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**SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**

**Washington, D.C. 20549**

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**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): April 7, 2005 (April 6, 2005)

**Arch Coal, Inc.**

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(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, Suite 300, St. Louis, Missouri 63141

(Address of principal executive offices) (Zip code)

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))

Page 1 of 4 pages.

Exhibit Index begins on page 4.

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Item 7.01 Regulation FD Disclosure

On April 6, 2006, certain members of Arch Coal, Inc.'s management made a presentation at the Howard Weil Energy Conference. The text of slides shown during the presentation is attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference in its entirety.

The furnishing of Exhibit 99 is not intended to constitute a representation that such furnishing is required by Regulation FD or that the information it contains includes material investor information that is not otherwise publicly available. Statements in Exhibit 99 which are not statements of historical fact are forward-looking statements within the "safe harbor" provision of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. These forward-looking statements are based on the information available to, and the expectations and assumptions deemed reasonable by, Arch Coal at the time the statements are made. Because these forward-looking statements are subject to various risks and uncertainties, actual results may differ materially from those projected in the statements. These expectations, assumptions and uncertainties include: Arch Coal's expectation of continued growth in the demand for electricity; belief that legislation and regulations relating to the Clean Air Act and the relatively higher costs of competing fuels will increase demand for its compliance and low-sulfur coal; expectation of continued improved market conditions for the price of coal; expectation that Arch Coal will continue to have adequate liquidity from its cash flow from operations, together with available borrowings under its credit facilities, to finance Arch Coal's working capital needs; a variety of operational, geologic, permitting, labor and weather related factors; and the other risks and uncertainties which are described in Arch Coal's periodic and other filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission which are available on the SEC's website at [www.sec.gov](http://www.sec.gov).

Item 9.01 Financial Statements and Exhibits.

(c) Exhibits.

The following Exhibit is filed with this Current Report on Form 8-K:

<u>Exhibit No.</u>	<u>Description</u>
99	Text of slides shown during Arch Coal's presentation on April 6, 2005.  Page 2 of 4 pages. Exhibit Index begins on page 4.

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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: April 7, 2005

ARCH COAL, INC

By: /s/ Robert G. Jones

Robert G. Jones

Vice President -- Law, Secretary and General Counsel

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Exhibit Index begins on page 4.

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EXHIBIT INDEX

Exhibit No.	Description
99	Text of slides shown during Arch Coal's presentation on April 6, 2005.

Page 4 of 4 pages.



Arch Coal, Inc.

**Power. Growth. Responsibility.**

**Howard Weil**  
**33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Energy Conference**

**Steven F. Leer**  
**President & CEO**  
**Arch Coal, Inc.**

**April 6, 2005**  
**New Orleans**



## Forward-looking information

Introduction

Statements in this presentation which are not statements of historical fact are “forward-looking statements” within the “safe harbor” provision of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. These forward-looking statements are based on the information available to, and the expectations and assumptions deemed reasonable by, Arch Coal, Inc. at the time this presentation was made. Although Arch Coal believes that the assumptions underlying such statements are reasonable, it can give no assurance that they will be attained. Factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from expectations include the risks detailed from time to time in the company’s periodic and other reports filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission.





## Arch Coal Overview

### Introduction

- Second largest U.S. coal producer
- Leading positions in all three major low-sulfur basins
- Reserve base totaling 3.7 billion tons
- Produces 100% low-sulfur coal
- Supplies roughly 13% of U.S. coal needs
- Provides source fuel for roughly 7% of U.S. electricity
- Operates large, modern mines in East and West
- Recognized leader in safety and environmental performance







## External environment more favorable than at any time in past 30 years

Market Outlook

**Average Nuclear Utilization**  
*(Jan. 1 – Dec. 31, 2004)*

**90.5%**

**Natural Gas Price**  
*(NYMEX, May delivery at 04/04/05)*

**\$7.73/mm BTU**

**Projected Hydroelectric Capacity Additions**  
*(through 2025, per EIA)*

**None**

**Announced Additions to Coal-Fired Capacity**

**65,000 mw**

**CAPP Coal Production**  
*1997-2004 (est.)*

**- 20%**

Sources: EIA, NYMEX, Platts





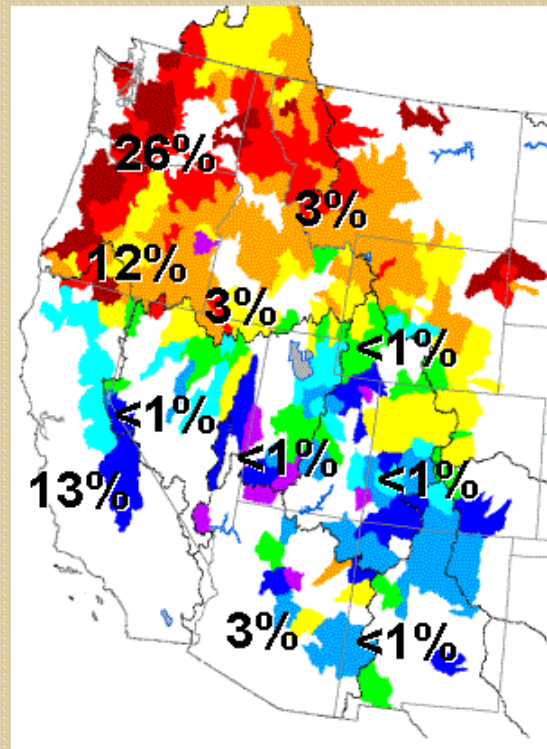
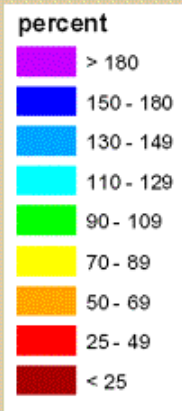
# Mountain Snowpack

As of March 1, 2005

## Market Outlook

Snowpack vs. historical averages and percentage of total hydro generation by state in 2004

Source: EIA/EPM Table 1.11.B



Source: National Water & Climate Center

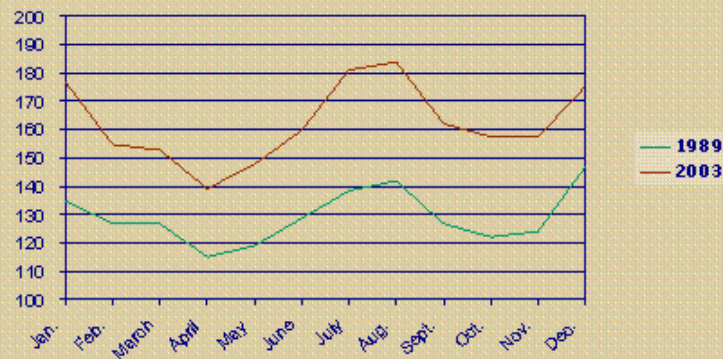




## Economic growth will drive coal-fired utilization higher

### Market Outlook

U.S. Electric Generation  
(in mm MWh,  
by month)



- **Significant excess capacity available in system**
  - ✓ As economy grows, coal plants will cycle down less often
  - ✓ Curve will flatten as "shoulder season" demand grows
  - ✓ Potential for growth in both peaks and troughs
- **Evolution of more efficient wholesale power markets should boost utilization further**
  - ✓ Midwest Independent System Operator (MISO) Midwest Energy Markets launched 3/1/05
  - ✓ PJM Interconnection expansion

Sources: EIA & ACI analysis

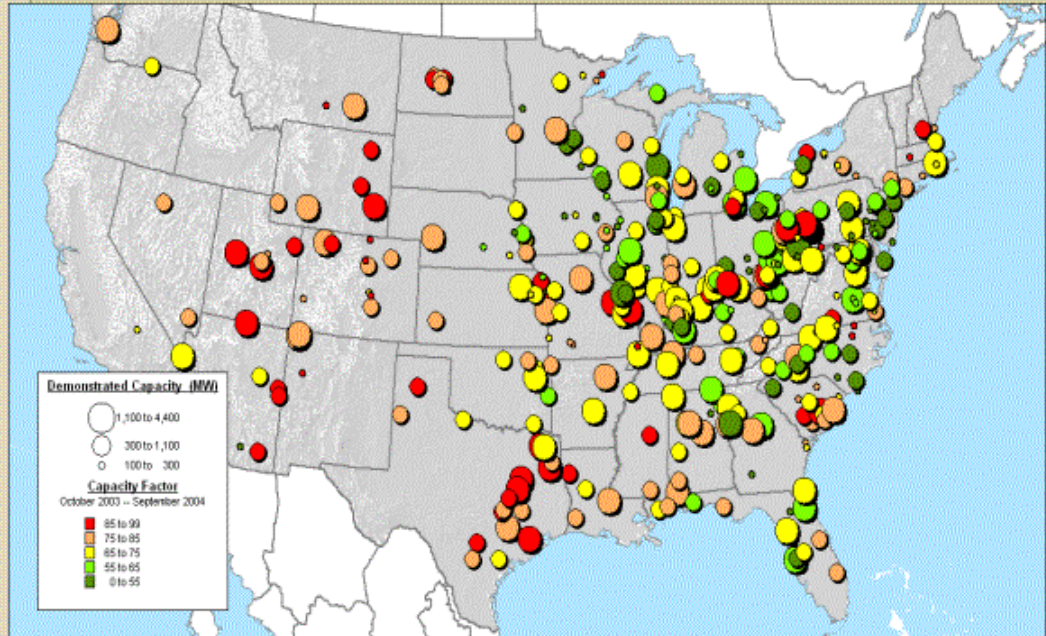




# Significant potential for growth at existing coal-fired plants

Market Outlook

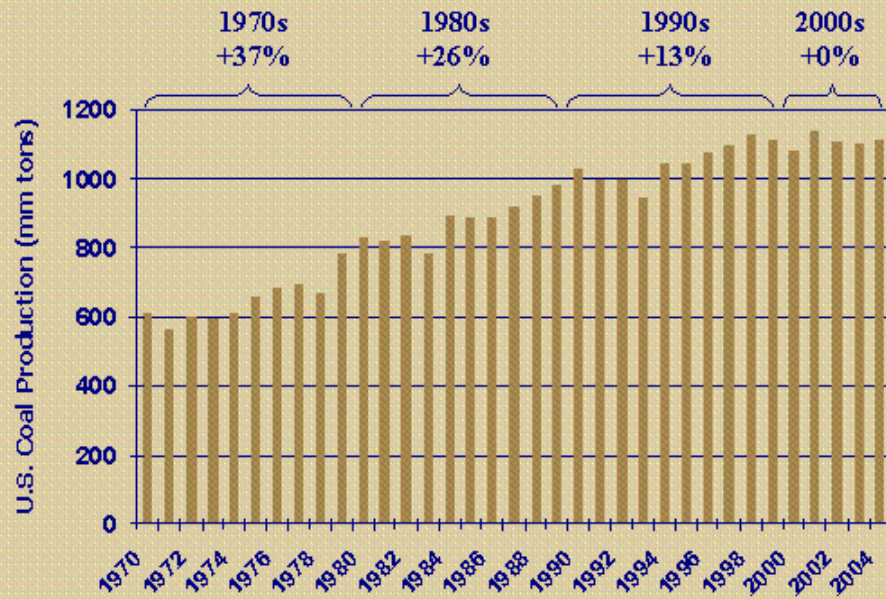
Coal plant capacity factors (by size)





## Modest production growth has contributed to stronger market

Market Outlook



Note: U.S. coal production is essentially flat (-0.6%) YTD in 2005

Source: EIA

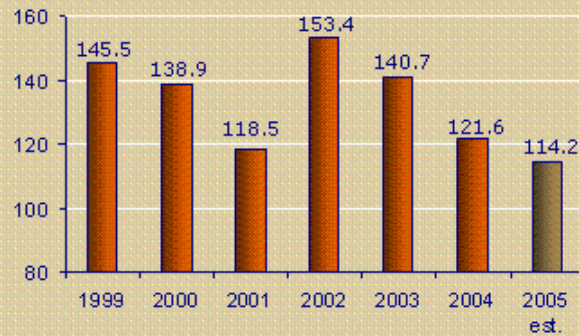




# Industry fundamentals remain exceedingly strong

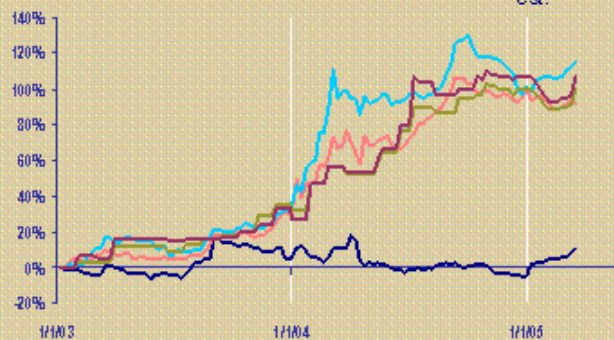
## Market Outlook

Projected utility stockpile levels at end of April (in mm tons)



Utility stockpiles are well below historic averages

Percent change in spot prices by basin since 2003



Coal prices in most major regions have strengthened dramatically

— PRB, 8,000 Btu/lb.      — CAPP NYMEX: 1.5 lb v. SO<sub>2</sub>/mm Btu  
 — CAPP CSX: 1.5 lb v. SO<sub>2</sub>/mm Btu      — Utah 11,700 Btu/lb.  
 — Colorado 11,700 Btu/lb.

Sources: EIA, Platts & ACI estimates

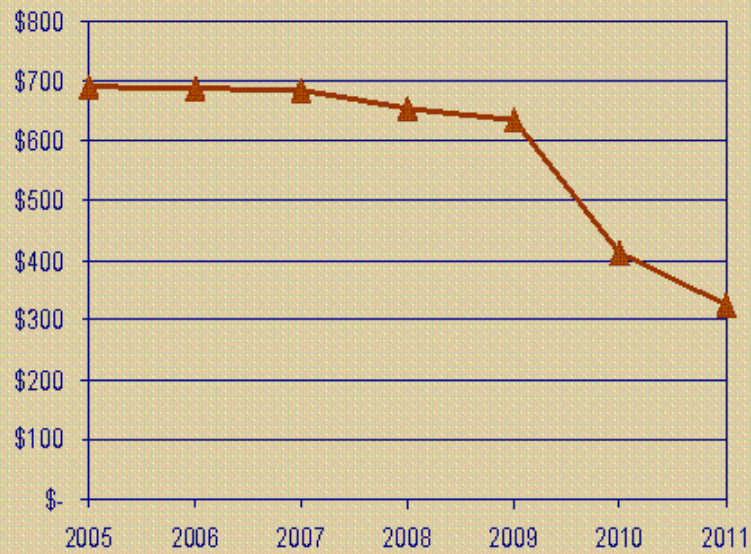




## Low-sulfur coal has a compelling advantage in the marketplace

### Market Outlook

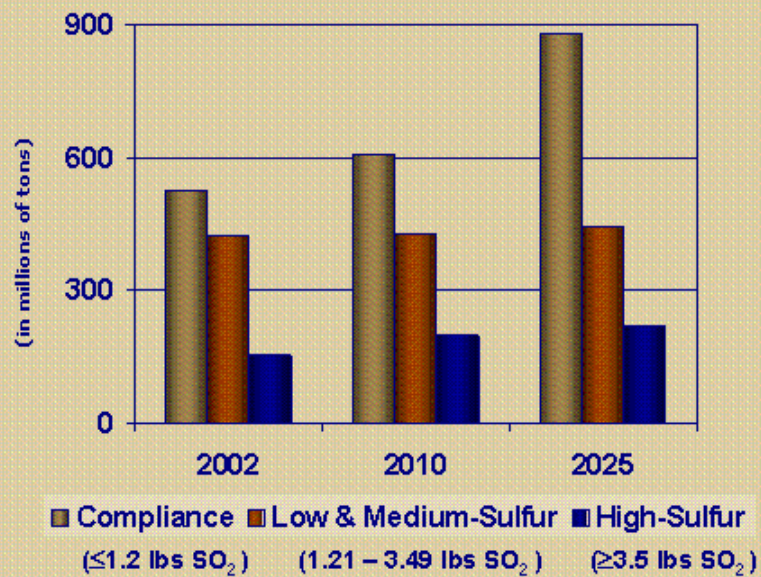
SO<sub>2</sub> Prices for  
Future Vintage  
Allowances  
(3/18/05)





## Low-sulfur coal should continue to capture most new demand growth

Market Outlook



- Despite additional scrubbing, compliance coal's share is projected to grow to 57% in 2025, according to the EIA



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Source: U.S. EIA 2004 Annual Energy Outlook

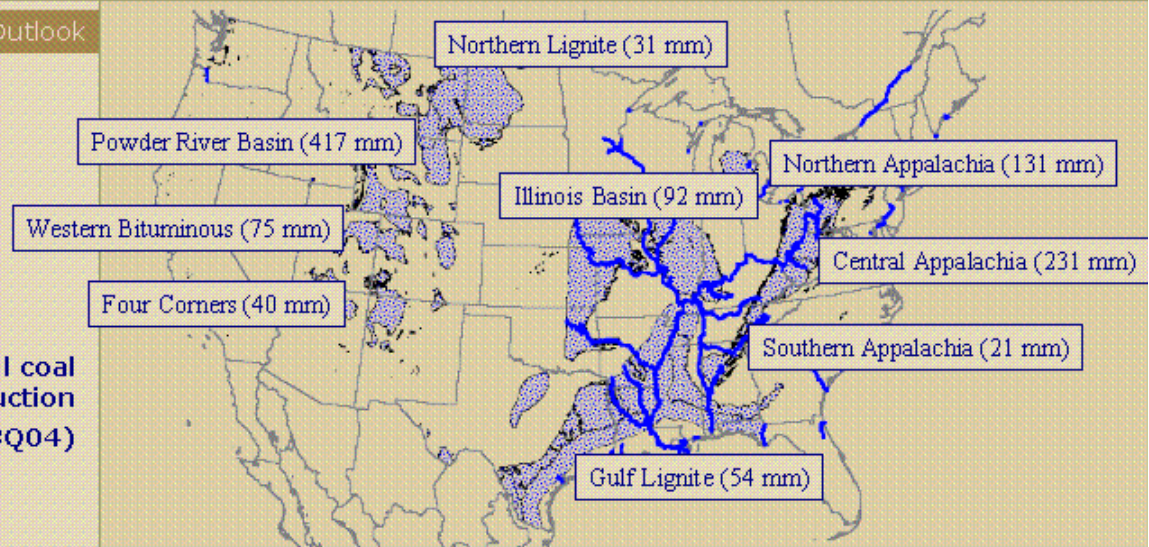




## Major supply shifts are underway in U.S. coal market

Market Outlook

Regional coal production (4Q03-3Q04)



### Change in output since 1997

1) Powder River Basin	+37%	6) Gulf Lignite	- 5%
2) Central Appalachia	-20%	7) Four Corners	+ 4%
3) Northern Appalachia	-15%	8) Northern Lignite	+ 4%
4) Illinois Basin	-18%	9) South. Appalachia	-16%
5) Western Bituminous	+ 5%		

Source: USGS/Platts





## A robust demand equation for PRB coal is beginning to emerge

Market Analysis

Given supply constraints in other basins, PRB coal is likely to capture virtually all new growth in coal demand

Assumption	mm tons per year
For coal to maintain share given 2% CAGR for electric generation	20.0
If coal's share climbs ½ point per year due to shortfalls in other fuels	10.0
If PRB has to fill gap related to further declines in CAPP	10.0
Lower Btu content for PRB coal means actual shipments must expand 15% more to deliver same energy content (U.S. avg. = 10,200 Btus)	<u>6.0</u>
<b>Hypothetical annual increase in PRB demand</b>	<b>46.0</b>
<b>Possible offsets to such a robust demand picture</b>	
Assume other basins (NAPP, Illinois) can achieve modest growth	(5.0)
Assume imports can increase 20% annually	<u>(5.0)</u>
<b>Hypothetical annual increase is dramatic (CAGR = 9%)</b>	<b>36.0</b>



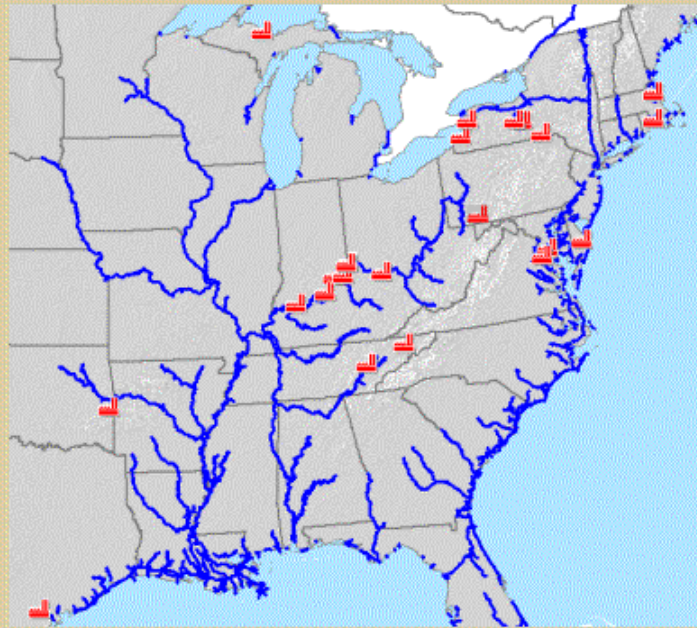
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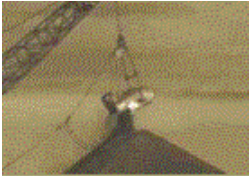
Source: ACI Analysis



## More than 20 power plants burned PRB coal for the first time in '04

Market Outlook





## **Our story: Arch is a unique play in the U.S. coal sector**

Strategy

**1.**

**The PRB is capturing virtually all demand growth and taking share from other basins**

**2.**

**Deep, structural supply constraints in East have lifted eastern prices to new heights**

**3.**

**Soaring SO<sub>2</sub> allowance prices have greatly increased value of low-sulfur coal**

**4.**

**Arch has the capability to greatly increase its participation in met markets**





## Arch is targeting significantly higher met sales in 2005 and beyond

### Strategy

- Targeting 5 million tons in 2005
- Targeting 7 million tons in 2006
- We produce our met coal at highly productive mines with competitive cost structures
  - ✓ A significant percentage of U.S. met coal is produced at high-cost, thin-seam mines
  - ✓ Low cost structure greatly enhances margin/profit potential
- If met market weakens, 100% of our output can be sold as high-quality steam coal





## Arch has a unique mix of eastern and western low-sulfur reserves

### Profile

Roughly 75% of Arch's 3.7 billion ton reserve base is compliance quality



■ Compliance ■ Low Sulfur ■ High Sulfur

### Reserves by region (in mm tons)



PRB  
(2,133)



WBIT  
(481)



ILB  
(257)



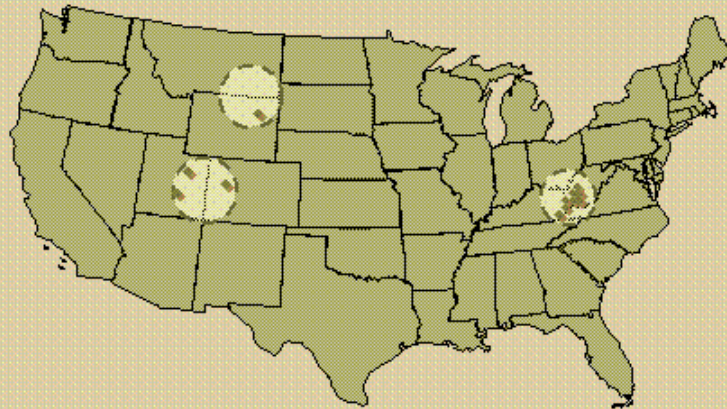
CAPP  
(827)



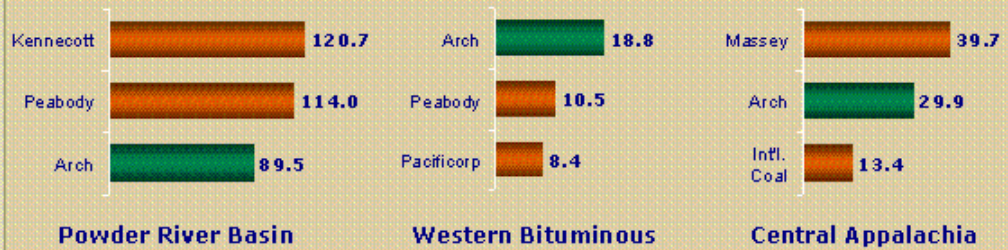


## Arch has a top three position in each of nation's principal low-sulfur basins

Profile



Production  
in mm tons  
(4Q03-3Q04)



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Note: ACI data reflects pro forma sales volume for FY04

Source: MSHA/Platts & ACI



## Arch's large, modern mines are among the industry's most productive

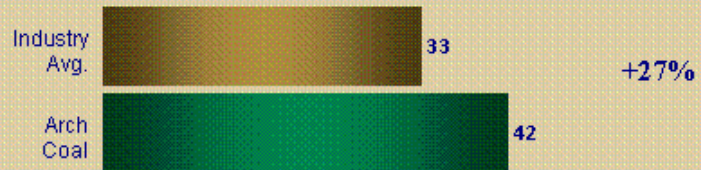
### Profile

Productivity  
in tons per  
employee-shift  
Q1-Q3 2004

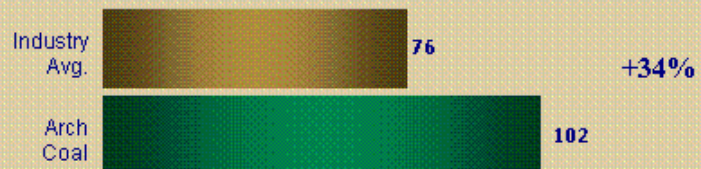
PRB



CAPP



Western  
Bituminous

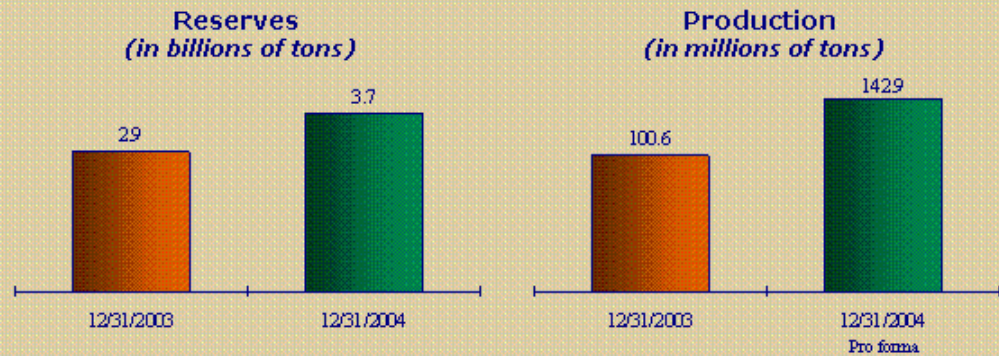






## Arch boosted productive capacity and reserves dramatically in 2004

Growth



- Acquired Triton's North Rochelle mine, formerly the seventh largest U.S. coal mine, in the PRB
- Acquired remaining 35% of Utah subsidiary in the Western Bituminous Region
- Acquired Little Thunder federal coal lease adjacent to the expanded Black Thunder mine in the PRB



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Source: ACI



## Arch is pursuing unique organic growth opportunities

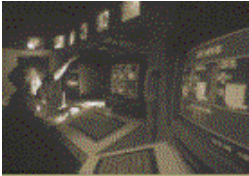
Growth

- **Mountain Laurel longwall mine in southern West Virginia**
  - ✓ One of best remaining low-sulfur reserves in East
  - ✓ All major permits now in hand
  - ✓ Development work now underway
  - ✓ Ramps up to full, 5 mm TPY production in mid-2007
  - ✓ Entire output can sell as met or high-quality steam
- **North Lease longwall mine at Skyline Complex in Utah**
  - ✓ Demand for Western Bituminous coal has surged
  - ✓ Attractive substitute for supply-constrained Eastern coal
  - ✓ Development work will begin this month
  - ✓ Should ramp up to 3 mm tons of production in mid-2006



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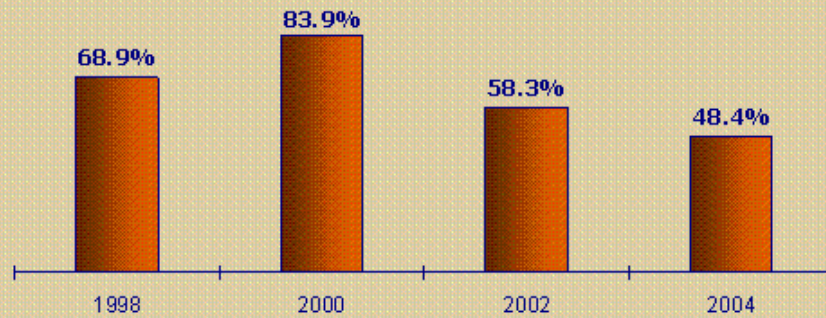
Source: ACI



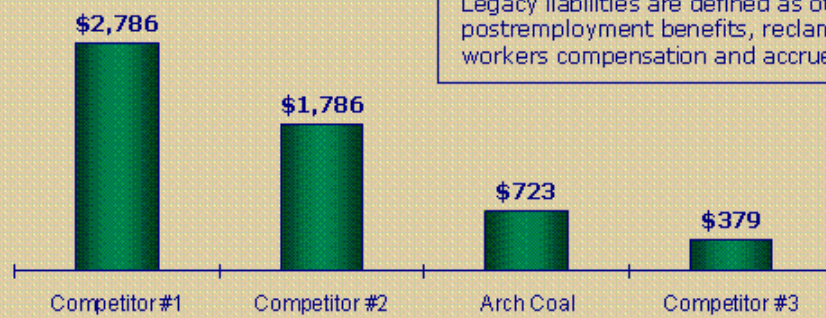
## Even after acquisitions, Arch's balance sheet is among industry's strongest

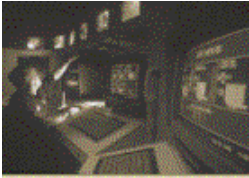
### Financials

Total debt as percentage of capitalization



Legacy liabilities of major coal companies (12/31/04, in millions)

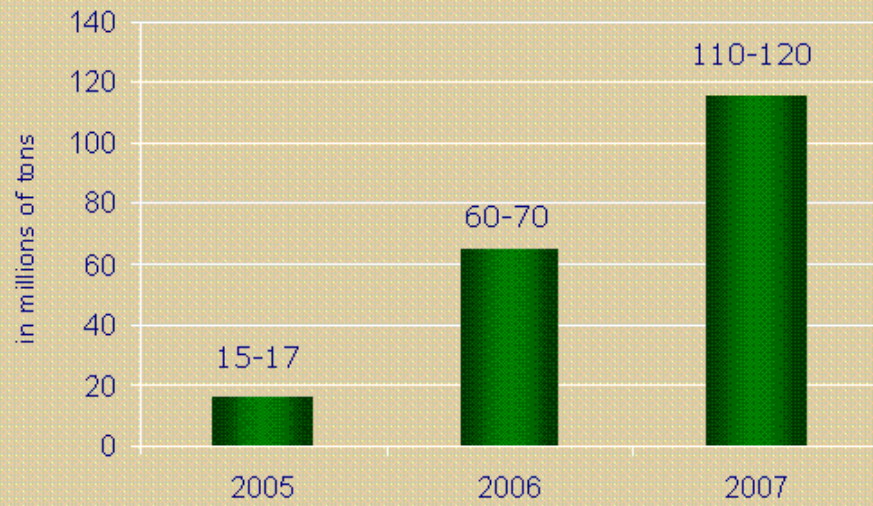


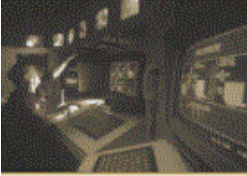


## Arch has a large unhedged position

Financials

Unpriced tons  
(in millions)





## EPS is highly sensitive to sustained improvements in coal prices

Financials

Arch Coal's sensitivity to \$1 improvement in per-ton realization

	In millions
At 140 million tons of production, revenues increase . . .	\$ 140.0
Sales sensitive costs average 25%, so subtract . . .	35.0
Total pro forma increase to EBIT line equals . . .	\$ 105.0
Income tax (assuming AMT rates) averages 25% . . .	26.3
Holding all else equal, delta in net income would be . . .	\$ 78.7
Theoretical sensitivity of fully diluted EPS (at 68.3 mm shares) equals \$1.15	



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Source: ACI



## **We will create value by focusing on what's important**

### Strategy

- Pursue leadership in three crucial areas of performance
  - ✓ Operating safe mines
  - ✓ Environmental stewardship
  - ✓ Return on investment
- Maintain intense focus on managing costs
- Pursue careful and profitable growth
- Enhance position as preferred supplier to power sector

