

BESTEN C HENRY JR  
 Form 5  
 February 14, 2005

**FORM 5**

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

OMB APPROVAL  
 OMB Number: 3235-0362  
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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).  
 Form 3 Holdings Reported Form 4 Transactions Reported

**ANNUAL 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

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person \*  
**BESTEN C HENRY JR**  
 (Last) (First) (Middle)

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

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer  
 (Check all applicable)

**ONE CITYPLACE  
 DRIVE, SUITE 300**  
 (Street)

3. Statement for Issuer's Fiscal Year Ended (Month/Day/Year)  
**12/31/2004**

\_\_\_\_ Director \_\_\_\_\_ 10% Owner  
 Officer (give title below) \_\_\_\_\_ Other (specify below)  
**Senior VP-Strategic Dev.**

**ST. LOUIS, MO 63141**  
 (City) (State) (Zip)

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

6. Individual or Joint/Group Reporting  
 (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) (A) or (D) Price	5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned at end of Issuer's Fiscal Year (Instr. 3 and 4)	6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4)	7. Nature of Indirect Ownership (Instr. 4)
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Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially owned directly or indirectly.

**Persons who respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB control number.**

SEC 2270 (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	3. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	3A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year)	4. Transaction Code (Instr. 8)	5. Number of Derivative	6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year)	7. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities (Instr. 3 and 4)	8. Price of Underlying Security (Instr. 3 and 4)
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Derivative Security	Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5)			Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of Shares
	(A)	(D)					
Phantom Stock	32			12/31/2004 <sup>(2)</sup>		Common Stock	32

## Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships			
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other
BESTEN C HENRY JR ONE CITYPLACE DRIVE SUITE 300 ST. LOUIS, MO 63141			Senior VP-Strategic Dev.	

## Signatures

/s/ Janet L. Horgan,  
Attorney-in-Fact

02/14/2005

\*\*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) 1-for-1
- (2) Acquired on various dates in 2004 pursuant to periodic investments in Arch Coal Inc.'s Deferred Compensation Plan.
- (3) Payable in cash upon termination of the Reporting Person's service as an Officer of Arch Coal, Inc.

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space provided 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.