SANDS THEODORE D
Form 4
March 19, 2012

FORM 4

OMB APPROVAL

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

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 *
SANDS THEODORE D
(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)
03/15/2012

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

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer
(Check all applicable)
__X__ Director _____ 10% Owner
_____ Officer (give title below) _____ Other (specify below)

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

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 Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4)
			Code	V	Amount	(A) or (D)	Price			

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 Derivative	2. Conversion	3. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	3A. Deemed Execution Date, if	4. Transaction	5. Number of	6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date	7. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities

Security (Instr. 3)	or Exercise Price of Derivative Security		any (Month/Day/Year)	Code (Instr. 8)	Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5)		(Month/Day/Year)		(Instr. 3 and 4)	
				Code V	(A)	(D)	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of Shares
Phantom Stock	(1)	03/15/2012		A	456		(2)	(2)	Common Stock	456

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships			
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other
SANDS THEODORE D ONE CITYPLACE DRIVE ST. LOUIS, MO 63141	X			

Signatures

/s/ Jon S. Ploetz, Attorney-in-Fact	03/19/2012
**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) 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") and represent past compensation that the director elected to defer under the Plan into a hypothetical investment in shares of Arch Coal, Inc. common stock and/or dividends attributable to such deferred amounts.

(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.