

PEABODY ENERGY CORP  
 Form 4  
 December 26, 2007

**FORM 4** UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
 Washington, D.C. 20549

OMB APPROVAL

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Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5 obligations may continue. See Instruction 1(b).

**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 \*  
**BOYCE GREGORY H**

(Last) (First) (Middle)

PEABODY ENERGY CORPORATION, 701 MARKET STREET

(Street)

ST. LOUIS, MO 63101

(City) (State) (Zip)

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol  
 PEABODY ENERGY CORP [BTU]

3. Date of Earliest Transaction  
 (Month/Day/Year)  
 12/26/2007

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

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

(Check all applicable)

Director  10% Owner  
 Officer (give title below)  Other (specify below)  
 Chairman and CEO

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line)  
 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**

1. Title of Security (Instr. 3)	2. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	2A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year)	3. Transaction Code		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	(A) or (D)			
Common Stock	12/26/2007		M <sup>(1)</sup>		33,456	A	\$ 7.9674	133,456 <sup>(2)</sup>	D
Common Stock	12/26/2007		S <sup>(1)</sup>		100	D	\$ 62.03	133,356 <sup>(2)</sup>	D
Common Stock	12/26/2007		S <sup>(1)</sup>		2,262	D	\$ 62.02	131,094 <sup>(2)</sup>	D
Common Stock	12/26/2007		S <sup>(1)</sup>		200	D	\$ 62.0125	130,894 <sup>(2)</sup>	D
Common Stock	12/26/2007		S <sup>(1)</sup>		500	D	\$ 62.01	130,394 <sup>(2)</sup>	D

Common Stock 12/26/2007 S<sup>(1)</sup> 30,394 D \$ 62 100,000 <sup>(2)</sup> D

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)		
				Code	V (A) (D)	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of Share
Employee Stock Option (right to buy)	\$ 7.9674	12/26/2007		M <sup>(1)</sup>	33,456	10/01/2003 10/01/2013	Common Stock	33,456	

## Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships			
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other
BOYCE GREGORY H PEABODY ENERGY CORPORATION 701 MARKET STREET ST. LOUIS, MO 63101	X		Chairman and CEO	

## Signatures

Gregory H. Boyce By: Kenneth L. Wagner  
Attorney-in-Fact 12/26/2007

\*\*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) This exercise/sale was effected pursuant to a pre-existing Rule 10b5-1 trading plan adopted by the reporting person.

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- (2) Does not include 4,329 shares acquired pursuant to the Company's Employee Stock Purchase Plan.
- (3) Not applicable.
- (4) Does not include an additional 829,448 options with different expiration dates and exercise prices.

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, *see* Instruction 6 for procedure.

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