

Arch Coal Pledges \$5 Million to Washington University's Energy Consortium to Advance Clean Coal Technology

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ST. LOUIS (December 2, 2008) - Arch Coal, Inc. (NYSE:ACI) today announced that it has pledged \$5 million over five years for the establishment of the Consortium for Clean Coal Utilization at Washington University in St. Louis.

The consortium's goal is to bring university researchers, industries, foundations and government organizations together to research clean coal technology, making St. Louis the nation's center for clean coal research.

"Arch Coal is pleased to partner with Washington University on this important new initiative," said Arch's Chairman and Chief Executive Officer Steven F. Leer. "Global coal consumption has increased 35 percent in the past six years, with emerging Asia building new coal-based power stations at a rapid pace. Arch is committed to supporting the research, development, demonstration and deployment of new clean coal technologies that will allow this indispensable fuel to continue meeting the challenges of our energy-constrained world."

Arch and other consortium partners will help establish the key priorities and laboratory facilities for clean coal research on Washington University's campus. These may include pilot-scale facilities where scientists can perform fundamental research and develop new technology related to more efficient, cleaner combustion of coal and approaches to capturing and storing carbon dioxide. The consortium will operate under the umbrella of Washington University's International Center for Advanced Renewable Energy and Sustainability (I-CARES).

"Arch is committed to working with researchers, policy makers, technology providers and customers to play a positive and constructive role in advancing climate-friendly solutions," said Leer. "We are convinced technology is the answer, and we are confident the research led by the Consortium for Clean Coal Utilization will play a vital role in helping the world chart a successful course to a cleaner and more secure energy future."

Leer will participate in a news conference for the establishment of the Consortium for Clean Coal Utilization in Hong Kong on Dec. 8 in conjunction with the Second International Symposium on Energy & Environment, organized by Washington University's McDonnell International Scholars Academy. "International cooperation is essential," said Leer. "We're fortunate that the consortium will encourage collaborative research with 24 existing university partners, including global partners in China and India who are - or soon will be - the largest consumers of coal."

St. Louis-based Arch Coal is one of the nation's largest coal producers and supplies cleaner-burning, low-sulfur coal to 148 U.S. power plants in 33 states and customers in more than a dozen countries worldwide. Through its national network of mines, Arch Coal provides 6 percent of the electricity generated in the United States.

Forward-Looking Statements: This press release 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.