

ARCH COAL INC  
Form 4  
December 16, 2008

**FORM 4**

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

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

## OMB APPROVAL

OMB  
Number: 3235-0287  
Expires: January 31,  
2005  
Estimated average  
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(Print or Type Responses)

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

(Last) (First) (Middle)

**ONE CITYPLACE DRIVE**

(Street)

**ST. LOUIS, MO 63141**

(City) (State) (Zip)

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

3. Date of Earliest Transaction  
(Month/Day/Year)  
**12/15/2008**

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

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to  
Issuer

(Check all applicable)

☒ Director ☐ 10% Owner  
☐ Officer (give title below) ☐ Other (specify  
below)

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check  
Applicable Line)  
☒ 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<br>Security<br>(Instr. 3) | 2. Transaction Date<br>(Month/Day/Year) | 2A. Deemed<br>Execution Date, if<br>any<br>(Month/Day/Year) | 3. Transaction<br>Code<br>(Instr. 8) | 4. Securities<br>Acquired (A) or<br>Disposed of (D)<br>(Instr. 3, 4 and 5) | 5. Amount of<br>Securities<br>Beneficially<br>Owned<br>Following<br>Reported<br>Transaction(s)<br>(Instr. 3 and 4) | 6. Ownership<br>Form: Direct<br>(D) or Indirect<br>(I)<br>(Instr. 4) | 7. Nature of<br>Indirect<br>Beneficial<br>Ownership<br>(Instr. 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  
information contained in this form are not  
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SEC 1474  
(9-02)

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

| 1. Title of<br>Derivative<br>Security<br>(Instr. 3) | 2. Conversion<br>or Exercise<br>Price of | 3. Transaction Date<br>(Month/Day/Year) | 3A. Deemed<br>Execution Date, if<br>any<br>(Month/Day/Year) | 4. Transaction<br>Code<br>(Instr. 8) | 5. Number<br>of<br>Derivative<br>Securities | 6. Date Exercisable and<br>Expiration Date<br>(Month/Day/Year) | 7. Title and Amount of<br>Underlying Securities<br>(Instr. 3 and 4) | 8. Price of<br>Derivative<br>Security<br>(Instr. 5) |
|-----------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
|-----------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|

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| Derivative<br>Security |     |            | Acquired<br>(A) or<br>Disposed<br>of (D)<br>(Instr. 3, 4,<br>and 5) | Code | V | (A) | (D) | Date<br>Exercisable | Expiration<br>Date | Title           | Amount<br>or<br>Number<br>of<br>Shares |         |
|------------------------|-----|------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|------|---|-----|-----|---------------------|--------------------|-----------------|----------------------------------------|---------|
|                        |     |            |                                                                     |      |   |     |     |                     |                    |                 |                                        |         |
| Phantom<br>Stock       | (1) | 12/15/2008 |                                                                     | A    |   | 342 |     | (2)                 | (2)                | Common<br>Stock | 342                                    | \$ 15.5 |

## Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address                                 | Relationships |           |         |       |
|----------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|-----------|---------|-------|
|                                                                | Director      | 10% Owner | Officer | Other |
| SANDS THEODORE D<br>ONE CITYPLACE DRIVE<br>ST. LOUIS, MO 63141 | X             |           |         |       |

## Signatures

/s/ Gregory A. Billhartz,  
Attorney-in-Fact

12/16/2008

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) 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"). The shares of phantom stock acquired by the director represent dividends attributable to amounts that the director 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 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.