

SunCoke Energy, Inc.
Form 11-K
March 29, 2018

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

FORM 11-K

ANNUAL REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934
For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2017

TRANSITION REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934
For the transition period from _____ to _____
Commission file number 001-35243

Full title of the plan and the address of the plan, if different from that of the issuer named below:

SunCoke Energy, Inc. Savings Restoration Plan

A. Name of issuer of the securities held pursuant to the plan and the address of its principal executive office:

SunCoke Energy, Inc.
1011 Warrenville Road
Suite 600
Lisle, Illinois 60532

SUNCOKE ENERGY, INC. SAVINGS RESTORATION PLAN
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December 31, 2017

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REPORT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM

To the Employee Benefits and Investment Committee of
SunCoke Energy, Inc. and Plan Participants:

Opinion on the Financial Statements

We have audited the accompanying Statements of Financial Position of the SunCoke Energy, Inc. Savings Restoration Plan (the "Plan") as of December 31, 2017 and 2016, and the related Statements of Changes in Plan Equity for the years ended December 31, 2017, 2016 and 2015, and the related notes (collectively referred to as the financial statements). In our opinion, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Plan as of December 31, 2017 and 2016, and the changes in plan equity for the years ended December 31, 2017, 2016 and 2015, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Basis for Opinion

These financial statements are the responsibility of the Plan's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the Plan's financial statements based on our audits. We are a public accounting firm registered with the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States) (PCAOB) and are required to be independent with respect to the Plan in accordance with the U.S. federal securities laws and the applicable rules and regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission and the PCAOB.

We conducted our audits in accordance with the standards of the PCAOB. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement, whether due to error or fraud.

Our audits included performing procedures to assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to error or fraud, and performing procedures that respond to those risks. Such procedures included examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. Our audits also included evaluating the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

/s/ Caron & Bletzer, PLLC

We have served as the Plan's auditor since 2012
Kingston, NH
March 29, 2018

SUNCOKE ENERGY, INC. SAVINGS RESTORATION PLAN
STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION

	December 31,	
	2017	2016
Assets:		
Receivable from SunCoke Energy, Inc.	\$3,904,696	\$2,516,724
Plan Equity:		
Plan equity	\$3,904,696	\$2,516,724

The accompanying notes are an integral
part of the financial statements.

SUNCOKE ENERGY, INC. SAVINGS RESTORATION PLAN
STATEMENTS OF CHANGES IN PLAN EQUITY

	For the years ended December 31,		
	2017	2016	2015
Increases (decreases) in plan equity attributed to:			
Investment income from notional investments:			
Dividends and capital gains	\$93,418	\$63,587	\$76,772
Net appreciation (depreciation) in fair value	471,404	178,195	(132,276)
Net notional investment income (loss)	564,822	241,782	(55,504)
Participant contributions to notional investments	443,774	134,484	397,721
Employer contributions to notional investments	450,102	—	287,728
Participant distributions from notional investments	(70,726)	(736,039)	(508,943)
Net (decrease) increase in plan equity	1,387,972	(359,773)	121,002
Plan equity at beginning of period	2,516,724	2,876,497	2,755,495
Plan equity at end of period	\$3,904,696	\$2,516,724	\$2,876,497

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statements.

SUNCOKE ENERGY, INC. SAVINGS RESTORATION PLAN
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

A. PLAN DESCRIPTION:

The following description of the SunCoke Energy, Inc. Savings Restoration Plan (the “Plan”) provides only general information. Participants should refer to the plan document for more detailed information.

General

The Plan was established by SunCoke Energy Inc. (the “Company”) effective January 1, 2012 for the purpose of providing benefits to certain employees, which otherwise would be lost by reason of the restrictive provisions of Section 401(a)(17) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the “Code”) applicable to the SunCoke 401(k) Plan (the “SunCoke Plan”).

The Plan is an unfunded plan maintained primarily for the purpose of providing deferred compensation for a select group of management or highly compensated employees within the meaning of Sections 3(36), 201(2), 301(a)(3) and 401(a)(1) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (“ERISA”), as amended. The Plan is not qualified under Section 401(a) of the Code, and is generally not subject to ERISA.

The Plan Administrator shall select the employees eligible to participate in the Plan from the participants in the SunCoke Plan whose employing corporation participates in the SunCoke Plan and adopts the Plan. The participants in the SunCoke Plan selected for participation in this Plan shall be those SunCoke Plan participants whom the Plan Administrator reasonably believes will have annual base and projected target bonus compensation in excess of the limitations on compensation imposed under the terms of the SunCoke Plan by reason of Section 401(a)(17) of the Code during the applicable calendar year (\$270,000, \$265,000, and \$265,000 for 2017, 2016, and 2015 respectively).

Trust

The Plan is an unfunded plan. The obligation to make benefit payments under the Plan is solely an obligation of the Company. However, the Company may establish one or more trusts to assist in the payment of benefits. The Company has established a trust (the “Trust”) for the Plan, in which Vanguard Fiduciary Trust Company (“Vanguard”) serves as the trustee. Although the Company maintains the Trust to accumulate certain assets to assist the Company in meeting its obligations under the Plan, the Plan has no investments of its own. The sole asset of the Plan is a receivable from the Company in an amount equal to the sum of all participants’ account balances held by the Trust plus contributions receivable from the Company. Plan participants are considered to be unsecured creditors, with no secured or preferential rights to any assets of the Company. Assets held by the Trust are available to the Company’s general creditors in the event of insolvency of the Company.

Contributions

Eligible participants may irrevocably elect before the beginning of each calendar year to defer on a pre-tax basis a percentage not to exceed 50% of their eligible compensation, that is in excess of the 401(a)(17) limit. The Company shall match employee deferrals at a rate of 100% of the first 5% of eligible compensation. The Company shall also contribute 3% of a participant’s eligible compensation in excess of the 401(a)(17) limit to those participants who made contributions under the Plan during the plan year. Further, the Company may elect, at its discretion, to make additional employer contributions during the plan year. Beginning January 1, 2016, the Company match of employee deferrals and the 3% contribution of participants eligible compensation was suspended. Beginning January 1, 2017, the Company match of employee deferrals and the 3% contribution of participants eligible compensation was reinstated. The Company funded employee and employer contributions for the years ended December 31, 2017, 2016, and 2015, amounting to \$893,876, \$134,484, and \$685,449, respectively, to the Trust. There were contributions receivable consisting of employee and employer contributions of \$18,478 and \$13,377 for the year ended December 31, 2017, respectively. There were contributions receivable consisting of employee contributions of \$7,808 for the year ended December 31, 2016.

Participant Notional Accounts

Participant deferrals and employer contributions are credited to a book account and are deemed invested in notional investment funds selected by the participant from a group of funds under the Plan, one of which tracks the Company’s common stock. Participant accounts are not protected from investment risk in the notional funds. The notional investment funds available under the Plan are merely devices used to calculate gains and losses on the amounts deferred by Plan participants. No participant has any rights or interests in any particular funds, securities or property of the Company or the Trust, or in any investment vehicle in which deferrals are deemed to be invested, by virtue of any investment election. Investment gains and losses are credited or charged to a participant’s notional account based on earnings and losses in the selected valuation funds.

Vesting

Participants are always fully vested in the portion of their notional account which represents their contributions, employer 3% contributions and the income earned thereon. Participants become vested in employer matching and additional employer contributions and earnings thereon as follows:

Completed Years of Service	Percent Vested
Less than three years	0 %
Three or more years	100 %

Participants become fully vested in employer matching and additional employer contributions immediately upon normal retirement age as defined by the Plan, death or total and permanent disability while still an active participant in the Plan.

Forfeitures

When participants terminate employment and are not fully vested in their notional accounts, the nonvested portion of their notional accounts represents forfeitures, as defined by the Plan. If a forfeiting participant is re-employed and fulfills certain requirements, as set forth in the Plan, the participant’s notional account will be restored. Forfeitures are used to pay administrative expenses or to reduce future employer contributions. During 2017, \$11,300 of forfeitures were used to reduce employer contributions. There were no forfeitures used in 2016 or 2015 to pay administrative expenses or to reduce employer contributions. Total unapplied forfeitures were \$1,235 and \$10,475 at December 31, 2017 and 2016, respectively.

Distribution of Benefits

Participants are eligible to receive a lump sum distribution of the vested portion of their notional accounts within the seventh calendar month following termination of employment by reason of retirement, disability, or other separation from service (although in the event of a participant’s death, immediate payment will be made to the participant’s beneficiaries). Prior to the participant’s first year of participation in the Plan, a participant may make a one-time election to receive, upon retirement, the value of his or her vested notional account in installment payments instead of a lump sum payment. Under such an election the participant shall elect to receive between 2 and 10 years of substantially equal installment payments beginning within the seventh calendar month following the participant’s retirement. Notwithstanding any election, participants who retire and have a vested notional account balance of less than \$50,000 will receive a lump sum distribution of 100% of their vested benefits within the seventh calendar month following the participant’s retirement.

Concurrently with the election to contribute to the Plan, a participant may make an election to receive an in-service lump sum distribution of participant contributions and earnings thereon on a specified date no earlier than the January 1 following three years from the end of the calendar year in which the election was made. Regardless of such an election, a distribution of participant contributions will be made upon termination of employment by reason of retirement, disability, death or other separation from service, as described in the preceding paragraph.

B. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES:

Basis of Accounting

The accompanying financial statements have been prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States (“GAAP”).

Receivable from the Company

The Plan is unfunded with benefits due solely out of the general assets of the Company. The Company has established the Trust to assist in the payment of these benefits. See Footnote A for a further description of the Trust. The Plan records a receivable from the Company equal to the sum of all participants’ notional account balances plus contributions receivable to the Trust.

Asset Valuation and Income Recognition

Notional investments in the Trust are reported at fair value. Fair value is the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants on the measurement date. Purchases and sales of securities within the notional accounts are recorded on a trade-date basis. Interest income of the notional investments is recorded as earned on the accrual basis. Dividends of the notional investments are recorded on the ex-dividend date. Net appreciation (depreciation) includes the Trust’s gains and losses on notional investments bought and sold as well as held during the year.

Payment of Benefits

Benefits are recorded when paid.

Plan Expenses

All expenses incurred in the administration of the Plan are paid by the Company.

Use of Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with GAAP requires the plan administrator to make estimates and assumptions that affect certain reported amounts and disclosures. Actual results may differ from those estimates.

Risks and Uncertainties

The amount of the Plan’s receivable from the Company is based on the performance of notional investment securities which consist of Vanguard mutual funds and SunCoke Energy, Inc. common stock plus contributions receivable to the Trust. Investment securities are exposed to various risks, such as interest rate, market and credit risks. Due to the level of risk associated with certain investment securities, it is at least reasonably possible that changes in the value of investment securities will occur in the near term and that such changes could materially affect participants’ notional account balances and the amounts reported in the financial statements.

C. TRUST INVESTMENTS:

The Trust's investments as of December 31, 2017 and 2016 consisted of:

	December 31,	
	2017	2016
SunCoke Energy, Inc. Company Stock Fund	\$102,454	\$63,425
Delaware Small Cap Value Institutional Fund	19,783	20,608
PIMCO Real Return Institutional Fund	14,000	15,713
T. Rowe Price Growth Stock Fund	61,995	49,931
T. Rowe Price Small-Cap Stock Fund	20,010	20,250
Dodge & Cox Stock Fund	33,208	28,064
Dodge & Cox Income Fund	38,764	40,047
Federated Institutional High Yield Bond Fund	95,525	92,645
Vanguard Total International Stock Index Admiral Fund	788,542	622,105
Vanguard REIT Index Admiral Fund	50,603	56,256
Vanguard Small-Cap Index Admiral Fund	18,700	18,768
Vanguard Mid-Cap Index Admiral Fund	28,441	27,823
Vanguard Selected Value Fund	27,787	27,124
Vanguard Institutional Target Retirement Income Fund	192,973	—
Vanguard Institutional Target Retirement 2050 Fund	163,975	20,962
Vanguard Institutional Target Retirement 2040 Fund	259,852	130,889
Vanguard Institutional Target Retirement 2030 Fund	407,470	295,718
Vanguard Institutional Target Retirement 2020 Fund	437,737	222,134
Vanguard Institutional Target Retirement 2010 Fund	—	45,045
Vanguard Wellington Admiral Fund	15,547	15,797
Vanguard Total Bond Market Index Fund Institutional Shares	55,312	53,407
Vanguard Institutional Index Fund	1,039,290	638,233
Vanguard Prime Money Market	873	3,972
	\$3,872,841	\$2,508,916

All Trust investments are measured at fair value based on quoted prices in active markets for identical assets and are classified as Level 1 within the valuation hierarchy. Also included in Trust assets are contributions receivable. There were contributions receivable consisting of employee and employer contributions of \$18,478 and \$13,377, respectively, for the year ended December 31, 2017. There were contributions receivable consisting of employee contributions of \$7,808 for the year ended December 31, 2016.

For the years ended December 31, 2017, 2016, and 2015 the Trust investments appreciated (depreciated) by \$471,404, \$178,195, and \$(132,276) respectively. For the years ended December 31, 2017, 2016, and 2015 the Trust had dividend income of \$93,418, \$63,587, and \$76,772, respectively.

D. TAX STATUS:

The Plan is established as an unfunded deferred compensation plan under the Code and is not subject to federal income tax. Accordingly, a participant will not incur federal income tax liability when (1) compensation is deferred pursuant to the Plan, (2) Company contributions are made to notional accounts, (3) notional investment gains or losses are credited or charged to a participant's notional account, or (4) dividends are credited to a participant's notional account. Rather, a participant will incur federal income tax liability for such contributions and income only when distributions are made to a participant.

The Plan is not qualified under Section 401(a) of the Code and is not subject to provisions of ERISA, as amended. The Trust is treated as a grantor trust and all items of income and loss are taxed at the Company level.

E. RELATED PARTIES:

Transactions with investment funds managed and held by the trustee and Company common stock are considered party-in-interest transactions.

F. PLAN TERMINATION:

The Plan may, at any time, be terminated by the Company. The Company or any participating employer may terminate participation in the Plan with respect to its employees participating in the Plan. Upon termination of the Plan, the amounts credited to participants' book accounts under the Plan shall be distributed to such participants in accordance with the terms of the Plan and the participant's existing elections.

G. SUBSEQUENT EVENTS:

The Company has evaluated subsequent events through March 29, 2018, the date these financial statements were issued.

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the trustees (or other persons who administer the employee benefit plan) have duly caused this annual report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned hereunto duly authorized.

SunCoke Energy, Inc. Savings Restoration Plan
(Name of Plan)

Employee Benefits and Investment Committee of
BY: SunCoke Energy, Inc.
as Plan Administrator

/s/ Gary P. Yeaw

Gary P. Yeaw

Senior Vice President, Human Resources and
Chair of the Employee Benefits and
Investment Committee

DATED: March 29, 2018

EXHIBIT INDEX

Exhibit

23 Consent of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm

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