

Arch Coal Comments on Favorable Decision in U.S. District Court Concerning Triton Acquisition

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ST. LOUIS (August 13, 2004) - Late this afternoon, the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia rejected the Federal Trade Commission's request for a preliminary injunction blocking Arch's acquisition of Triton Coal Company.

"We are pleased that the court has found no cause to prevent this transaction from moving forward," said Steven F. Leer, Arch's president and chief executive officer. "We are confident that completing this acquisition will create significant benefits for our customers, the end users of electricity, employees at both companies, and our shareholders."

James M. Hake, president and chief executive officer of Triton, stated: "We are very pleased that the court found no reason to enjoin our transaction, which we believe to be in the best interests of Triton and its shareholders, customers and other constituents."

The Federal Trade Commission has the right to seek an emergency stay of the District Court's decision. Arch has agreed not to close the transaction for a period of two full business days.

Arch Coal, Inc. (NYSE:ACI) is one of the nation's largest coal producers and mines clean-burning, low-sulfur coal exclusively. Through its subsidiary operations in West Virginia, Kentucky, Virginia, Wyoming, Colorado and Utah, Arch Coal provides the fuel for approximately 6% of the electricity generated in the United States.

Forward-Looking Statements: Statements in this press release 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 information currently available to, and expectations and assumptions deemed reasonable by, the company. 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: the company's expectation of continued growth in the demand for electricity; expected synergies resulting from the acquisition; 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 improved market conditions for the price of coal; expectation that the company will continue to have adequate liquidity from its cash flow from operations, together with available borrowings under its credit facilities, to finance the company's working capital needs; a variety of operational, geologic, permitting, labor and weather related factors; and the other risks and uncertainties which are described from time to time in the company's reports filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission.