

**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): **December 15, 2015 (December 15, 2015)**

**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**  
(IRS 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 7.01 Regulation FD Disclosure.**

Arch Coal, Inc. ("Arch") today announced that it has elected to exercise the 30-day grace period under its indenture agreements with holders of its 9.875% Senior Notes due 2019, the 7.00% Senior Notes due 2019 and the 7.25% Senior Notes due 2021. This extends the time period the company has to make the approximately \$90 million interest payment due December 15, 2015 without triggering an event of default under the indentures. Events of default will exist under the company's term loan facility and receivables facility as a result of this election and other recent events, but the company is in active discussions with its lenders and does not anticipate the lenders taking any remedial action in respect of any such event of default.

Arch intends to use the 30-day grace period to continue constructive discussions with various creditors regarding its ongoing effort to develop and implement a comprehensive plan to restructure its balance sheet.

**Item 8.01 Other Events.**

On December 15, 2015, Arch issued a press release announcing that it has elected to exercise the 30-day grace period under its indenture agreements with holders of its 9.875% Senior Notes due 2019, the 7.00% Senior Notes due 2019 and the 7.25% Senior Notes due 2021. A copy of the press release is attached hereto as Exhibit 99.1.

**Item 9.01 Financial Statements and Exhibits.**

(d)  
Exhibits

The following exhibits are attached hereto and filed herewith

<u>Exhibit No.</u>	<u>Description</u>
99.1	Press release dated December 15, 2015.

SIGNATURE

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.

Arch Coal, Inc.

Date: December 15, 2015

By: /s/ Robert G. Jones

Name: Robert G. Jones

Title: Senior Vice President — Law, General Counsel and Secretary

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**Exhibit Index**

<u>Exhibit No.</u>	<u>Description</u>
99.1	Press release dated December 15, 2015.

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**ARCH COAL ELECTS TO EXERCISE INTEREST PAYMENT GRACE PERIOD; CONTINUES DISCUSSIONS WITH CREDITORS  
 REGARDING BALANCE SHEET RESTRUCTURING**

**ST. LOUIS — DECEMBER 15, 2015** — Arch Coal, Inc. (“Arch”) (NYSE: ACI) today announced that it has elected to exercise the 30-day grace period under its indenture agreements with holders of its 9.875% Senior Notes due 2019, the 7.00% Senior Notes due 2019 and the 7.25% Senior Notes due 2021. This extends the time period the company has to make the approximately \$90 million interest payment due December 15, 2015 without triggering an event of default under the indentures. Events of default will exist under the company’s term loan facility and receivables facility as a result of this election and other recent events, but the company is in active discussions with its lenders and does not anticipate the lenders taking any remedial action in respect of any such event of default.

Arch intends to use the 30-day grace period to continue constructive discussions with various creditors regarding its ongoing effort to develop and implement a comprehensive plan to restructure its balance sheet.

The company has sufficient liquidity to continue normal mining operations and to meet its obligations in the ordinary course, and it intends to continue providing customers the same high quality services they expect from Arch. The company had approximately \$694.5 million in cash and short term investments as of September 30, 2015. Arch’s operations are strong and reflect the actions it has taken to adapt to rapidly evolving coal markets, including reducing costs and enhancing efficiency across the company.

U.S.-based Arch Coal, Inc. is one of the world’s top coal producers for the global steel and power generation industries, serving customers on five continents. Its network of mining complexes is the most diversified in the United States, spanning every major coal basin in the nation. The company controls more than 5 billion tons of high-quality metallurgical and thermal coal reserves, with access to all major railroads, inland waterways and a growing number of seaborne trade channels. For more information, visit [www.archcoal.com](http://www.archcoal.com).

**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 potential demands for additional collateral for self-bonding; from our ability to complete our potential exchange offers; 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

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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. For a description of some of the risks and uncertainties that may affect our future results, you should see the risk factors described from time to time in the reports we file with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

**CONTACTS:**

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