JONES ROBERT G

Form 4

January 18, 2006

FORM 4

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

OMB Number: 3235-0287

Estimated average

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Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16.

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF SECURITIES

Expires: January 31, 2005

0.5

OMB APPROVAL

Form 4 or Form 5 obligations may continue. See Instruction

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

response...

1(b).

Stock

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person * JONES ROBERT G			2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol ARCH COAL INC [ACI]				5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer			
(Last)	(First) (N	Middle) 3. Da	3. Date of Earliest Transaction				(Check all applicable)			
ONE CITYPLACE DRIVE			h/Day/Year) 1/2006	ansaction			Director 10% Owner Scheme Other (specify below) VP-Law, Gen. Counsel & Secy			
	(Street)	4. If <i>i</i>	mendment, Da	ate Origina	l		6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check			
ST. LOUIS,	MO 63141	Filed	Month/Day/Yea	r)			Applicable Line) _X_ Form filed by One Reporting Person Form filed by More than One Reporting			
or. Locio,	1410 03141						Person			
(City) (State) (Zip) Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned										
1.Title of Security (Instr. 3)	2. Transaction Dat (Month/Day/Year)		Code	TransactionAcquired Code Disposed (Instr. 8) (Instr. 3, 4))	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 Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4)	
Common Stock	01/14/2006		Code V	793	(D)	Price (1)	3,176	D		
Common							2,181	I	By 401(k)	

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

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SEC 1474

(9-02)

Plan

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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 or 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 Deriva Securit (Instr. :
			Code V	(A) (D)	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of Shares	
Restricted Stock Units	(2)	01/14/2006	M	793	(3)	<u>(4)</u>	Common Stock	793	<u>(1)</u>

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address Relationships

Director 10% Owner Officer Other

JONES ROBERT G ONE CITYPLACE DRIVE ST. LOUIS, MO 63141

VP-Law, Gen. Counsel & Secy

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).
- The reporting person received 3,175 restricted stock units on January 14, 2004. The restricted stock units vest ratably over a three-year period. Upon vesting of 1,058 restricted stock units on January 14, 2006, the reporting person received 793 shares of common stock and deferred receipt of 265 shares of common stock pursuant to the Arch Coal, Inc. Executive Deferred Compensation Plan.
- 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.
- The reporting person received 3,175 restricted stock units on January 14, 2004. The restricted stock units vest ratably over a three-year period. On January 14, 2006, 1,058 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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