

ARCH COAL INC  
Form 8-K  
October 20, 2004

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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): October 20, 2004 (October 15, 2004)

**Arch Coal, Inc.**

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(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware

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1-13105

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43-0921172

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(State or other jurisdiction  
of incorporation)

(Commission File Number)

(I.R.S. Employer  
Identification No.)

One CityPlace Drive, Suite 300, St. Louis, Missouri 63141

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(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))
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Item 9.01. Financial Statements and Exhibits.

SIGNATURES

EXHIBIT INDEX

Press Release

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On October 15, 2004, Arch Coal, Inc. ( Arch Coal ) issued a press release setting forth Arch Coal 's third quarter 2004 earnings and providing guidance on Arch Coal 's fourth quarter 2004 forecasted results. A copy of Arch Coal 's press release is attached hereto as Exhibit 99.1.

Arch Coal is also providing the following reconciliation of Adjusted EBITDA for its Arch Western Resources, LLC subsidiary:

Arch Western Resources, LLC

Reconciliation of net income to adjusted EBITDA

	<b>Three Months Ended September 30</b>		<b>Six Months Ended September 30</b>	
	<b>2004</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2003</b>
	<b>(Amounts in 000 s)</b>			
Net income	\$ 1,664	\$ 1,785	\$ 10,608	\$ 2,039
Cumulative effect of accounting change				18,278
Interest expense, net	9,249	8,425	27,519	21,481
Depreciation, depletion and amortization Arch Western Resources	21,539	15,882	54,934	46,862
DD&A Equity interest in Canyon Fuel Company, LLC	1,505	5,299	10,359	16,618
Other nonoperating expense	3,388	3,388	10,163	8,283
Minority interest	2,017		2,017	
Adjusted EBITDA	<u>\$ 39,362</u>	<u>\$ 34,779</u>	<u>\$ 115,600</u>	<u>\$ 113,561</u>
Reconciliation of net income to income before other nonoperating expense and cumulative effect of accounting change				
Net income	\$ 1,664	\$ 1,785	\$ 10,608	\$ 2,039
Cumulative effect of accounting change				18,278
Other nonoperating expense	2,017		2,017	
Income before other nonoperating expense and cumulative effect of accounting change	<u>\$ 3,681</u>	<u>\$ 1,785</u>	<u>\$ 12,625</u>	<u>\$ 20,317</u>

The information contained in this Current Report shall not be deemed filed for purposes of Section 18 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the Exchange Act ), or incorporated by reference in any filing under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, or the Exchange Act, except as shall be expressly set forth by specific reference in such a filing.

**Item 9.01. Financial Statements and Exhibits.**

(c) Exhibits.

<b>Exhibit Number</b>	<b>Description of Exhibit</b>
99.1	Press Release of Arch Coal, Inc. dated October 15, 2004.  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: October 20, 2004

ARCH COAL, INC.

By: /s/ Janet L. Horgan  
Janet L. Horgan  
Assistant General Counsel and Assistant  
Secretary

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EXHIBIT INDEX

**Exhibit No.**

**Description**

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99.1	Press Release dated as of October 15, 2004
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