

Warnecke David N  
 Form 4  
 February 27, 2012

**FORM 4**

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

OMB APPROVAL

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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)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person \*  
 Warnecke David N

(Last) (First) (Middle)  
 CITYPLACE ONE, SUITE 300  
 (Street)

ST. LOUIS, MO 63144

(City) (State) (Zip)

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol  
 ARCH COAL INC [ACI]

3. Date of Earliest Transaction  
 (Month/Day/Year)  
 02/23/2012

4. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year)

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

(Check all applicable)

\_\_\_ Director \_\_\_ 10% Owner  
 \_\_\_X\_\_\_ Officer (give title below) \_\_\_ Other (specify below)

VP-Marketing & Trading

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**

1. Title of Security (Instr. 3)	2. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	2A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year)	3. Transaction Code (Instr. 8)	4. Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5)	5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4)	6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4)	7. Nature of Ownership Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4)
				(A) or (D)	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 Derivative Security	2. Conversion or Exercise	3. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	3A. Deemed Execution Date, if any	4. Transaction Code	5. Number of Derivative Securities	6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year)	7. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities (Instr. 3 and 4)

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(Instr. 3)	Price of Derivative Security	(Month/Day/Year)	(Instr. 8)	Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5)	Code	V	(A)	(D)	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of Shares
Employee Stock Options	\$ 13.93	02/23/2012	A	66,650					(1)	02/23/2022	Common Stock	66,650
Restricted Stock Units	\$ 13.93	02/23/2012	A	26,400					(2)	(3)	Common Stock	26,400

## Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships			
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other
Warnecke David N CITYPLACE ONE SUITE 300 ST. LOUIS, MO 63144			VP-Marketing & Trading	

## Signatures

/s/ Jon S. Ploetz, Attorney-in-Fact  
02/27/2012

\*\*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).
- (1) The options vest ratably over 3 years as follows: 22,217 shares vest on February 23, 2013; 22,217 shares vest on February 23, 2014; and 22,216 shares vest on February 23, 2015.
- (2) The reporting person received 26,400 restricted stock units on February 23, 2012. The restricted stock units vest on February 23, 2015.
- (3) The restricted stock units do not expire.

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.