

ARCH COAL INC  
Form 8-K  
October 20, 2006

**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): October 20, 2006 (October 20, 2006)**

**Arch Coal, Inc.**

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

|                                                               |                                     |                                                    |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| Delaware<br>(State or other jurisdiction of<br>incorporation) | 1-13105<br>(Commission File Number) | 43-0921172<br>(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 2.02 Results of Operations and Financial Condition.**

On October 20, 2006, Arch Coal, Inc. issued a press release containing its third quarter 2006 financial results. A copy of the press release is attached hereto as exhibit 99.1.

In accordance with General Instruction B.2 of Form 8-K, the information contained in Item 2.02 and the exhibits attached to 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 otherwise subject to the liabilities of that section, nor shall they be deemed 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.**

(d) Exhibits

The following exhibit is attached hereto and filed herewith.

Exhibit

| No.  | Description                           |
|------|---------------------------------------|
| 99.1 | Press release dated October 20, 2006. |

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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, 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 October 20, 2006. |             |