Drexler John T. Form 4 December 16, 2011

UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF **SECURITIES**

Form 5 obligations may continue. See Instruction

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(b).

(Last)

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person * Drexler John T.

(First)

(Street)

ONE CITY PLACE, SUITE 300

ST. LOUIS, MO 63141

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol

ARCH COAL INC [ACI]

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

12/15/2011

4. If Amendment, Date Original

Filed(Month/Day/Year)

Applicable Line) _X_ Form filed by One Reporting Person Person

(A)

(City) (State) (Zip)

Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned

Issuer

below)

Director

X_ Officer (give title

1.Title of 2. Transaction Date 2A. Deemed 3. Security (Month/Day/Year) Execution Date, if (Instr. 3) Code (Month/Day/Year) (Instr. 8)

(Middle)

TransactionAcquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5)

4. Securities

Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4)

5. Amount of

Securities

Code V Amount (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 3. Transaction Date 3A. Deemed 5. 6. Date Exercisable and 7. Title and Amount of 8. Price of Derivative Conversion (Month/Day/Year) Execution Date, if TransactionNumber **Expiration Date Underlying Securities** Derivative Security or Exercise Code of (Month/Day/Year) (Instr. 3 and 4) Security any

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January 31,

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Number:

Expires:

response...

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check

Form filed by More than One Reporting

6. Ownership

Form: Direct

(I)

(Instr. 4)

(D) or Indirect Beneficial

(Check all applicable)

below) Sr. V.P. and CFO

10% Owner

Other (specify

7. Nature of

Ownership

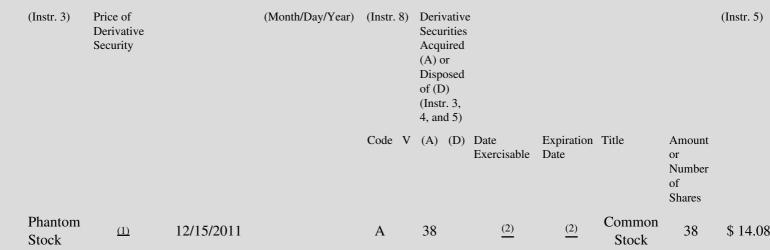
(Instr. 4)

Indirect

Estimated average

burden hours per

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Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address Relationships

Director 10% Owner Officer Other

Drexler John T. ONE CITY PLACE SUITE 300 ST. LOUIS, MO 63141

Sr. V.P. and CFO

Signatures

/s/ Robert G. Jones, Attorney-in-Fact

12/16/2011

**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).
- 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 executive officer through the Arch Coal, Inc. Deferred Compensation Plan (the "Plan"). The shares of phantom stock acquired by the executive officer represent dividends attributable to amounts that the executive officer elected to defer under the Plan into a hypothetical investment in shares of Arch Coal, Inc. common stock.
- (2) Shares of phantom stock are payable in cash on the date or dates elected by the executive officer, subject to the terms of the Plan. The executive officer may transfer any and all of 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.

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