ARCH COAL INC Form 4 March 17, 2006

FORM 4

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

OMB APPROVAL

OMB 3235-0287 Number:

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Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF **SECURITIES**

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

1(b).

(Last)

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person * POTTER ROBERT G

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

ARCH COAL INC [ACI]

3. Date of Earliest Transaction

(Check all applicable)

ONE CITYPLACE DRIVE, SUITE

(Middle)

(Month/Day/Year) 03/15/2006

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

(Street)

(First)

300

4. If Amendment, Date Original

Filed(Month/Day/Year)

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check

Applicable Line)

X Form filed by One Reporting Person Form filed by More than One Reporting

ST. LOUIS, MO 63141

(City) (State) (Zip)

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

1. Title of Security (Instr. 3)

2. Transaction Date 2A. Deemed (Month/Day/Year)

Execution Date, if

(Month/Day/Year)

3. 4. Securities TransactionAcquired (A) or Code Disposed of (D) (Instr. 8) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5)

5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Following

6. Ownership 7. Nature of Form: Direct Indirect (D) or Indirect Beneficial (I) Ownership (Instr. 4) (Instr. 4)

(A) or Code V Amount (D) Price Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4)

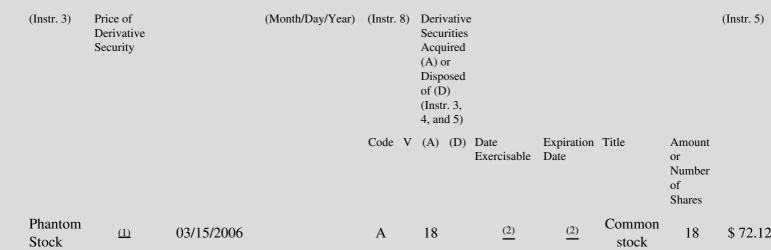
Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially owned directly or indirectly.

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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 3. Transaction Date 3A. Deemed 5. 6. Date Exercisable and 7. Title and Amount of 8. Price of Derivative Conversion (Month/Day/Year) Execution Date, if TransactionNumber **Expiration Date Underlying Securities** Derivative Security or Exercise any Code of (Month/Day/Year) (Instr. 3 and 4) Security

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Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address Relationships

Director 10% Owner Officer Other

POTTER ROBERT G
ONE CITYPLACE DRIVE, SUITE 300 X
ST. LOUIS, MO 63141

Signatures

Gregory A. Billhartz, Attorney-in-Fact

**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).
- 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 certain portions of 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.

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