#### POTTER ROBERT G

Check this box

Form 4

December 16, 2011

subject to

Form 4 or

Form 5

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

**OMB APPROVAL OMB** 

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if no longer STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF **SECURITIES** Section 16.

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, obligations Section 17(a) of the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935 or Section may continue. 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

See Instruction 1(b).

(Print or Type Responses)

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

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading

ARCH COAL INC [ACI]

(Check all applicable)

(First) (Middle) (Last)

(Street)

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

12/15/2011

Symbol

X\_ Director 10% Owner Officer (give title Other (specify

below)

**ONECITYPLACE DRIVE** 

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

Person

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

ST. LOUIS, MO 63141

(City)

(Instr. 3)

1.Title of 2. Transaction Date 2A. Deemed Security

(State)

(Month/Day/Year) Execution Date, if

(Month/Day/Year)

(Zip)

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

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

Reported (A) Transaction(s) or (Instr. 3 and 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 **SEC 1474** information contained in this form are not (9-02)required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB control number.

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

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Security (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5) Code V (A) (D) Date **Expiration Title** Amount Exercisable Date or Number of Shares Phantom Common (2) (1) 12/15/2011 428 (2) 428 \$ 14.0 Α

Acquired

Stock

## **Reporting Owners**

Derivative

Reporting Owner Name / Address

Director 10% Owner Officer Other

POTTER ROBERT G
ONECITYPLACE DRIVE X
ST. LOUIS, MO 63141

# **Signatures**

Stock

/s/ Robert G. Jones, 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 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.

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