BESTEN C HENRY JR

Form 4

January 18, 2006

FORM 4

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

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF

SECURITIES

OMB Number:

3235-0287

Expires:

January 31, 2005

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subject to

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

1(b).

Common

Common

Stock

Stock

01/14/2006

(Print or Type Responses)

See Instruction

1. Name and Ad BESTEN C I	g Person <u>*</u>	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)	3. Date of	Earliest Tra	nsaction	(==== an approduct)			
ONE CITYPLACE DRIVE, SUITE 300			(Month/Da 01/14/20	•		Director 10% Owner Officer (give title Other (specify below) Senior VP-Strategic Dev.			
		4. If Amen	dment, Dat	e Original	6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check				
ST. LOUIS,		Filed(Mont	h/Day/Year)		Applicable Line) _X_ Form filed by One Reporting Person Form filed by More than One Reporting Person				
(City)	(State)	(Zip)	Table	I - Non-De	erivative Securities Acc	quired, Disposed (of, or Beneficial	lly Owned	
(Instr. 3) any		med on Date, if Day/Year)	3. Transactio Code (Instr. 8)	4. Securities on Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5)	5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported	6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4)	7. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4)		

Code V Amount

912

A

(A)

(D)

Α

Price

<u>(1)</u>

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 required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4)

D

I

6,738

14

(9-02)

plan

By 401(k)

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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 Security (Instr. 3)	2. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security	3. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	4. Transacti Code (Instr. 8)	5. Number on f 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 Derivat Securit (Instr. 5
			Code V	(A) (D)	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of Shares	
Restricted Stock Units	(2)	01/14/2006	M	912	(3)	<u>(4)</u>	Common Stock	912	<u>(1)</u>

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/ 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.

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