
UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, DC 20549

FORM 8-K

CURRENT REPORT
Pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d)
of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

Date of report (Date of earliest event reported): December 2, 2009 (December 2, 2009)

Arch Coal, Inc.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware
(State or other jurisdiction of
incorporation)

1-13105
(Commission File Number)

43-0921172
(I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)

CityPlace One
One CityPlace Drive, Suite 300
St. Louis, Missouri 63141
(Address, including zip code, of principal executive offices)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: (314) 994-2700

Check the appropriate box below if the Form 8-K filing is intended to simultaneously satisfy the filing obligation of the registrant under any of the following provisions:

- Written communications pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act (17 CFR 230.425)
 - Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14a-12)
 - Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d-2(b) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14d-2(b))
 - Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13e-4(c) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.13e-4(c))
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Item 7.01 Regulation FD Disclosure.

On December 2, 2009, John Eaves, President and Chief Operating Officer of Arch Coal, Inc., will deliver a presentation at the FBR Capital Markets 2009 Fall Investor Conference in New York City that will include written communication comprised of slides. The slides from the presentation are attached hereto as Exhibit 99.1 and are hereby incorporated by reference.

A copy of the slides will be available at <http://investor.archcoal.com/events.cfm> for 30 days.

Item 9.01 Financial Statements and Exhibits.

(d) Exhibits

The following exhibit is attached hereto and furnished herewith.

Exhibit No.	Description
99.1	Slides from the FBR Capital Markets 2009 Fall Investor Conference.

Signatures

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned hereunto duly authorized.

Dated: December 2, 2009

Arch Coal, Inc.

By: /s/ Robert G. Jones

Robert G. Jones
Senior Vice President–Law, General Counsel and
Secretary

Exhibit Index

Exhibit
No.

Description

99.1 Slides from the FBR Capital Markets 2009 Fall Investor Conference.

4



Arch Coal, Inc.



FBR Capital Markets 2009 Fall Investor Conference

John Eaves, President and Chief Operating Officer
Arch Coal, Inc.

New York City
December 2009

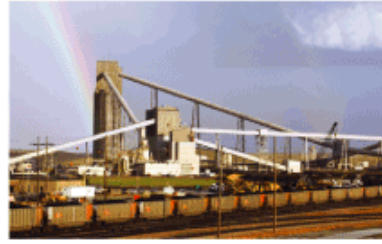
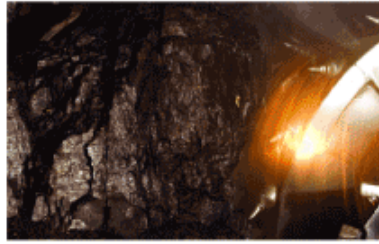
Forward-Looking Information

This presentation contains “forward-looking statements” – that is, statements related to future, not past, events. In this context, forward-looking statements often address our expected future business and financial performance, and often contain words such as “expects,” “anticipates,” “intends,” “plans,” “believes,” “seeks,” or “will.” Forward-looking statements by their nature address matters that are, to different degrees, uncertain. For us, particular uncertainties arise from changes in the demand for our coal by the domestic electric generation industry; from legislation and regulations relating to the Clean Air Act and other environmental initiatives; from operational, geological, permit, labor and weather-related factors; from fluctuations in the amount of cash we generate from operations; from future integration of acquired businesses; and from numerous other matters of national, regional and global scale, including those of a political, economic, business, competitive or regulatory nature. These uncertainties may cause our actual future results to be materially different than those expressed in our forward-looking statements. We do not undertake to update our forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise, except as may be required by law. For a description of some of the risks and uncertainties that may affect our future results, you should see the risk factors described from time to time in the reports we file with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Arch Coal is a leader in the coal industry

- **Second largest** coal producer in the U.S.
 - Leading position in the Powder River Basin
 - Largest producer in Western Bituminous region
 - Low-cost producer in Central Appalachia
 - Significant exposure to metallurgical markets
- Represent **16 percent** of the U.S. coal supply
 - Provide cleaner-burning, low-sulfur coal to domestic power producers to fuel 8 percent of the nation's electricity
 - Ship coal to domestic/international steel manufacturers and international power producers
- Lead coal industry in **mine safety** and **environmental compliance**
 - Talented workforce operates large, modern mines



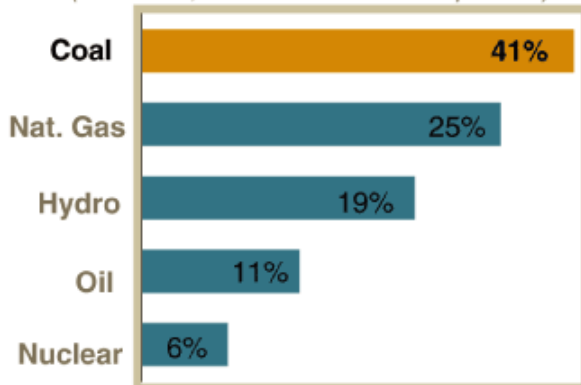


State of Coal Markets

Over the long term, energy demand fundamentals remain favorable

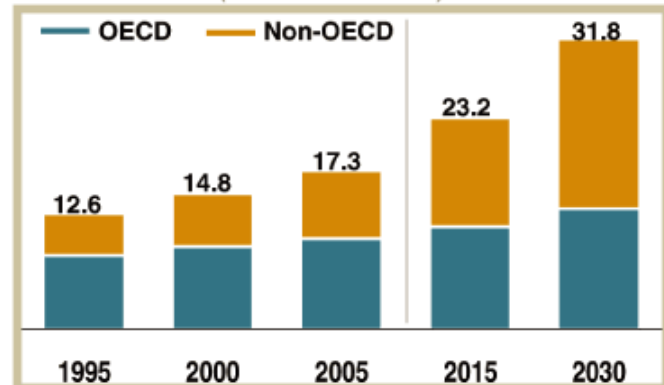
Cumulative Percent Change in Global Energy Consumption

(2000-2008, in million tonnes of oil equivalent)



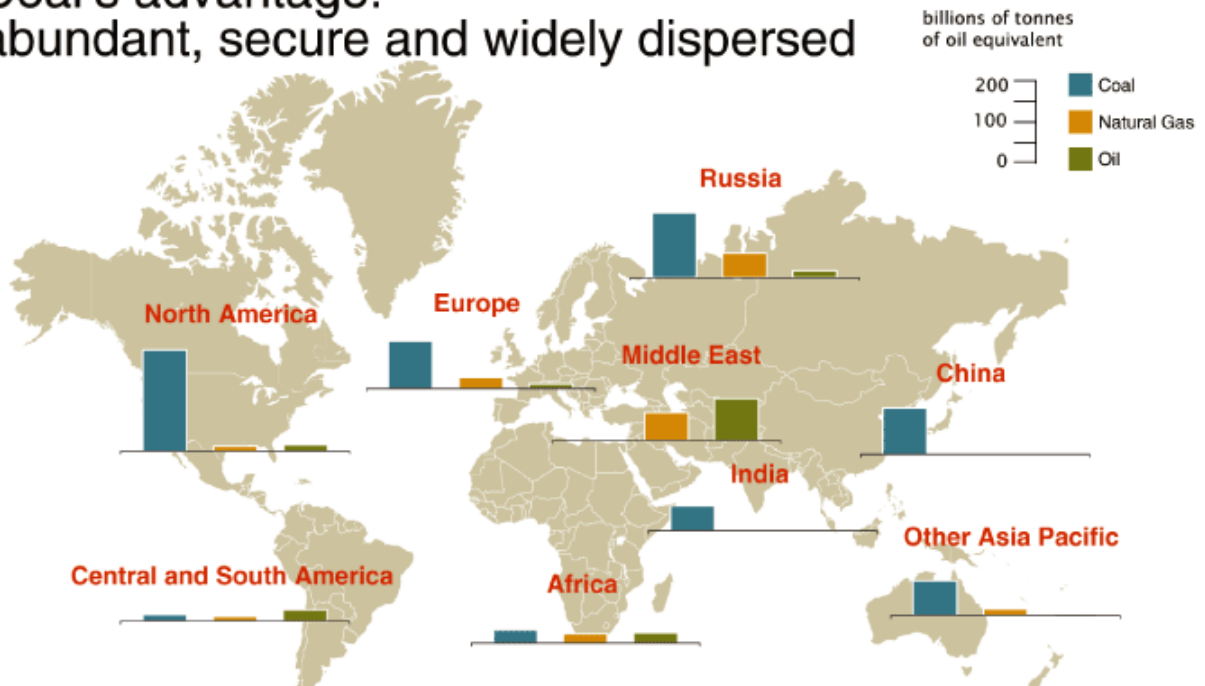
Worldwide Electric Generation & Forecast

(billion kilowatt hours)



- Coal has been the **fastest-growing primary fuel source** on the planet since 2000
- **Developing and developed world** will continue to drive demand for coal
 - Population growth and increased electrification needs are key drivers

Coal's advantage: abundant, secure and widely dispersed

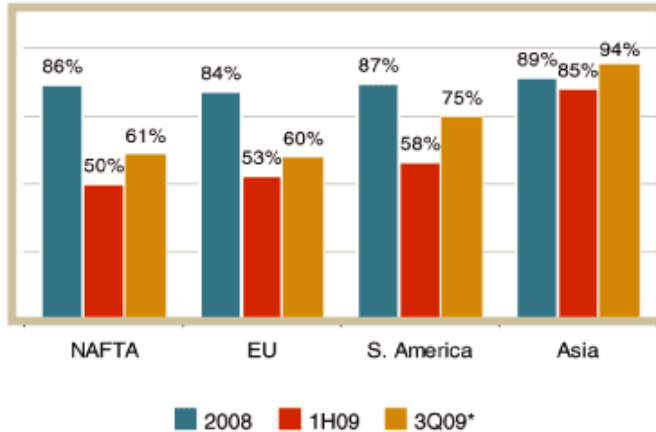


Based on current production levels and proven reserves, coal should outlast both gas supplies and oil reserves by **more than 3 times**



Looking ahead, global and domestic metallurgical coal markets are beginning to show some signs of life

World Steel Capacity Utilization (in annualized %)

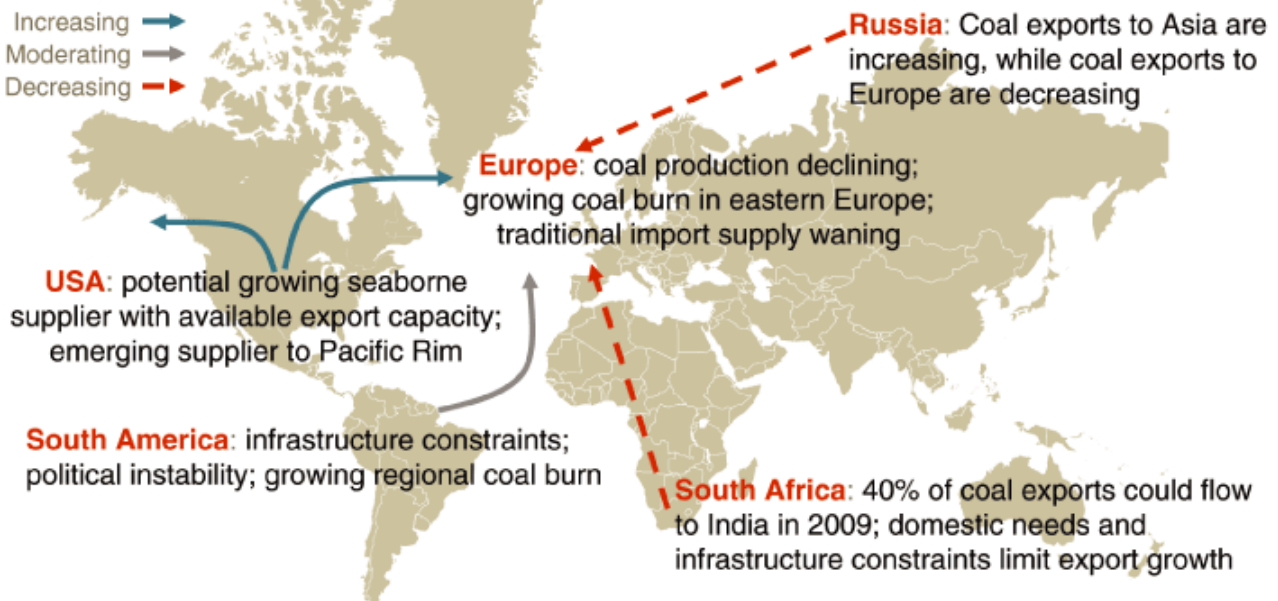


- Global economic recession severely impacted **steel production** during 4Q08 and 1H09
 - North American and European steel operations were hardest hit
 - Inventory de-stocking at steel centers
- **Utilization rates** are now climbing – off drastically low levels
 - Chinese steel utilization was 94% of capacity in Oct. 2009, up from the low of 67% in Nov. 2008
 - U.S. steel utilization reached 62% in Oct. 2009 from the low of 42% in Jan. 2009
 - ACI has seen an increase in inquiries from met coal customers across Asia, Brazil, U.S. and Europe

Global coal supply flows continue to shift – and create further opportunities for U.S. met/steam coal exports

Atlantic Basin Market = 43% of global seaborne trade in 2008

Increasing →
Moderating →
Decreasing →



What if 2008 repeats itself? Who will supply coal in Atlantic Basin?

Despite a temporary global downturn in coal demand, structural constraints and Asian demand pull remain

2007

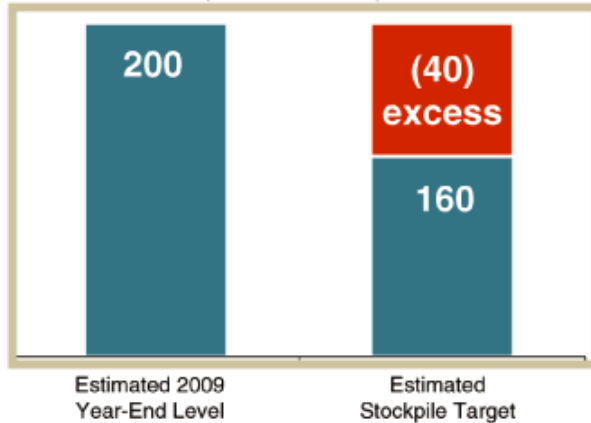
- “The lack of investment spent by **Australian infrastructure** providers over the past decade has resulted in severe rail and port bottlenecks.” *Macquarie (6/07)*
- “**China which became a net importer** of coal this year, increased purchases of the fuel 27% in April to meet higher energy demand.” *Bloomberg (5/07)*
- “**India is expecting to double its South African coal imports** during 2007. High demand and a halt in Chinese exports of coal are thought to be the cause of this increase.” *Reuters (5/07)*
- “**Production is shifting away from West Virginia** because the state has presented coal producers with difficult regulations, torrents of litigation and orchestrated hostility that discouraged growth and investment.” *The State Journal (5/07)*

2009

- “The **vessel queue** at Dalrymple Bay Coal Terminal has continued its inexorable rise, surpassing the previous record of 76 reached in Sept. 2007.” *McCloskey (11/09)*
- “**China**, the world’s largest coal user and producer, **increased imports of the fuel** in September to meet rising domestic consumption following an economic recovery ...and were more than triple what the country imported a year earlier.” *Bloomberg (10/09)*
- “**South African coal exports to India continue to rise at record rates** and now make up for more than a third of South Africa’s exports.” *J.P. Morgan (11/09)*
- “Due in part to the U.S. EPA’s recent crackdown on surface mining permits, **coal production in Central Appalachia is expected to fall well short** of 200 million tons in 2010.” *FBR (9/09)*

Coal consumption growth in 2010 and continued supply rationalization should draw down excess coal stockpiles

Estimated Coal Stockpile Levels at U.S. Power Generators (in millions of tons)



U.S. coal industry = 1 billion tons

- Arch anticipates that coal demand and coal production will be **balanced** by end of 2009 (if not already)
- **Stockpiles poised to decline** in 2010

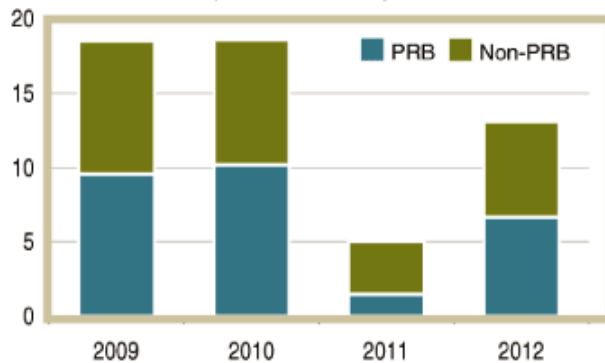
↑
order of magnitude

- Growth in underlying domestic economy (GDP), particularly as industrial activity resumes
- Continued supply rationalization
- Reversal of coal-to-gas switching
- Return of more seasonal weather
- Increased U.S. coal exports
- Steam coal migrates to met market
- Likely reversal of share gains in other baseload fuels (nukes, hydro)

U.S. coal consumption growth will also benefit from new plant start-ups

Anticipated Annual Supply Needs for U.S. Coal Plants Under Construction*

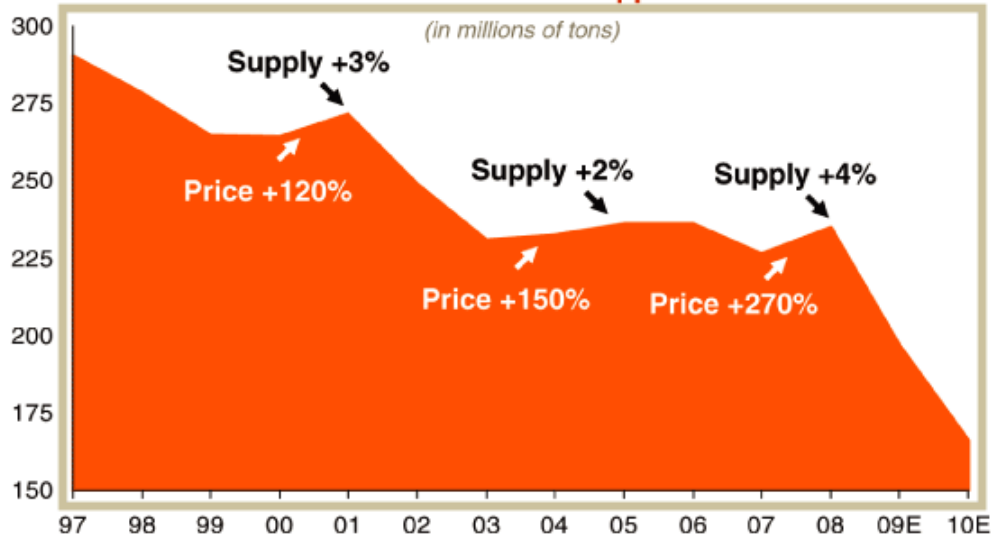
(in millions of tons)



- Build-out of 16 GW through 2012 equates to **55 million tons** of new annual coal demand
- Arch estimates that the **Powder River Basin** will service one half of this demand
- Nearly **10 GW** – roughly 20 plants – are scheduled to be in operation by the end of 2010, representing roughly two-thirds of the total anticipated growth in annual coal demand from new plants

In the U.S., coal production also continues to shift westward as CAPP is in long-term secular decline

Production in Central Appalachia

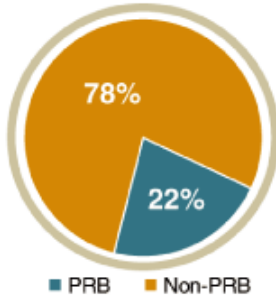


- Sharp price run-ups have acted to arrest production declines only temporarily
- Arch expects 2010 CAPP production to be down **125 million tons** from '97 peak
- Based on historical trend, most of that supply reduction is likely to be **permanent**

Since 1990, PRB coal has gained significant market share east of the Mississippi River

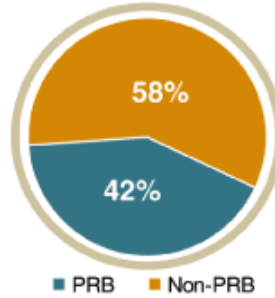
Border States East of Mississippi River ⁽¹⁾

Burn by Coal Type circa 1990



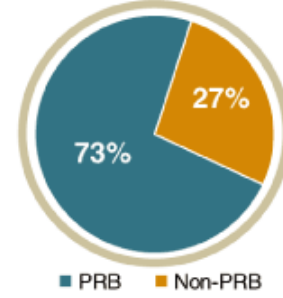
- Eastern border state power plants in Wisconsin, Illinois, Tennessee and Mississippi historically burned a small mix of PRB coal

Burn by Coal Type circa 1995



- By 1995, power plants in these four states increased their mix of PRB coal from 22% to 42% in just five years

Burn by Coal Type circa 2008

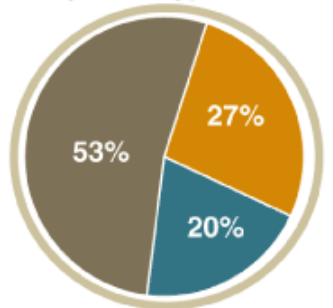


- Current 73% mix of PRB coal has been achieved with relatively modest capital investment

We foresee increased PRB market expansion opportunities further east of the Mississippi River

Non-Border States East of Mississippi River

Burn by Coal Type circa 2008



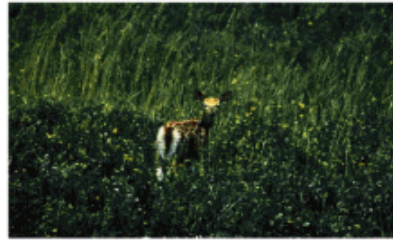
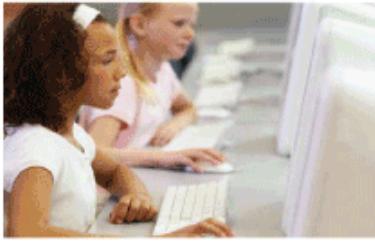
■ PRB
■ PRB switching opportunity
■ Non-PRB



Eastern power plants in non-border states are generally comparable in design to plants in the border states

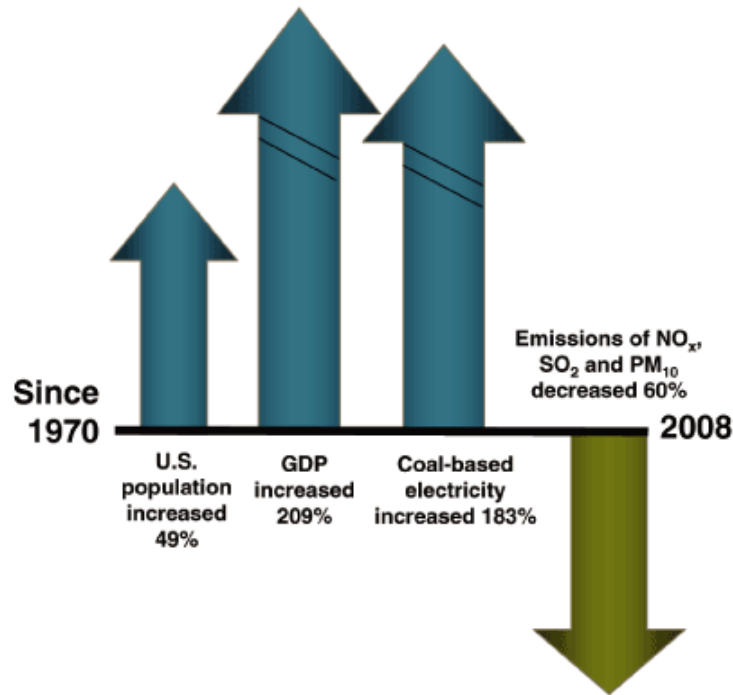
Non-border state plants should be able to increase their PRB coal use greatly with minimal investment

Based on historical switching in the border states and the lower heat content of PRB coal, the theoretical PRB switching opportunity in the East exceeds 300 million tons



Energy, the environment and clean coal technologies

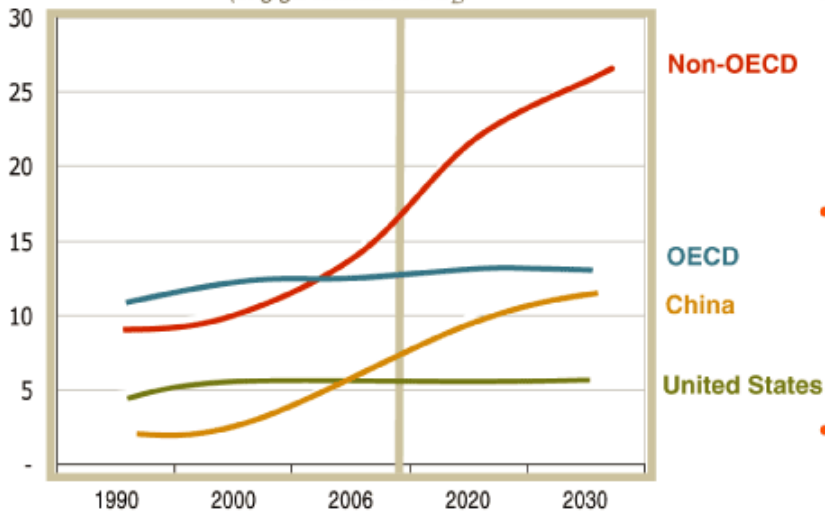
Coal is increasingly clean...and will become more climate-friendly with time and funding



 Arch Coal, Inc.

The developed and developing world must work together to address the climate challenge

CO₂ Emission Trends
(in giga-tonnes of CO₂)

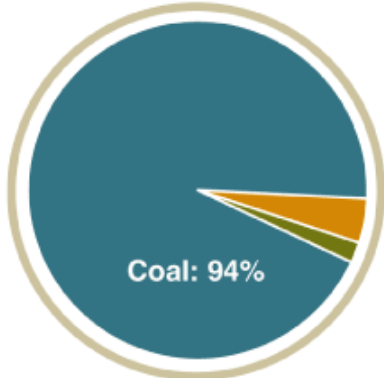


- Rapid increases in **CO₂ emissions** in emerging Asia further underscore the need for clean coal technologies
- **China** is now the largest emitter of CO₂ and the developing world has surpassed the OECD nations in total emissions
- Clearly, we will need **global solutions** to address the climate issue



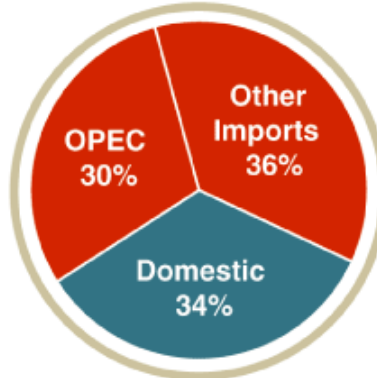
Coal will remain a vital part of America's energy future

U.S. Energy Reserves
(in trillion Btu)



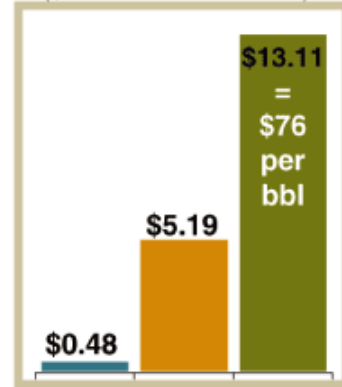
■ Coal ■ Natural Gas ■ Oil

U.S. Petroleum Supply
(million barrels per day, 2008)



■ Domestic ■ Imports

U.S. Fuel Prices
(\$/million Btu at 11/27/09)



PRB 8800
FOB rail (2010)

Natural Gas
Wellhead (prompt month)

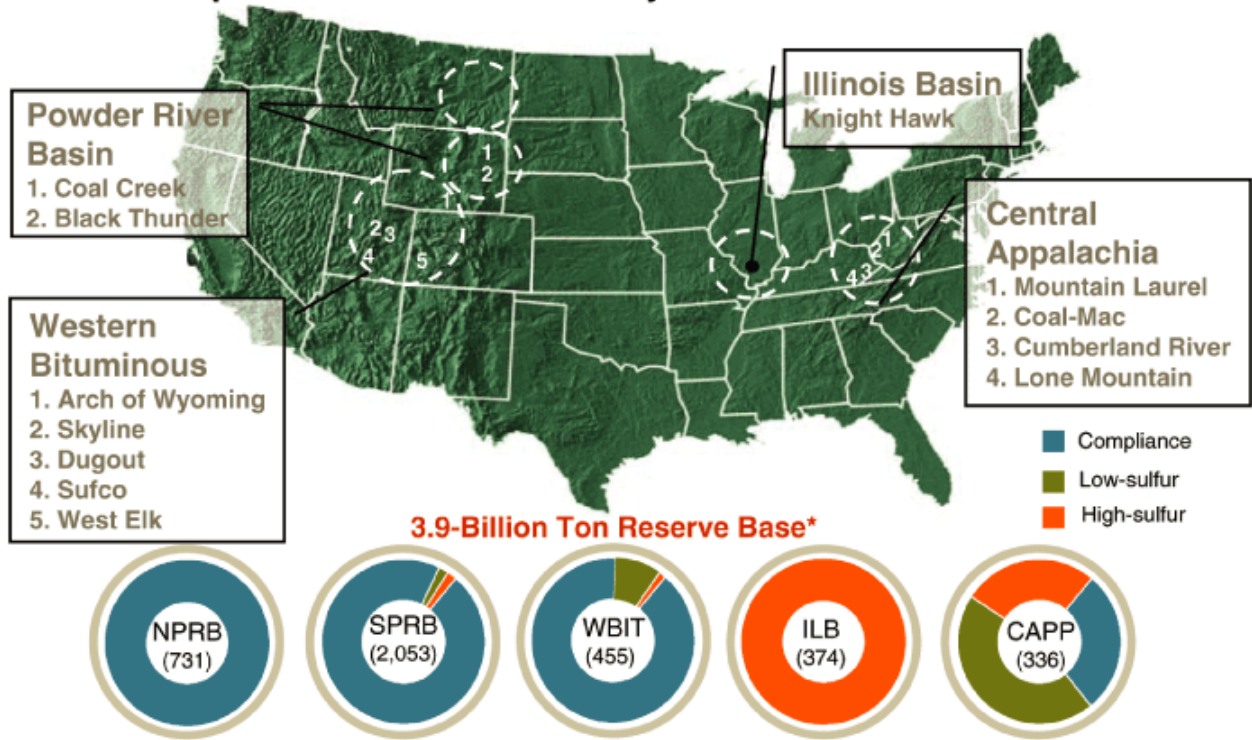
Crude Oil
= \$76 per bbl





Arch Coal Overview

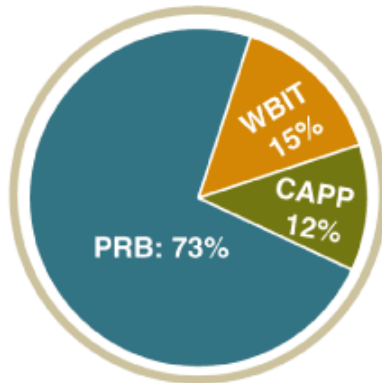
Arch's national scope of operations and reserve base includes presence in five major U.S. coal basins



Arch's mine portfolio underscores value of diversity

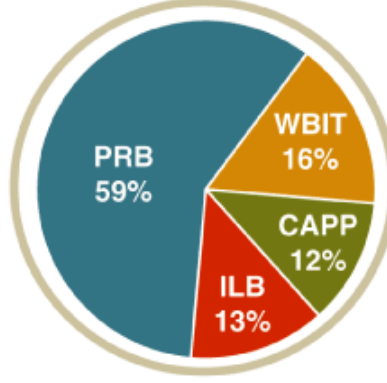
2008 Tons Sold*

(percent of total tons by region)



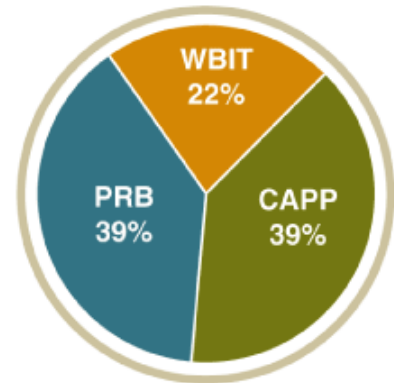
2008 Reserves*

(percent of total reserves by region)



2008 Revenues*

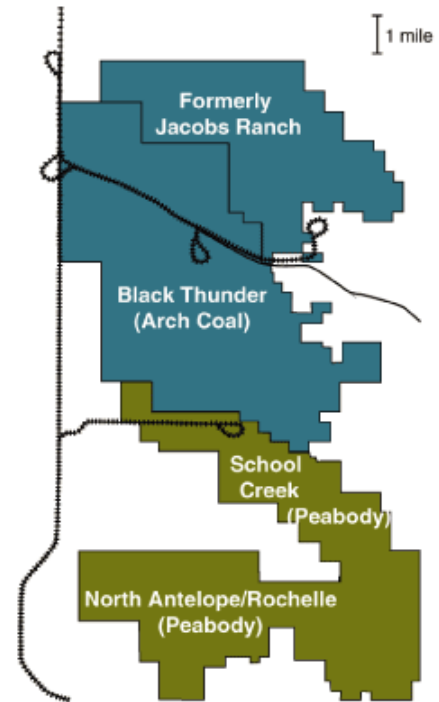
(percent of segment revenue by region)



- Arch's **national network of mines** services a **diverse customer base**
 - 175 coal-fueled power plants
 - Customers spread across 35 states and 21 countries
 - Customer sales split 52% and 48% east and west of the Mississippi, respectively

Arch completes acquisition of Jacobs Ranch on Oct. 1

- Purchase price of **\$764 million**, which includes an estimate for working capital adjustments
- The enhanced Black Thunder will be the **largest single coal-mining complex in the world**
 - Assigned coal reserves of **1.6 billion tons** (as of Dec. 31, 2008)
 - Productive capacity of more than **140 million tons** per year should market conditions warrant
- Arch estimates synergies from the transaction of between **\$45 million and \$55 million** annually, beginning in 2010, which represents more than \$1 per acquired ton of annual production
 - Roughly half represent operational cost savings with the remaining related to administrative cost savings as well as enhanced coal-blending opportunities



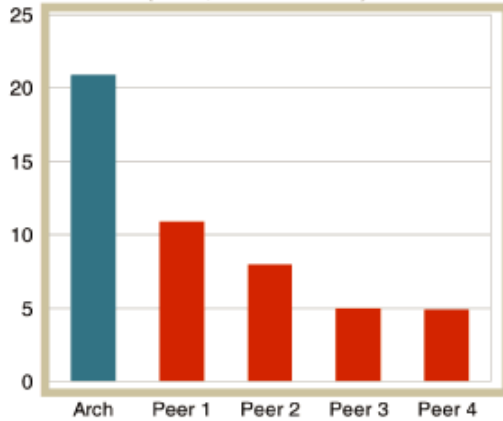
Arch acquires Montana coal reserves, creating future growth opportunity in the northern PRB

- Arch acquires reserves in the **Otter Creek Tracts** located in southeastern Montana from Great Northern Properties
 - Arch controls roughly **731 million tons** of high-quality, low-cost, sub-bituminous coal reserves
 - Arch will pay \$0.10 per ton, or \$73.1 million, in five ratable annual installments
- The Otter Creek reserves will allow Arch to build a **significant position** in the northern Powder River Basin to
 - competitively serve the northern U.S. power generation market;
 - provide an additional supply source to export off the West Coast; or
 - possibly house the site of a future coal-conversion facility.



Arch's Western Bituminous assets continue to contribute meaningfully to the company's earnings profile

Western Bituminous Production*
(2008, in million tons)



- Arch is the **leading producer** in the Western Bituminous region
 - Arch's annual production is nearly twice the size of next largest peer

Western Bituminous Annual Productivity and Production



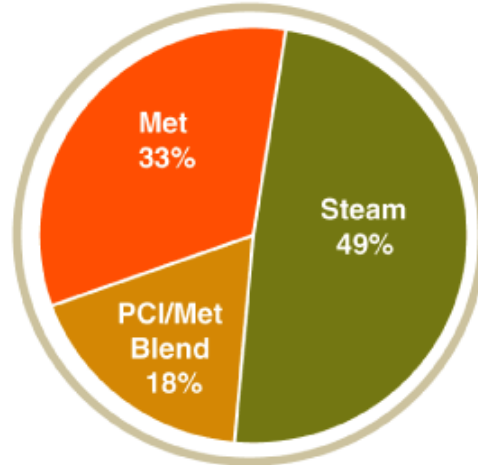
- Supply in the mature Western Bituminous region is constrained even **as pricing has remained elevated**



Arch is also a leading producer of met and PCI coal – with the potential to boost sales in a robust market

Central Appalachian Product Profile

(based on 15 million tons of productive capacity)

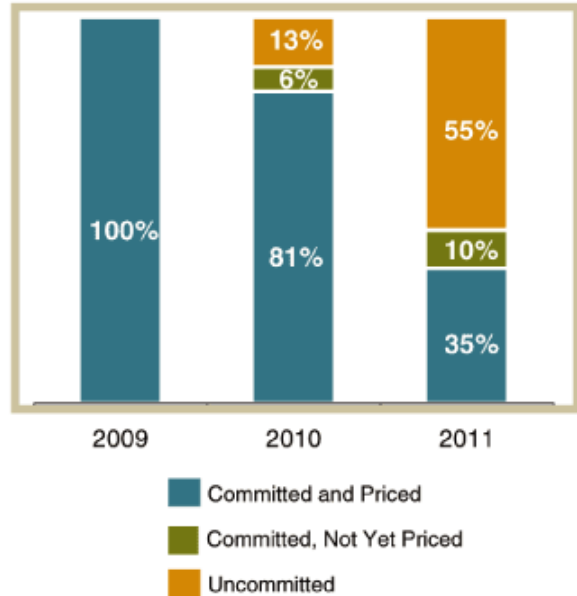


- Based on 2008 shipments, Arch is the **fifth largest** U.S. met coal producer
 - Top nine domestic metallurgical coal suppliers represent 75% of U.S. met coal supply
- In a robust, sustained market, Arch's met shipments **could increase meaningfully**

Arch is profitably managing through trough of energy market cycle – and is well positioned for recovery

- Arch employs a pragmatic, **market-driven coal pricing strategy**
- We remain committed to maintaining near-term stability in our earnings
 - Substantially all of our remaining volumes for 2009 are committed
- We also strive to preserve long-term earnings growth by retaining the flexibility to layer in future volumes at attractive levels

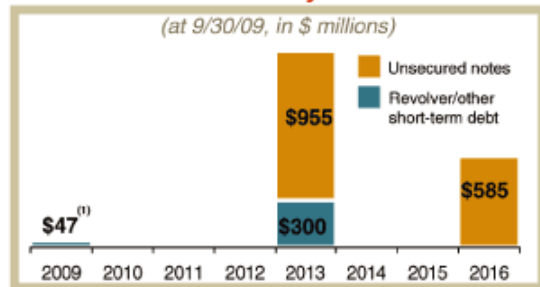
Arch Committed Tonnage as of 9/30/09*



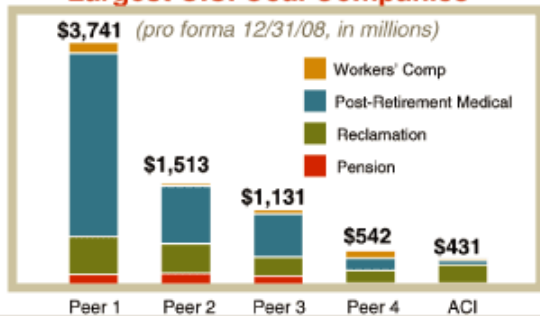
Arch maintains one of the strongest and cleanest balance sheets in the U.S. coal industry

- Arch’s financing initiatives have enhanced **liquidity** and **extended debt** maturities
 - Credit amendment increases borrowing capacity through June 2011 and extends its maturity to 2013
- Successfully completed two **capital markets transactions** that netted nearly \$900 million
 - \$600 million of 8.75% senior unsecured notes due 2016
 - Issued 19.55 million common shares for \$326 million
 - Proceeds used to finance Jacobs Ranch acquisition
- Arch maintains one of the **strongest** and **cleanest balance sheets** in the industry
 - Lowest level of legacy liabilities among coal peers
 - Roughly 60% of Arch’s legacy liabilities are comprised of reclamation liabilities

Debt Maturity Profile

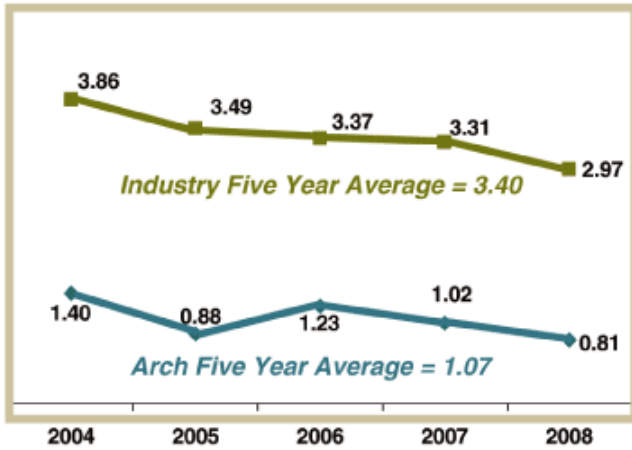


Legacy Liabilities of Largest U.S. Coal Companies



Arch's safety and environmental performance is the best among the largest public coal companies

Lost-Time Safety Incident Rate (per 200,000 employee-hours worked)



- Arch's **safety record** is the best in the U.S. coal industry
 - Awarded MSHA's Sentinels of Safety honor for operating the nation's safest underground coal mines in 2006 and 2007
- Arch's **environmental performance** ranks first among major coal industry peers
 - Earned 5 National Good Neighbor Awards since 2003