

Pechersky Bryan J
Form 4
March 19, 2012

FORM 4

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

OMB APPROVAL

OMB
Number: 3235-0287
Expires: January 31,
2005
Estimated average
burden hours per
response... 0.5

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person *
Pechersky Bryan J

2. Issuer Name **and** Ticker or Trading
Symbol
CLOUD PEAK ENERGY INC.
[CLD]

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to
Issuer

(Check all applicable)

(Last) (First) (Middle)
505 S. GILLETTE AVE.
(Street)

3. Date of Earliest Transaction
(Month/Day/Year)
03/15/2012

____ Director ____ 10% Owner
____X____ Officer (give title ____ Other (specify
below) below)
Sr VP, General Counsel

GILLETTE, WY 82716

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

(City) (State) (Zip)

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
Common Stock	03/15/2012 ⁽³⁾		A		4,779	A	\$ 0 36,129
						D	

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
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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)

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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)	Amount or Number of Shares
				Code	V	(A)	(D)	
Employee Non-Qualified Stock Option (Right to Buy)	\$ 17	03/15/2012		A		8,977	(1) (2)	Common Stock 8,977
Performance Units	(4)	03/15/2012		A		9,558	(4) (4)	Common Stock 9,558

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships
	Director 10% Owner Officer Other
Pechersky Bryan J 505 S. GILLETTE AVE. GILLETTE, WY 82716	Sr VP, General Counsel

Signatures

/s/ Bryan Pechersky
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) 100% of the option vests three years after the date of grant.
- (2) Nonqualified options granted under Cloud Peak Energy Inc.'s 2009 Long Term Incentive Plan expire ten years after the date of grant.
- (3) Restricted Stock Award which vests as to 100% three years after the date of grant.
- Each performance right represents a contingent right to receive one share of Cloud Peak Energy Inc. common stock. The performance rights vest 3 years from the date of grant upon Cloud Peak Energy's achievement of Performance Goals, which are based upon Cloud Peak Energy's relative and absolute total shareholder return. These achievements may result in a payout range between 0% and 200% of the target. The number of performance rights shown in columns 5 and 7 is equal to the target number of performance rights that may be earned. There is no expiration date for performance rights.

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.