BESTEN C HENRY JR Form 4

March 19, 2012

FORM 4

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

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF

OMB Number:

OMB APPROVAL

3235-0287

Expires:

January 31, 2005

0.5

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if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5

obligations

Check this box

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

may continue. See Instruction

1(b).

30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person * BESTEN CHENRY JR

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

(Month/Day/Year)

03/15/2012

(Check all applicable)

ONE CITYPLACE DRIVE, SUITE

(Street)

(First)

300

(Last)

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

below) below) Senior VP-Strategic Dev.

4. If Amendment, Date Original

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check

Filed(Month/Day/Year)

Applicable Line) _X_ Form filed by One Reporting Person

Form filed by More than One Reporting Person

ST. LOUIS, MO 63141

(City) (State) (Zip)

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

1. Title of Security (Instr. 3)

2. Transaction Date 2A. Deemed (Month/Day/Year)

Execution Date, if

(Month/Day/Year)

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

5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Following

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

Ownership (I) (Instr. 4) (Instr. 4)

(A)

Reported Transaction(s) (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.

any

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Table II - Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned (e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)

1. Title of Derivative Conversion Security or Exercise

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

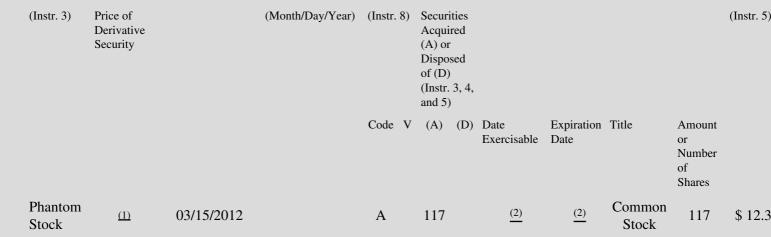
Execution Date, if

4. Transactionof Code

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

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

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Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address Relationships

Director 10% Owner Officer Other

BESTEN C HENRY JR ONE CITYPLACE DRIVE SUITE 300 ST. LOUIS, MO 63141

Senior VP-Strategic Dev.

Signatures

/s/ Jon S. Ploetz, Attorney-in-Fact

**Signature of Reporting Person Dat

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 executive officer through the Arch Coal, Inc. Deferred Compensation Plan (the "Plan"). The shares of phantom stock acquired by the executive officer represent dividends attributable to amounts that the executive officer elected to defer under the Plan into a hypothetical investment in shares of Arch Coal, Inc. common stock.
- (2) Shares of phantom stock are payable in cash on the date or dates elected by the executive officer, subject to the terms of the Plan. The executive officer may transfer any and all of 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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