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January 30, 2018

**VIA EDGAR**

Mr. Rufus Decker  
Accounting Branch Chief  
Office of Beverages, Apparel & Mining  
Division of Corporation Finance  
Securities and Exchange Commission  
100 F Street, N.E.  
Washington, DC 20549

**Re: Arch Coal, Inc.  
Form 10-K for the Year Ended December 31, 2016  
Filed February 24, 2017  
Form 8-K Filed October 31, 2017  
Response dated December 21, 2017  
File No. 1-13105**

Dear Mr. Decker:

This letter is to confirm our telephone conversation on January 29, 2018 with Ms. Cvrkel of the staff of the Securities and Exchange Commission regarding our request for an extension of time to respond to your comment letter dated January 5, 2018. As discussed, we require additional time to prepare a response to your letter. It is our current intent to submit our response by February 5, 2018.

Please contact me at (212) 906-1761 if you would like to discuss this request. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

/s/ Keith L. Halverstam

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Keith L. Halverstam  
of LATHAM & WATKINS LLP

cc: John Coleman  
Linda Cvrkel  
John T. Drexler, Arch Coal, Inc.

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