

PEABODY ENERGY CORP

Form 8-K

December 20, 2016

UNITED STATES

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM 8-K

CURRENT REPORT

Pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange
Act of 1934

Date of Report (Date of earliest event reported): December
20, 2016

PEABODY ENERGY CORPORATION

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware	1-16463	13-4004153
(State or other jurisdiction of incorporation or organization)	(Commission File Number)	(I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)

701 Market Street, St. Louis, Missouri	63101-1826
(Address of principal executive offices)	(Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: (314)
342-3400

N/A

(Former name or former address, if changed since last
report.)

Check the appropriate box below if the Form 8-K filing is
intended to simultaneously satisfy the filing obligation of
the registrant under any of the following provisions:

☐ Written communications pursuant to Rule 425 under the
Securities Act (17 CFR 230.425)

☐ Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under the
Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14a-12)

☐ Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule
14d-2(b) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14d-2(b))

☐ Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule
13e-4(c) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.13e-4(c))

Item 7.01 Regulation FD Disclosure

As previously disclosed, on April 13, 2016, Peabody Energy Corporation, a Delaware corporation (“Peabody Energy” or the “Company”) and a majority of the Company’s wholly owned domestic subsidiaries, as well as one international subsidiary in Gibraltar (collectively with the Company, the “Debtors”), filed voluntary petitions under Chapter 11 of Title 11 of the U.S. Code (the “Bankruptcy Code”) in the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Eastern District of Missouri (the “Bankruptcy Court”). The Debtors' Chapter 11 cases (collectively, the “Chapter 11 Cases”) are being jointly administered under the caption In re Peabody Energy Corporation, et al., Case No. 16-42529.

On December 20, 2016, the Debtors filed their monthly operating report for the month ended November 30, 2016 (the “Monthly Operating Report”) with the Bankruptcy Court. The Monthly Operating Report is attached hereto as Exhibit 99.1 and is incorporated herein by reference.

This current report (including the exhibits hereto or any information included therein) shall not be deemed an admission as to the materiality of any information required to be disclosed solely by reason of Regulation FD.

Any financial information included in the Monthly Operating Report (the “financial information”) was not prepared with a view toward public disclosure or compliance with the published guidelines of the Securities and Exchange Commission (“SEC”) or the guidelines established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants regarding projections or forecasts. The financial information does not purport to present the Company’s financial condition in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States (“GAAP”). The Company’s independent accountants have not examined, compiled or otherwise applied procedures to the financial information and, accordingly, do not express an opinion or any other form of assurance with respect to the financial information. The inclusion of the financial information herein should not be regarded as an indication that the Company or their affiliates or representatives consider the financial information to be a reliable prediction of future events, and the financial information should not be relied upon as such. Neither the Company nor any of their affiliates or representatives has made or makes any representation to any person regarding the ultimate outcome of the Company’s restructuring compared to the financial information, and none of them undertakes any obligation to publicly update the projections to reflect circumstances existing after the date when the financial information was made or to reflect the occurrence of future events, even in the event that any or all of the assumptions underlying the financial information are shown to be in error.

The information contained in this Item 7.01 shall not be deemed to be “filed” for purposes of Section 18 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the “Exchange Act”), or otherwise subject to the liabilities of that section, and shall not be deemed to be incorporated by reference into any of the Company’s filings under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, or the Exchange Act, whether made before or after the date hereof and regardless of any general incorporation language in such filings, except to the extent expressly set forth by specific reference in such a filing.

Financial and Operating Data

The Company cautions investors and potential investors not to place undue reliance upon the information contained in the Monthly Operating Report, which was not prepared for the purpose of providing the basis for an investment decision relating to any of the securities of the Company. The Company cannot predict what the ultimate value of any of its securities may be and it remains too early to determine whether holders of any such securities will receive any distribution in the Debtors' reorganization. The Monthly Operating Report is limited in scope, covers a limited time period and has been prepared solely for the purpose of complying with the monthly reporting requirements of the Office of the United States Trustee of the Eastern District of Missouri and the Bankruptcy Court. The Monthly Operating Report was not audited or reviewed by independent accountants, is in a format prescribed by applicable bankruptcy laws and regulations and is subject to future adjustment and reconciliation. The Monthly Operating Report does not include all of the information and footnotes required by GAAP. Therefore, the Monthly Operating Report does not necessarily contain all information required in filings pursuant to the Exchange Act, or may present such information differently from such requirements. There can be no assurance that, from the perspective of an investor or potential investor in the Company's securities, the Monthly Operating Report is complete. The Monthly Operating Report also contains information for periods which are shorter or otherwise different from those required in the Company's reports pursuant to the Exchange Act, and such information might not be indicative of the Company's financial condition or operating results for the period that would be reflected in the Company's financial statements or in its reports pursuant to the Exchange Act. Results set forth in the Monthly Operating Report should not be viewed as indicative of future results.

The unaudited statement of operations for the month ended November 30, 2016 included in the Monthly Operating Report reflects a consolidated loss from continuing operations, net of income taxes of \$161.6 million, which includes a \$180.0 million asset impairment charge related to adjusting the carrying value of the Metropolitan Mine to its estimated selling price, \$35.3 million of depreciation, depletion and amortization expense and \$8.9 million in reorganization items, net primarily related to professional fees. The Company's liquidity position consisted of \$1,262.7 million of cash and cash equivalents at November 30, 2016, including \$721.3 million held by Debtor entities. Cash and cash equivalents increased by \$85.5 million during the month, driven by \$97.7 million of cash flows provided by operating activities.

Within the past month, a price for the benchmark quality hard coking coal from Australia has been established at \$285 per tonne for the first quarter of 2017, a 43% increase over the fourth quarter 2016 settlement. Prices have retreated to approximately \$260 per tonne as of December 15, 2016.

A significant geological event at the North Goonyella Mine has resulted in the cessation of the longwall top coal caving system, which will result in the mine operating "conventional" longwall equipment with increased cut cycles and height for the remainder of the current panel. The mine's metallurgical coal sales volumes are expected to be impacted by approximately 0.3 million tons in the fourth quarter of 2016, with no meaningful effects on 2017 volumes anticipated at this time.

Cautionary Note Regarding Forward-Looking Statements

This Current Report and the related exhibits contain forward-looking statements as that term is defined in the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. These forward-looking statements include statements that relate to the intent, beliefs, plans or expectations of Peabody Energy or its management at the time of this Current Report, as well as any estimates or projections for the outcome of events that have not yet occurred at the time of this Current Report. All statements other than statements of historical fact are forward-looking statements. Forward-looking statements include expressions such as "believe," "anticipate," "expect," "estimate," "intend," "may," "plan," "predict," "will" and similar

expressions. All forward-looking statements made by Peabody Energy are predictions and not guarantees of future performance and are subject to various risks, uncertainties and factors relating to Peabody Energy's operations and business environment, and the progress of its Chapter 11 Cases, all of which are difficult to predict and many of which are beyond Peabody Energy's control. These risks, uncertainties and factors could cause Peabody Energy's actual results to differ materially from those matters expressed in or implied by these forward-looking statements. Such factors include, but are not limited to: those described under the "Risk Factors" section and elsewhere in Peabody Energy's most recently filed Annual Report on Form 10-K and subsequent filings with the SEC, including its Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q for the quarters ended March 31, 2016 and June 30, 2016, which are available on Peabody Energy's website at www.peabodyenergy.com and on the SEC's website at www.sec.gov, such as unfavorable economic, financial and business conditions, as well as risks and uncertainties relating to the Chapter 11 Cases, including, but not limited to:

Peabody Energy's ability to obtain Bankruptcy Court approval with respect to motions or other requests made to the Bankruptcy Court in the Chapter 11 Cases, including maintaining strategic control as debtor-in-possession;

Peabody Energy's ability to negotiate, develop, confirm and consummate a plan of reorganization;

the effects of the Chapter 11 Cases on Peabody Energy's operations, including customer, supplier, banking, insurance and other relationships and agreements, and relationships with third parties, regulatory authorities and employees;

- Bankruptcy Court rulings in the Chapter 11 Cases as well as the outcome of all other pending litigation and the outcome of the Chapter 11 Cases in general;

the length of time that Peabody Energy will operate under Chapter 11 protection and the continued availability of operating capital during the pendency of the proceedings;

the risks associated with third-party motions in the Chapter 11 Cases, which may interfere with Peabody Energy's ability to confirm and consummate a plan of reorganization and restructuring generally;

increased advisory costs to execute a plan of reorganization and increased administrative and legal costs related to the Chapter 11 Cases and other litigation and the inherent risks involved in a bankruptcy process;

the impact of the New York Stock Exchange's delisting of Peabody Energy common stock on the liquidity and market price of Peabody Energy common stock and on Peabody Energy's ability to access the public capital markets;

the likelihood that Peabody Energy's common stock will be cancelled and extinguished upon confirmation of a proposed plan of reorganization with no payments made to the holders of Peabody Energy's common stock;

the volatility of the trading price of Peabody Energy's common stock and the absence of correlation between any increases in the trading price and its expectation that the common stock will be cancelled and extinguished upon confirmation of a proposed plan of reorganization with no payments made to the holders of Peabody Energy's common stock;

Peabody Energy's ability to continue as a going concern in the long-term including Peabody Energy's ability to confirm a plan of reorganization that restructures Peabody Energy's debt obligations to address Peabody Energy's liquidity issues and allow emergence from the Chapter 11 Cases;

Peabody Energy's ability to maintain adequate debtor-in-possession financing or use cash collateral;

the potential adverse effects of the Chapter 11 Cases on Peabody Energy's liquidity, results of operations, or business prospects;

the cost, availability and access to capital and financial markets, including the ability to secure new financing upon and after emerging from the Chapter 11 Cases;

the risk that the Chapter 11 Cases will disrupt or impede Peabody Energy's international operations, including the Australian operations;

and other risks and uncertainties. Forward-looking statements made by Peabody Energy in this Current Report, or elsewhere, speak only as of the date on which the statements were made. New risks and uncertainties arise from time to time, and it is not possible for Peabody Energy to predict all of these events or how they may affect it or its anticipated results. Peabody Energy does not undertake any obligation to publicly update any forward-looking statements except as may be required by law. In light of these risks and uncertainties, readers should keep in mind that the events referenced by any forward-looking statements made in this Current Report and the related exhibits may not occur and should not place undue reliance on any forward-looking statements.

It is likely that Peabody Energy equity securities will be canceled and extinguished upon confirmation of a proposed plan of reorganization by the Bankruptcy Court, and that the holders thereof would not be entitled to receive, and would not receive or retain, any property or interest in property on account of such equity interests. In the event of cancellation of Peabody Energy equity or other securities, amounts invested by the holders of such securities would not be recoverable and such securities would have no value. Trading prices for Peabody Energy's equity or other securities may bear little or no relationship during the pendency of the Chapter 11 Cases to the actual recovery, if any, by the holders thereof at the conclusion of the Chapter 11 Cases. Accordingly, Peabody Energy urges caution with respect to existing and future investments in its equity or other securities.

Item 9.01. Financial Statements and Exhibits.

(d) Exhibits.

Exhibit No.	Description of Exhibit
99.1	Monthly Operating Report for the month ended November 30, 2016, filed with the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Eastern District of Missouri.

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned hereunto duly authorized.

PEABODY ENERGY CORPORATION

December 20, 2016 /s/ Amy B. Schwetz

Name: Amy B. Schwetz

Title: Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer

EXHIBIT INDEX

Exhibit No.	Description
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