Jones J. Thomas Form 4 April 03, 2012

FORM 4

Check this box

if no longer

subject to

Section 16.

Form 4 or

obligations

may continue.

Form 5

UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

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

See Instruction 1(b).

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person * Jones J. Thomas

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol

Issuer

ARCH COAL INC [ACI]

(Check all applicable)

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to

OMB APPROVAL

3235-0287

January 31,

2005

0.5

OMB

Number:

Expires:

response...

Estimated average

burden hours per

(First) (Last)

3. Date of Earliest Transaction

(Month/Day/Year)

03/30/2012

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

ONE CITYPLACE DRIVE, SUITE

(Street)

300

4. If Amendment, Date Original

Filed(Month/Day/Year)

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check

Applicable Line)

X Form filed by One Reporting Person Form filed by More than One Reporting

(Instr. 4)

below)

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)

(Middle)

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

5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Following

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

(Instr. 4)

(A) or

Code V Amount (D) Price

Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4)

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 Derivative Conversion (Month/Day/Year) Execution Date, if Security or Exercise any

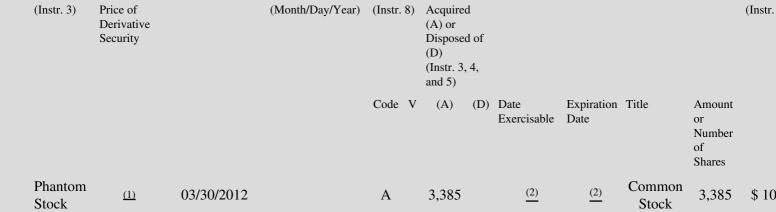
5. Number Transaction of Derivative Expiration Date Code Securities

6. Date Exercisable and (Month/Day/Year)

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

Deriva Securi

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Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships			
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other
Jones J. Thomas ONE CITYPLACE DRIVE SUITE 300 ST. LOUIS, MO 63141	X			

Signatures

/s/ Jon S. Ploetz, Attorney-in-Fact 04/03/2012

**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).
- 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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