-16463, filed on July 24, 2002).
4.4	Certificate of Designations of Series A Junior Participating Preferred Stock of the Company, filed with the Secretary of State of the State of Delaware on July 24, 2002 (Incorporated herein by reference to Exhibit 3.1 to the Company's Registration Statement on Form 8-A, Commission File No. 001-16463, filed on July 24, 2002).

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- 4.5 Certificate of Adjustment delivered by the Registrant to Equiserve Trust Company, N.A., as Rights Agent, on March 29, 2005 (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.2 to Amendment No. 1 to the Registrant's Registration Statement on Form 8-A filed on March 29, 2005).
- 4.6 Certificate of Adjustment delivered by the Registrant to American Stock Transfer & Trust Company, as Rights Agent, on February 22, 2006 (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.2 to Amendment No. 1 to the Registrant's Registration Statement on Form 8-A filed on February 22, 2006).
- 4.7 Specimen of stock certificate representing the Registrant's common stock, \$0.01 par value (Incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.13 of the Registrant's Form S-1 Registration Statement No. 333-55412).
- 5.1 Opinion of Alexander C. Schoch.
- 23.1 Consent of Ernst & Young LLP.
- 24.1 Power of Attorney (included on signature page).
- 99.1 Peabody Energy Corporation Australian Employee Stock Purchase Plan.