SANDS THEODORE D

Form 4

March 19, 2012

FORM 4

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

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF

SECURITIES

OMB

3235-0287 Number:

OMB APPROVAL

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Check this box

obligations may continue. See Instruction

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(b).

(Last)

(City)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person * SANDS THEODORE D

(First)

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to

Issuer

(Middle)

ARCH COAL INC [ACI] 3. Date of Earliest Transaction

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

(Check all applicable)

ONE CITYPLACE DRIVE

(Month/Day/Year) 03/15/2012

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check

4. If Amendment, Date Original

Applicable Line)

Filed(Month/Day/Year) _X_ Form filed by One Reporting Person Form filed by More than One Reporting

below)

(State)

(Street)

Person

ST. LOUIS, MO 63141

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)

(Zip)

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

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

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.

Persons who respond to the collection of **SEC 1474** information contained in this form are not (9-02)required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB control number.

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) 03/15/2012 456 (2) 456 \$ 12.3 Α

Acquired

Stock

Reporting Owners

Derivative

Reporting Owner Name / Address

Director 10% Owner Officer Other

SANDS THEODORE D

ONE CITYPLACE DRIVE X

ST. LOUIS, MO 63141

Signatures

Stock

/s/ Jon S. Ploetz, 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") and represent past compensation that the director elected to defer under the Plan into a hypothetical investment in shares of Arch Coal, Inc. common stock and/or dividends attributable to such deferred amounts.
- (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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