

ARCH COAL INC  
Form 4  
February 27, 2008

**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 \*  
**MESSEY ROBERT J**

(Last) (First) (Middle)  
**ONE CITYPLACE DRIVE**  
  
(Street)

**ST. LOUIS, MO 63141**

(City) (State) (Zip)

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol  
**ARCH COAL INC [ACI]**

3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)  
**02/25/2008**

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)  
**Senior Vice President & CFO**

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 (Instr. 8)	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)	Price
Common Stock	02/25/2008		M			966	A	<u>(1)</u>	58,204	D	
Common Stock	02/25/2008		M			1,966	A	<u>(2)</u>	60,170	D	
Common Stock									1,083	I	By 401(k) Plan

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

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number.

**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)	8. Pr Deriv Secur (Instr. 3 and 4)			
				Code	V	(A)	(D)	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of Shares
Restricted Stock Units	(3)	02/25/2008		M	966	(4)	(5)			Common Stock	966
Restricted Stock Units	(3)	02/25/2008		M	1,966	(6)	(5)			Common Stock	1,966

## Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships			
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other
MESSEY ROBERT J ONE CITYPLACE DRIVE ST. LOUIS, MO 63141			Senior Vice President & CFO	

## Signatures

/s/ Gregory A. Billhartz,  
Attorney-in-Fact

02/27/2008

\*\*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 2,900 restricted stock units on February 23, 2006. The restricted stock units vest ratably over a three-year period. Upon vesting of 966 restricted stock units on February 25, 2008, the reporting person received 966 shares of common stock.
- (2) The reporting person received 5,900 restricted stock units on February 24, 2005. The restricted stock units vest ratably over a three-year period. Upon vesting of 1,966 restricted stock units on February 25, 2008, the reporting person received 1,966 shares of common stock.
- (3) 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.
- (4)

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The reporting person received 2,900 restricted stock units on February 23, 2006. The restricted stock units vest ratably over a three-year period. On February 25, 2008, 966 restricted stock units vested.

(5) The restricted stock units do not expire.

(6) The reporting person received 5,900 restricted stock units on February 24, 2005. The restricted stock units vest ratably over a three-year period. On February 25, 2008, 1,966 restricted stock units vested.

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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