

**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): **March 1, 2012 (February 27, 2012)**

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))

Item 5.02 Departure of Directors or Certain Officers; Election of Directors; Appointment of Certain Officers; Compensatory Arrangements of Certain Officers.

On February 27, 2012, Steven F. Leer, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Arch Coal, Inc. (the "Company"), announced he will retire as CEO effective April 26, 2012, the date of the Company's annual stockholder meeting. Mr. Leer will remain with the Company as Chairman of the Company's board of directors.

On February 27, 2012, the Company announced that Mr. Leer will be succeeded as CEO by John W. Eaves, effective April 26, 2012. Mr. Eaves, 54, has served as President and Chief Operating Officer of the Company since April 2006. Mr. Eaves has also been a director of the Company since February 2006. From 2002 to 2006, Mr. Eaves served as the Company's Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer. Mr. Eaves also serves on the board of directors of CoaLogix.

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: March 1, 2012

Arch Coal, Inc.

By: /s/ Robert G. Jones
Robert G. Jones
Senior Vice President—Law, General Counsel and
Secretary