
 OMB APPROVAL

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U.S. SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
 Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM 4

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP

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(f) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

[] Check this box if no longer subject of Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5
 obligations may continue. See Instruction 1(b).

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1. Name and Address of Reporting Person*

Hunt Douglas H.

 (Last) (First) (Middle)

 3900 Thanksgiving Tower, 1601 Elm Street

 (Street)

 Dallas Texas 75201

 (City) (State) (Zip)

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2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol

Arch Coal, Inc. (ACI)

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3. IRS or Social Security Number of Reporting Person (Voluntary)

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4. Statement for Month/Year

12/1997

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5. If Amendment, Date of Original (Month/Year)

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6. Relationship of Reporting Person to Issuer

(Check all applicable)

[x] Director [] 10% Owner
 [] Officer (give title below) [] Other (specify below)

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7. 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 (mm/dd/yy)	3. Transaction Code (Instr. 8) Code V	4. Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5)		5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned at End of Month (Instr. 3 and 4)	6. Owner- ship Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr.4)	7. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4)
			Amount	(A) or (D) Price			
Common Stock	12/4/1997	P	500.00	A \$26.25	500.00	D	

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* If the Form is filed by more than one Reporting Person, see Instruction 4(b)(v).

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

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 of Exercise Price of Derivative Security	3. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	4. Transaction Code (Instr. 8) Code V	5. Number of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5)	6. Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year)		7. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities (Instr. 3 and 4)	8. Price of Derivative Security (Instr. 5)	9. Number of Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned at End of Month (Instr. 4)	10. Ownership of Derivative Security: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4)	11. Nature of Ownership: Direct or Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4)

Explanation of Responses:

/s/ Miriam Rogers Singer

**Signature of Reporting Person
Miriam Rogers Singer, for Douglas H. Hunt

January 7, 1997

Date

** Intentional misstatements or omissions of facts constitute Federal Criminal Violations. See 18 U.S.C. 1001 and 15 U.S.C. 78ff(a).
Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed.
If space provided is insufficient, see Instruction 6 for procedures.
Alternatively, this Form is permitted to be submitted to the Commission in electronic format at the option of the reporting person pursuant to rule 101(b)(4) of Regulation S-T.

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