

BESTEN C HENRY JR
 Form 4
 January 18, 2006

FORM 4

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

OMB APPROVAL

OMB Number: 3235-0287
 Expires: January 31, 2005
 Estimated average burden hours per response... 0.5

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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

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person *
BESTEN C HENRY JR

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

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

(Check all applicable)

(Last) (First) (Middle)
ONE CITYPLACE DRIVE, SUITE 300
 (Street)

3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)
01/14/2006

____ Director _____ 10% Owner
 Officer (give title below) _____ Other (specify below)
Senior VP-Strategic Dev.

ST. LOUIS, MO 63141

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

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line)
 Form filed by One Reporting Person
 ____ Form filed by More than One Reporting Person

(City) (State) (Zip)

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

1. Title of Security (Instr. 3)	2. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	2A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year)	3. Transaction Code (Instr. 8)	4. Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5)	5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4)	6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4)	7. Nature of Ownership (Instr. 4)
			Code	V Amount (D) Price			
Common Stock	01/14/2006		A	912 A 11 6,738		D	
Common Stock					14	I	By 401(k) plan

Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially owned directly or indirectly.

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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 Derivative Security (Instr. 3)	2. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security	3. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	3A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year)	4. Transaction Code (Instr. 8)	5. Number of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5)	6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year)	7. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities (Instr. 3 and 4)	8. Price of Derivative Security (Instr. 5)
Restricted Stock Units	(2)	01/14/2006		M	912	(3) (4)	Common Stock 912	(1)

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships
BESTEN C HENRY JR ONE CITYPLACE DRIVE SUITE 300 ST. LOUIS, MO 63141	Director 10% Owner Officer Other Senior VP-Strategic Dev.

Signatures

/s/ Gregory A. Billhartz,
Attorney-in-Fact 01/18/2006
 **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) The reporting person received 2,737 restricted stock units on January 14, 2004. The restricted stock units vest ratably over a three-year period. On January 14, 2006, the reporting person received 912 shares of common stock.
- (2) Each restricted stock unit represents a right to receive one share of common stock unless otherwise deferred, at the reporting person's election, pursuant to the Arch Coal, Inc. Executive Deferred Compensation Plan.
- (3) The reporting person received 2,737 restricted stock units on January 14, 2004. The restricted stock units vest ratably over a three-year period. On January 14, 2006, 912 restricted stock units vested.
- (4) The restricted stock units do not expire.

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.