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**UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**  
**WASHINGTON, DC 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): February 24, 2006 (February 23, 2006)**

**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))
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**Item 5.02 Departure of Directors or Principal Officers; Election of Directors; Appointment of Principal Officers.**

On February 23, 2006, as part of its succession planning process and upon the recommendation of its Personnel and Compensation Committee, the Board of Directors of Arch Coal, Inc. (the "Company") elected Steven F. Leer, the Company's President and Chief Executive Officer, as Chairman of the Board, effective April 28, 2006. Mr. Leer will continue to act as President and Chief Executive Officer until April 28, 2006, at which time Mr. Leer will assume the responsibilities of Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer.

In addition, upon the recommendation of its Personnel and Compensation Committee, the Board of Directors elected John W. Eaves, the Company's Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, as President and Chief Operating Officer of the Company, effective April 28, 2006. The Board of Directors also increased the size of the Board of Directors to eleven and elected Mr. Eaves to fill the newly-created vacancy, effective immediately. Mr. Eaves will serve as a Class II director, and his term will expire at the 2008 annual meeting of stockholders of the Company. Initially, Mr. Eaves will not serve on any committee of the Board of Directors.

Mr. Eaves has served as the Company's Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer since December 2002. From February 2000 to December 2002, Mr. Eaves served as Senior Vice President — Marketing of the Company and from September 1995 to December 2002 as President of Arch Coal Sales Company, Inc. Mr. Eaves also served as Vice President — Marketing of the Company from July 1997 through February 2000. Mr. Eaves serves on the board of directors of ADA-ES, Inc.

The Company's Board of Directors also approved certain revisions to its Corporate Governance Guidelines designating the chairman of the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee to serve as lead director when the Board of Directors meets in executive session and to serve as the primary contact for other directors or stockholders who have questions or concerns regarding management. Those revisions become effective on April 28, 2006. The Company's Corporate Governance Guidelines are published under "Corporate Governance" in the Investors section of the Company's website at archcoal.com. The Board of Directors appointed James R. Boyd, the current Chairman of the Board, as chairman of the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee, effective April 28, 2006. The information on the Company's website is not part of this report.

**Item 7.01 Regulation FD Disclosure.**

On February 24, 2006, the Company issued a press release announcing the changes described above. A copy of the press release is furnished as Exhibit 99.1 hereto and is hereby incorporated by reference.

**Item 9.01 Financial Statements and Exhibits.**

(d) Exhibits

The following exhibits are attached hereto and filed herewith.

Exhibit No.	Description
99.1	Press release dated February 24, 2006.

**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: February 24, 2006

Arch Coal, Inc.

By: /s/ Robert G. Jones

Robert G. Jones

Vice President — Law, General Counsel and Secretary

**Exhibit Index**

Exhibit No.	Description
99.1	Press release dated February 24, 2006.

# News from Arch Coal, Inc.

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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:

Investors — Deck S. Slone 314/994-2717  
Media — Kimberly K. Link 314/994-2936

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**Friday, February 24, 2006**

## **Arch Coal Announces Succession Plan to Ensure Continuous, Effective Leadership; Board Expands to Eleven Directors**

ST. LOUIS (February 24, 2006) — Arch Coal, Inc. (NYSE:ACI) and its Board of Directors have approved a succession plan that will ensure strong and continuous leadership at Arch Coal in the years ahead.

Following Arch Coal's annual meeting on April 28, President and Chief Executive Officer Steven F. Leer will become Chairman and Chief Executive Officer. Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer John W. Eaves will become President and Chief Operating Officer. Eaves will continue to report to Leer.

Also effective April 28, current Chairman of Arch Coal's Board of Directors James R. Boyd will become Chairman of the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee, as well as the corporation's Lead Director.

In addition, Arch Coal's Directors today announced that they had increased the size of the board to 11 members and elected Eaves to fill the newly created position effective immediately.

"The Board of Directors and I have been planning this transition for several years as part of a well-crafted and orderly succession process," Boyd said. "Steve and John are highly capable leaders who are uniquely qualified to lead Arch Coal in today's exciting energy marketplace. The Board and I look forward to working with both of them to build significant new value for Arch's shareholders in the years ahead."

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“It is an honor to accept this new role with the company,” said Leer. “I believe that Arch is exceptionally well positioned for future success, and I look forward to working with the Board, John and the entire Arch Coal team to ensure that we realize our great potential as a company. We will continue to emphasize our three core values — safety, environmental stewardship and shareholder value — which we regard as the central tenets of long-term success in the U.S. coal industry.”

Leer has served as the President and CEO of Arch Coal, Inc. since the company was formed in July 1997. Prior to the formation of Arch Coal, Leer served as President and CEO of Arch Mineral Corporation, one of Arch Coal’s predecessor companies. Leer also has held executive management positions with The Valvoline Company (a subsidiary of Ashland Inc.), Ashland Inc. and Ashland Coal, Inc. Leer has a bachelor of science degree in electrical engineering from the University of the Pacific and an MBA from Washington University’s Olin School of Business. The University of the Pacific awarded him an honorary doctorate in May 1993.

Eaves has served as Executive Vice President and COO for Arch Coal, Inc. since December 2002. Eaves joined the corporation in 1987 after serving in various marketing-related positions at Diamond Shamrock Coal Company and Natomas Coal Company. In 1997, he was elected Vice President of Marketing and President of Arch Coal Sales, the company’s marketing subsidiary, and in 2000 he was elected Senior Vice President of Marketing. Eaves has a bachelor of science degree from the University of Kentucky and is a graduate of the Executive Management Program at Wharton Business School and the Advanced Management Program at Harvard University.

Arch Coal is the nation’s second largest coal producer, with subsidiary operations in Wyoming, Utah, Colorado, West Virginia, Kentucky and Virginia. Through these operations, Arch provides the fuel for approximately 6% of the electricity generated in the United States.

*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 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 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.*

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