

ARCH COAL INC
Form DEF 14A
March 12, 2009

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**UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, DC 20549**

SCHEDULE 14A

(Rule 14a-101)

Schedule 14A Information

Proxy Statement Pursuant to Section 14(a) of the Securities
Exchange Act of 1934 (Amendment No.)

Filed by the Registrant

Filed by a Party other than the Registrant

Check the appropriate box:

Preliminary Proxy Statement

Confidential, For Use of the Commission Only (as permitted by Rule 14a-6(e)(2))

Definitive Proxy Statement

Definitive Additional Materials

Soliciting Material Pursuant to §240.14a-12

(Name of Registrant as Specified in its Charter)

(Name of Person(s) Filing Proxy Statement, if Other Than the Registrant)

Payment of Filing Fee (Check the appropriate box):

No fee required.

Fee computed on table below per Exchange Act Rules 14a-6(i)(1) and 0-11.

(1) Title of each class of securities to which transaction applies:

(2) Aggregate number of securities to which transaction applies.

(3) Per unit or other underlying value of transaction computed pursuant to Exchange Act Rule 0-11 (set forth the amount on which the filing fee is calculated and state how it was determined):

(4) Proposed maximum aggregate value of transaction:

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Check box if any part of the fee is offset as provided by Exchange Act Rule 0-11(a)(2) and identify the filing for which the offsetting fee was paid previously. Identify the previous filing by registration statement number, or the form or schedule and the date of its filing.

(1) Amount previously paid:

(2) Form, Schedule or Registration Statement No.:

(3) Filing Party:

(4) Date Filed:

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STEVEN F. LEER

Chairman and Chief Executive Officer

March 27, 2009

Dear fellow stockholder:

You are cordially invited to attend our annual meeting of stockholders on Thursday, April 23, 2009. We will hold the meeting at 10:00 a.m., Central Time, in the lower level auditorium at our headquarters located at CityPlace One, One CityPlace Drive, St. Louis, Missouri 63141. You can find maps with directions to our headquarters near the back of the proxy statement that accompanies this letter.

In connection with the annual meeting, we have enclosed a notice of the meeting, a proxy statement and a proxy card. We have also enclosed a copy of our annual report for 2008 which contains detailed information about us and our operating and financial performance.

I hope that you will be able to attend the meeting, but I know that not every stockholder will be able to do so. Whether or not you plan to attend, I encourage you to vote your shares. You may vote by telephone or on the Internet, or complete, sign and return the enclosed proxy card in the postage-prepaid envelope, also enclosed. The prompt execution of your proxy will be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Steven F. Leer

Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer

1 CityPlace Drive, Suite 300 St. Louis, Missouri 63141 t: (314) 994-2700

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

March 27, 2009

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS

The annual meeting of stockholders of Arch Coal, Inc. will be held in the lower level auditorium at our headquarters located at CityPlace One, One CityPlace Drive, St. Louis, Missouri 63141 on Thursday, April 23, 2009 at 10:00 a.m., Central Time. At the annual meeting, stockholders will consider the election of four nominees for director, ratification of the appointment of our independent public accounting firm and any other business properly introduced at the meeting.

By order of the Board of Directors

Robert G. Jones
Senior Vice President-Law, General Counsel and Secretary

PROXY STATEMENT

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PROXY AND VOTING INFORMATION

Why am I receiving these proxy materials?

Our board of directors is soliciting proxies for the 2009 annual meeting of stockholders. On or about March 27, 2009, we expect to begin mailing these proxy materials to all stockholders at the close of business on February 23, 2009, the record date. On the record date, there were 142,862,991 shares of our common stock outstanding.

Where and when is the annual meeting?

We will hold the annual meeting on Thursday, April 23, 2009, at 10:00 a.m., Central Time, in the lower level auditorium at our headquarters located at CityPlace One, One CityPlace Drive, St. Louis, Missouri 63141. You can find maps with directions to our headquarters on page 50 of this proxy statement.

What am I being asked to vote on at the meeting?

We are asking our stockholders to elect the four nominees for director named in this proxy statement and to ratify the appointment of our independent registered public accounting firm.

How many votes do I have?

You have one vote for each share of our common stock that you owned at the close of business on the record date. These shares include:

Shares registered directly in your name with our transfer agent, for which you are considered the stockholder of record;

Shares held for you as the beneficial owner through a broker, bank, or other nominee in street name; and

Shares credited to your account in our employee thrift plan.

What is the difference between holding shares as a stockholder of record and as a beneficial owner ?

If your shares are registered directly in your name with our transfer agent, you are considered the stockholder of record with respect to those shares. We have sent these proxy materials directly to you.

If your shares are held in a stock brokerage account or by a bank or other nominee, you are considered the beneficial owner of the shares held in street name. Your broker, bank or other nominee who is considered the stockholder of record with respect to those shares has forwarded these proxy materials to you. As the beneficial owner, you have the right to direct your broker, bank or other nominee on how to vote your shares by using the voting instruction card included in the mailing or by following their instructions for voting by telephone or the Internet.

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How can I vote my shares?

You can vote by proxy or in person.

How do I vote by proxy?

If you are a stockholder of record, you may vote by telephone, Internet, or mail. Our telephone and Internet voting procedures are designed to authenticate stockholders by using individual control numbers that can be found on the proxy card.

Voting by telephone

You can vote by calling the toll-free telephone number on your proxy card. Telephone voting is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, until 11:59 p.m., Eastern Time, on the day before the meeting. If you vote by telephone, you do not need to return your proxy card.

Voting by Internet

You can vote via the Internet. The web site for Internet voting is on your proxy card. Internet voting is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, until 11:59 p.m., Eastern Time, on the day before the meeting. If you vote via the Internet, you do not need to return your proxy card.

Voting by mail

If you choose to vote by mail, simply mark your proxy card, date and sign it, and return it in the postage-paid envelope provided.

If you submit your proxy using any of these three methods, Steven F. Leer or Robert G. Jones will vote your shares in the manner you indicate. You may specify whether your shares should be voted for all, some, or none of the nominees for director and for or against any other proposals properly introduced at the annual meeting. If you vote by telephone or Internet and choose to vote with the recommendation of our board of directors, or if you vote by mail, sign your proxy card, and do not indicate specific choices, your shares will be voted FOR the election of all four nominees for director and FOR ratification of the appointment of our independent public accounting firm.

If any other matter is presented, your proxy will authorize Steven F. Leer or Robert G. Jones to vote in accordance with their best judgment. At the time this proxy statement was printed, we knew of no matters to be considered at the annual meeting other than those referenced in this proxy statement.

If you wish to give a proxy to someone other than Steven F. Leer or Robert G. Jones, you may strike out their names on the proxy card and write in the name of any other person, sign the proxy, and deliver it to the person whose name has been substituted.

How can I revoke my proxy?

You may revoke a proxy in any one of the following three ways:

Submit a valid, later-dated proxy;

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Notify Robert G. Jones, our secretary, in writing before the annual meeting that you have revoked your proxy; or

Vote in person at the annual meeting.

How do I vote in person?

If you are a stockholder of record, you may attend the annual meeting and cast your vote in person.

If I hold shares in street name, how can I vote my shares?

You can submit voting instructions to your broker, bank or other nominee. In most instances, you will be able to do this by telephone, over the Internet, or by mail. Please refer to the voting instruction card included with these materials by your broker, bank or other nominee.

How do I vote my shares in the dividend reinvestment plan or the direct stock purchase plan?

If you participate in our dividend reinvestment plan or our direct stock purchase plan, your proxy will also serve as an instruction to vote the whole shares you hold under those plans in the manner indicated on the proxy. If your proxy is not received, the shares you hold in those plans will not be voted.

How do I vote my shares held in the employee thrift plan?

If you are both a registered stockholder and a participant in our employee thrift plan, you will receive a single proxy card that covers shares of our common stock credited to your plan account as well as shares of record registered in exactly the same name. Accordingly, your proxy card also serves as a voting instruction for the trustee of the plan. If your plan account is not carried in exactly the same name as your shares of record, you will receive separate proxy cards for individual and plan holdings. If you own shares through this plan and you do not return your proxy by April 13, 2009, the trustee will vote your shares in the same proportion as the shares that are voted by the other participants in the plan. The trustee will also vote unallocated shares of our common stock held in the plan in direct proportion to the voting of allocated shares in the plan for which voting instructions have been received unless doing so would be inconsistent with the trustee's duties.

Is my vote confidential?

Yes. Voting tabulations are confidential except in extremely limited circumstances. Such limited circumstances include contested solicitation of proxies, when disclosure is required by law, to defend a claim against us or to assert a claim by us and when a stockholder's written comments appear on a proxy or other voting material.

What quorum is required for the annual meeting?

In order to have a valid stockholder vote, a quorum must exist at the annual meeting. For us, a quorum exists when stockholders holding a majority of the outstanding shares of our common stock are present or represented at a meeting. For these purposes, shares that are present or represented by proxy at

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the annual meeting will be counted toward a quorum, regardless of whether the holder of the shares or proxy fails to vote on a particular matter or whether a broker with discretionary voting authority fails to exercise such authority with respect to any particular matter.

What vote is required?

Election of four directors (Proxy Item No. 1)

The nominees who receive the most votes for the available positions will be elected. If you indicate withhold authority to vote for a particular nominee on your proxy card, your vote will not count either for or against the nominee. Abstentions are not counted in the election of directors and do not affect the outcome.

Ratification of the appointment of independent public accounting firm (Proxy Item No. 2)

The affirmative vote of a majority of the shares present and entitled to vote at the meeting is required for ratification of the appointment of Ernst & Young LLP as our independent public accounting firm.

If a broker indicates on its proxy that it does not have authority to vote certain shares held in street name, the shares not voted are referred to as broker non-votes. Broker non-votes occur when brokers do not have discretionary voting authority to vote certain shares held in street name on particular proposals under the rules of the New York Stock Exchange, and the beneficial owner of those shares has not instructed the broker how to vote on those proposals. If you are a beneficial owner, your broker, bank or other nominee is permitted to vote your shares on the election of directors and the ratification of the appointment of our independent public accounting firm, even if the holder does not receive voting instructions from you. Shares represented by proxies that are marked vote withheld with respect to the election of any nominee will not be considered in determining whether such nominee has received the affirmative vote of a plurality of the shares. Shares represented by proxies that are marked abstain will have the effect of a negative vote.

Where can I find the voting results?

We intend to announce preliminary voting results at the annual meeting. We will publish the final results in our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the first quarter of 2009, which we expect to file on or before May 11, 2009. You can obtain a copy of the Form 10-Q by logging on to our website at archcoal.com, by calling the Securities and Exchange Commission at 800-SEC-0330 for the location of the nearest public reference room, or through the EDGAR system at sec.gov. Information on our website does not constitute part of this proxy statement.

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CORPORATE GOVERNANCE PRACTICES

Overview

We are dedicated to being a market-driven global leader in the coal industry and to creating superior long-term stockholder value. It is our policy to conduct our business with integrity and an unrelenting passion for providing the best value to our customers. All of our corporate governance materials, including the corporate governance guidelines, our code of conduct and board committee charters, are published under Corporate Governance in the Investors section of our website at archcoal.com. Information on our website does not constitute part of this proxy statement. These materials are also available in print to any stockholder without charge upon request made by telephone at (314) 994-2700 or by mail at Arch Coal, Inc., One CityPlace Drive, Suite 300, St. Louis, Missouri 63141, Attention: Vice President-Government, Investor and Public Affairs. The board of directors regularly reviews these materials, Delaware law, the rules and listing standards of the New York Stock Exchange and SEC regulations, as well as best practices suggested by recognized governance authorities, and modifies the materials as warranted.

Director Independence

It is the board of directors' objective to have an overwhelming majority of directors who are independent. We have adopted in our corporate governance guidelines the criteria established by the New York Stock Exchange for determining whether a director is independent. The board of directors has determined, in its judgment, that ten of the twelve members of the board of directors meet the New York Stock Exchange standards for independence. Other than Steven F. Leer and John W. Eaves, who are executive officers, each member of our board of directors satisfies the independence standards in the corporate governance guidelines. The independent members of the board of directors meet regularly without any members of management present. These sessions are normally held following or in conjunction with regular board meetings. Mr. James R. Boyd, chairman of the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee and lead director, serves as the presiding director during executive sessions.

All members of our Audit, Nominating and Corporate Governance and Personnel and Compensation committees must be independent directors as defined by our corporate governance guidelines. Members of the Audit Committee must also satisfy a separate Securities and Exchange Commission independence requirement, which provides that they may not accept, directly or indirectly, any consulting, advisory or other compensatory fee from us or any of our subsidiaries other than their directors' compensation.

Code of Conduct

All of our employees, including our chief executive officer, our chief financial officer and each of the other executives named in this proxy statement, and directors must act ethically at all times and in accordance with the policies comprising our code of conduct, which is published under Corporate Governance in the Investors section of our website at archcoal.com and available in print to any stockholder upon request. We intend to post amendments to or waivers from (to the extent applicable to one of our directors or executive officers) the code on our website.

Table of Contents**Conflicts of Interest**

Our code of conduct reflects our policy that all of our employees, including the executives named in this proxy statement, and directors must avoid any activity that creates, or may create, a conflict of interest, that might interfere with the proper performance of their duties or that might be hostile, adverse or competitive with our business. In addition, each of our directors and executive officers is encouraged to notify our board of directors when confronted with any situation that may be perceived as a conflict of interest, even if the person does not believe that the situation would violate our code of conduct or corporate governance guidelines. Our board of directors will then determine, after consultation with counsel, whether a conflict of interest exists. Directors who have a material personal interest in a particular issue may not vote on any matters with respect to that issue.

Structure of the Board of Directors

Our certificate of incorporation and bylaws provide for a board of directors that is divided into three classes as equal in size as possible. The classes have three-year terms, and the term of one class expires each year in rotation at that year's annual meeting. The size of the board of directors can be changed by a two-thirds vote of its members and is currently set at 12 members. Vacancies on the board of directors may be filled by a majority of the remaining directors. A director elected to fill a vacancy, or a new directorship created by an increase in the size of the board of directors, serves for the remainder of the full term of the class of directors in which the vacancy or newly created directorship occurred. As a matter of policy, the board of directors will submit the nomination of a director elected to fill a vacancy to the vote of our stockholders at the next annual meeting.

Director Biographies

The following is a list of our directors, their ages as of February 23, 2009, their occupation during the last five years and certain other biographical information:

| Name | Age | Director Since | Term Ends | Occupation and Other Information |
|----------------|------------|-----------------------|------------------|---|
| James R. Boyd | 62 | 1990 | 2011 | Mr. Boyd served as chairman of the board of directors from 1998 to April 2006, when he was appointed our lead director. Mr. Boyd served as Senior Vice President and Group Operating Officer of Ashland Inc. from 1989 until his retirement in 2002. Mr. Boyd also serves on the board of directors of Halliburton Inc. |
| Frank M. Burke | 69 | 2000 | 2009 | Mr. Burke has served as Chairman, Chief Executive Officer and Managing General Partner of Burke, Mayborn Company, Ltd., a private investment and consulting company, since 1984. Mr. Burke also serves on the board of directors of Corrigan Investments, Inc. and is a member of the National Petroleum Council. |

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| Name | Age | Director Since | Term Ends | Occupation and Other Information |
|--------------------|------------|-----------------------|------------------|---|
| John W. Eaves | 51 | 2006 | 2011 | Mr. Eaves has been President and Chief Operating Officer since April 2006. From 2002 to April 2006, Mr. Eaves served as our Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer. Mr. Eaves also serves on the board of directors of ADA-ES, Inc. |
| Patricia F. Godley | 60 | 2004 | 2009 | Since 1998, Ms. Godley has been a partner with the law firm of Van Ness Feldman, practicing in the areas of economic and environmental regulation of electric utilities and natural gas companies. Ms. Godley is also a director of the United States Energy Association. |
| Douglas H. Hunt | 56 | 1995 | 2011 | Since 1995, Mr. Hunt has served as Director of Acquisitions of Petro-Hunt, LLC, a private oil and gas exploration and production company. |
| Brian J. Jennings | 48 | 2006 | 2010 | Since February 2009, Mr. Jennings has been President and Chief Executive Officer of Rise Energy Partners, L.P. From April 2007 to June 2008, Mr. Jennings served as Chief Financial Officer of Energy Transfer Partners GP, L.P., the general partner of Energy Transfer Partners, L.P., a publicly-traded partnership owning and operating a portfolio of midstream energy assets. From March 2004 to December 2006, Mr. Jennings served as Senior Vice President-Corporate Finance and Development and Chief Financial Officer of Devon Energy Corporation. Mr. Jennings served as Senior Vice President-Corporate Finance and Development of Devon Energy Corporation from 2001 to March 2004. |
| Steven F. Leer | 56 | 1992 | 2010 | Mr. Leer has been our Chief Executive Officer since 1992. From 1992 to April 2006, Mr. Leer also served as our President. In April 2006, Mr. Leer became Chairman of the board of directors. Mr. Leer also serves on the boards of the Norfolk Southern Corporation, USG Corp., the Western Business Roundtable, the BRT and the University of the Pacific and is chairman of the Coal Industry Advisory Board. Mr. Leer is past chairman and continues to serve on the boards of the Center for Energy and Economic Development, the National Coal Council and the National Mining Association. |
| Thomas A. Lockhart | 73 | 2003 | 2009 | |

Mr. Lockhart has been a member of the Wyoming State House of Representatives since 2000. Mr. Lockhart also serves on the board of directors of Blue Cross Blue Shield of Wyoming.

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| Name | Age | Director Since | Term Ends | Occupation and Other Information |
|-------------------|------------|-----------------------|------------------|---|
| A. Michael Perry | 72 | 1998 | 2011 | Mr. Perry served as Chairman of Bank One, West Virginia, N.A. from 1993 and as its Chief Executive Officer from 1983 until his retirement in 2001. Mr. Perry also serves on the board of directors of Champion Industries, Inc. and Portec Rail Products, Inc. |
| Robert G. Potter | 69 | 2001 | 2010 | Mr. Potter was Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Solutia, Inc. from 1997 until his retirement in 1999. Mr. Potter also serves on the board of directors of Stepan Company. He is also an investor in and a board member of several private companies. |
| Theodore D. Sands | 63 | 1999 | 2010 | Since 1999, Mr. Sands has served as President of HAAS Capital, LLC, a private consulting and investment company. Mr. Sands also serves on the board of directors of Terra Nitrogen Corporation. |
| Wesley M. Taylor | 66 | 2005 | 2009 | Mr. Taylor was President of TXU Generation, a company engaged in electricity infrastructure ownership and management. Mr. Taylor served at TXU for 38 years prior to his retirement in 2004. Mr. Taylor also serves on the board of directors of FirstEnergy Corporation. |

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The board of directors has the following five committees: Nominating and Corporate Governance, Finance, Personnel and Compensation, Audit and Energy and Environmental Policy. The table below contains information concerning the membership of each of the committees and the number of times the board and each committee met during 2008. Each director attended at least 75% of the total number of meetings of the board and of the committees on which he or she serves. In addition, all directors are expected to attend the annual meeting of stockholders, and all of them attended last year's annual meeting.

| | Board | Nominating and Corporate Governance | Finance | Personnel and Compensation | Audit | Energy and Environmental Policy |
|-------------------------|--------------|--|----------------|---------------------------------------|--------------|--|
| Mr. Boyd | | 5 | | | | |
| Mr. Burke | | | | | 5 | |
| Mr. Eaves | | | | | | |
| Ms. Godley | | | | | | 5 |
| Mr. Hunt | | | | | | |
| Mr. Jennings | | | | | | |
| Mr. Leer | 5 | | | | | |
| Mr. Lockhart | | | | | | |
| Mr. Perry | | | | | | |
| Mr. Potter | | | | 5 | | |
| Mr. Sands | | | 5 | | | |
| Mr. Taylor | | | | | | 5 |
| Number of 2008 meetings | 7 | 5 | 6 | 4 | 9 | 5 |
| 5 Chair | Member | | | | | |

Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee

The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee is responsible for the following items:

identifying individuals qualified to become directors and recommending candidates for membership on the board of directors and its committees, as described under the heading "Nomination Process for Election of Directors" on page 11;

developing and recommending the corporate governance guidelines to the board of directors;

reviewing and recommending compensation of non-employee directors; and

reviewing the effectiveness of board governance, including overseeing an annual assessment of the performance of the board of directors and each of its committees.

The board of directors has determined, in its judgment, that the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee is composed entirely of independent directors as defined in the New York Stock Exchange listing standards and operates under a written charter adopted by the board of directors, a copy of which is published under "Corporate Governance" in the Investors section of our website at archcoal.com and is available in print to any stockholder upon request.

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Finance Committee

The Finance Committee reviews and approves fiscal policies relating to our financial structure, including our debt, cash and risk management policies. The Finance Committee also reviews and recommends to the board appropriate action with respect to significant financial matters, including dividends on our capital stock, major capital expenditures and acquisitions, and funding policies of our employee benefit plans.

Personnel and Compensation Committee

The Personnel and Compensation Committee is responsible for the following items:

- reviewing and recommending to the board of directors our compensation programs;
- reviewing and recommending to the board of directors the participation of executives and other key management employees in the various compensation plans; and
- monitoring our succession planning and management development practices.

The board has determined, in its judgment, that the Personnel and Compensation Committee is composed entirely of independent directors as defined in the New York Stock Exchange listing standards and operates under a written charter adopted by the entire board, a copy of which is published under **Corporate Governance** in the Investors section of our website at archcoal.com and is available in print to any stockholder upon request. The report of the Personnel and Compensation Committee can be found on page 44 of this proxy statement.

Audit Committee

The Audit Committee is responsible for the following items:

- monitoring the integrity of our consolidated financial statements, internal accounting, financial controls, disclosure controls and financial reporting processes;
- confirming the qualifications and independence of our independent registered public accounting firm;
- evaluating the performance of our internal audit function and our independent registered public accounting firm; and
- reviewing our compliance with legal and regulatory requirements.

The Audit Committee is directly responsible for the appointment, compensation and oversight of the work of our independent registered public accounting firm. The board of directors has determined, in its judgment, that the Audit Committee is composed entirely of independent directors as defined in the New York Stock Exchange listing standards and Rule 10A-3 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and operates under a written charter adopted by the board of directors, a copy of which is published under **Corporate Governance** in the Investors section of our website at archcoal.com and is available in print to any stockholder upon request.

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The board of directors has also determined, in its judgment, that Mr. Burke and Mr. Jennings are audit committee financial experts and that each member of the Audit Committee is financially literate. Our corporate governance guidelines do not currently restrict the number of audit committees of public companies on which members of our Audit Committee may serve. The board of directors has determined that none of the members of the Audit Committee currently serves on the audit committees of more than three public companies. The report of the Audit Committee can be found on page 45 of this proxy statement.

Energy and Environmental Policy Committee

The Energy and Environmental Policy Committee reviews, assesses and provides advice to the board of directors on current and emerging energy and environmental policy trends and developments that affect or could affect us. In addition, the Energy and Environmental Policy Committee makes recommendations concerning whether and to what extent we should become involved in current and emerging energy and environmental policy issues.

Compensation Committee Interlocks and Insider Participation

The identities of the directors who served on the Personnel and Compensation Committee during 2008 are set forth under the report of the Personnel and Compensation Committee on page 44 of this proxy statement. None of the directors who served on the Personnel and Compensation Committee during 2008 has been an officer or employee of ours. None of our executives has served on the board of directors or compensation committee of any other entity that has or has had one or more executives serving as a member of our board of directors or compensation committee.

Nomination Process for Election of Directors

The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee has responsibility for assessing the need for new directors to address specific requirements or to fill a vacancy. The committee initiates a search for a new candidate seeking input from our chairman and from other directors. The committee may retain an executive search firm to identify potential candidates. All candidates must meet the requirements specified in our corporate governance guidelines. Candidates who meet those requirements and otherwise qualify for membership on our board of directors are identified, and the committee initiates contact with preferred candidates. The committee regularly reports to the board of directors on the progress of the committee's efforts. The committee meets to consider and approve final candidates who are then presented to the board of directors for consideration and approval. Our chairman or the chairman of the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee may extend an invitation to join the board of directors.

Stockholder recommendations should be submitted in writing to Robert G. Jones, our secretary, and should include information regarding nominees required under our bylaws. Individuals recommended by stockholders will receive the same consideration received by individuals identified to the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee through other means.

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Communicating with the Board of Directors

Our board of directors has established procedures intended to facilitate stockholder communication directly with the board of directors, the non-employee directors or the Audit Committee. Such communications may be confidential or anonymous, and may be reported by phone to our confidential hotline at 866-519-1881 or by writing to the individual directors or group in care of Arch Coal, Inc., One CityPlace Drive, Suite 300, St. Louis, Missouri 63141, Attention: Senior Vice President-Law, General Counsel and Secretary. All such communications are promptly communicated to the chairman of the Audit Committee or our Director of Internal Audit, as appropriate.

ELECTION OF DIRECTORS (PROXY ITEM NO. 1)

The terms of four directors (Messrs. Burke, Lockhart and Taylor and Ms. Godley) will expire at the annual meeting. Our board of directors has nominated each of those individuals for re-election for a three-year term that will expire in 2012. The board of directors is not aware that any nominee will be unwilling or unable to serve as a director. All nominees have consented to be named in the proxy statement and to serve if elected. If, however, a nominee is unavailable for election, your proxy authorizes us to vote for a replacement nominee if the board of directors names one. As an alternative, the board of directors may reduce the number of directors to be elected at the meeting.

The board of directors recommends a vote **FOR** these nominees.

Table of Contents**RATIFICATION OF THE APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM (PROXY ITEM NO. 2)**

Ernst & Young LLP was our independent public accounting firm for 2008. The Audit Committee has appointed Ernst & Young LLP as our independent public accounting firm for 2009. The Audit Committee and the board of directors are requesting that stockholders ratify this appointment as a means of soliciting stockholders' opinions and as a matter of good corporate governance. If the stockholders do not ratify the selection of Ernst & Young LLP, the Audit Committee will consider any information submitted by stockholders in connection with the selection of the independent public accounting firm for the next fiscal year. Even if the selection is ratified, the Audit Committee, in its discretion, may direct the appointment of a different independent public accounting firm at any time during the year if the Audit Committee believes such a change would be in our best interests and the best interests of our stockholders.

Representatives of Ernst & Young LLP will attend the annual meeting and will have the opportunity to make a statement if they desire to do so and to respond to appropriate questions.

During 2008 and 2007, Ernst & Young LLP charged fees for services rendered to us as follows:

| Service | Fee | |
|------------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| | 2008 | 2007 |
| Audit ⁽¹⁾ | \$ 1,409,809 | \$ 1,464,800 |
| Audit-related ⁽²⁾ | 22,238 | 17,000 |
| Tax | | |
| All Other | | |

(1) Audit services performed by Ernst & Young LLP in 2008 and 2007 included the annual financial statement audit (including required quarterly reviews) and other procedures performed by Ernst & Young LLP to form an opinion on our consolidated financial statements.

(2) Audit-related services performed by Ernst & Young LLP include, for 2008 and 2007, a review of certain performance conditions associated with our performance-contingent phantom stock award payouts and a review of certain registration statements we filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission. In addition, audit-related services performed by Ernst & Young LLP in 2008 included a review of certain excise tax refunds.

The Audit Committee has adopted an audit and non-audit services pre-approval policy that requires the committee, or the chairman of the committee, to pre-approve services to be provided by our independent public accounting firm. The Audit Committee will consider whether the services to be provided by the independent public accounting firm are prohibited by the Securities and Exchange Commission's rules on auditor independence and whether the independent public accounting firm is best positioned to provide the most effective and efficient service. The Audit Committee is mindful of the relationship between fees for audit and non-audit services in deciding whether to pre-approve such services. The Audit Committee has delegated to the chairman of the committee pre-approval authority between committee meetings, and the chairman must report any pre-approval decisions to the committee at the next regularly scheduled committee meeting. All non-audit services performed by Ernst & Young LLP in 2008 and 2007 were pre-approved in accordance with the procedures established by the Audit Committee.

The board of directors recommends a vote **FOR** ratification of the appointment of Ernst & Young LLP as our independent public accounting firm.

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EXECUTIVE AND DIRECTOR COMPENSATION

Compensation Discussion and Analysis

Overview

We believe that our success in creating long-term value for our stockholders depends on our ability to attract, motivate and retain highly talented executives. We encourage sustained long-term profitability and increased stockholder value by linking executive compensation to our achievement of financial and operating performance. We use equity-based awards and other mechanisms to align the long-term interests of our executives with those of our stockholders. We have designed elements of our executive compensation program to increase the likelihood that we will retain key employees.

We have determined the type and amount of compensation for each executive after considering a variety of factors, including the executive's position and level of responsibility within our organization, comparative market data and other external market-based factors. Our Personnel and Compensation Committee uses this information when establishing compensation in order to achieve a comprehensive package that emphasizes pay-for-performance and is competitive in the marketplace.

Our Compensation Philosophy

Our Personnel and Compensation Committee believes that an effective executive compensation program should encompass the following fundamental objectives:

Compensation should be competitive.

Compensation should vary with our performance.

Compensation should align the long-term interests of our executives with those of our stockholders.

Compensation should provide a retention incentive.

We have designed our executive compensation program around these beliefs.

Our Compensation Process

The committee uses current compensation levels, performance, long-term career goals, future leadership potential and succession planning, among other factors, in determining appropriate compensation levels for our executives. The committee does not use a formula to weight these factors. However, the committee believes these factors provide context within which to assess the significance of comparative market data and to differentiate the level of compensation among our executives.

Annually, the committee reviews the design of our executive compensation program. In doing so, the committee assesses whether compensation programs used in prior years have successfully achieved our compensation objectives. The committee also considers the extent to which our compensation program is designed to achieve our long-term financial and operating goals. The committee has retained Watson

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Wyatt to help analyze certain comparative market data. Certain members of management participate in this process by assembling and summarizing data used by the committee.

After the end of the performance period to which a particular incentive award relates, the committee reviews our performance relative to the applicable performance targets and recommends payouts based on that performance. The committee retains discretion to recommend payouts that are above or below actual performance levels for the applicable performance period. For purposes of determining the amount of a payout to recommend, the committee may also consider infrequent or non-recurring items that are not reflective of ongoing operations or the effects of major corporate transactions or other items that the committee determines, in its judgment, significantly distort the comparability of our actual performance against the performance targets.

Role of Management

Our chief executive officer and vice president of human resources provide the committee with compensation recommendations for our executives, other than the chief executive officer, including base salary, annual cash incentive opportunity and long-term incentive opportunities. Management provides a current market value for each proposed element and for the total targeted value, as well as the median market value for the executive's peers. Management obtains the comparative market information primarily from materials provided by our compensation consultant. Neither our chief executive officer nor the vice president of human resources recommends his or her own base salary or targeted payouts under our annual or long-term incentive awards.

Annually, the committee reviews the performance of our chief executive officer and makes recommendations to the board of directors regarding his compensation. In doing so, the committee uses information provided by our compensation consultant and certain historical financial and operating performance data provided by management. Historically, the committee has not considered accrued pension benefits, deferred compensation, thrift plan amounts or existing stock ownership in making its recommendations. The committee believes that the compensation opportunities granted to our chief executive officer, while higher in the aggregate than compensation granted to our other executives, is appropriate taking into consideration our chief executive officer's overall leadership responsibilities.

Role of Compensation Consultant

The committee has retained Watson Wyatt to provide information concerning compensation practices, mix of compensation elements and comparative market data. Our compensation consultant provides information used by the committee to assess and determine appropriate levels of executive compensation relative to the marketplace. In doing so, the compensation consultant provides the committee with comparative data for a peer group and for the S&P Midcap 400 Index by executive position, along with other relevant industry data.

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The peer companies included in the information provided by our compensation consultant included those public companies with which we most directly compete on the basis of customers, investors and executive talent. For 2008, those companies included the following:

| | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Alpha Natural Resources, Inc. | Cliffs Natural Resources, Inc. |
| CONSOL Energy, Inc. | Foundation Coal Holdings, Inc. |
| International Coal Group, Inc. | Martin Marietta Materials |
| Massey Energy Company | Minerals Technologies, Inc. |
| Peabody Energy Corporation | Vulcan Materials Co. |

The committee regularly assesses the appropriateness of the peer group used to benchmark our compensation programs. The peer group used by the committee for 2008 was consistent with the peer group used by the committee for 2007. For 2009, the committee added Patriot Coal Corp. to the peer group.

Elements of Our Compensation Program

We use the following compensation elements to achieve the compensation objectives established by the committee:

base salary;

short- and long-term incentive opportunities; and

certain limited perquisites and other benefits.

The committee believes that a higher percentage of total compensation for those executives with a greater ability to influence the achievement of our financial and operating objectives should be variable and, therefore, subject to greater risk. In general, as the position and amount of responsibility for an executive increase, a greater percentage of that executive's total compensation will be variable. As a result, executives with the highest level and amount of responsibility generally have the lowest percentage of their total compensation fixed as base salary and the highest percentage of their total compensation dependent upon short- or long-term incentive awards.

The following table shows the allocation of total targeted compensation for each of the executives named in this proxy statement for each of the last three years:

| | % of Target 2006 Compensation⁽¹⁾ | | | % of Target 2007 Compensation⁽¹⁾ | | | % of Target 2008 Compensation⁽¹⁾ | | |
|--------------------------------|--|---|-----------------------|--|---|-----------------------|--|---|-----------------------|
| | Fixed Base Salary | Performance-Based⁽²⁾ Annual | Long- Term | Fixed Base Salary | Performance-Based⁽²⁾ Annual | Long- Term | Fixed Base Salary | Performance-Based⁽²⁾ Annual | Long- Term |
| Steven F. Leer | 32% | 24% | 44% | 18% | 18% | 64% | 18% | 18% | 64% |
| John T. Drexler ⁽³⁾ | 54% | 24% | 22% | 50% | 25% | 25% | 25% | 13% | 62% |
| C. Henry Besten, Jr. | 32% | 16% | 52% | 25% | 13% | 62% | 25% | 13% | 62% |
| John W. Eaves | 34% | 20% | 46% | 19% | 15% | 66% | 19% | 15% | 66% |
| David N. Warnecke | 32% | 16% | 52% | 25% | 13% | 63% | 23% | 14% | 63% |
| Robert J. Messey | 35% | 18% | 47% | 22% | 11% | 67% | 22% | 11% | 67% |

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- (1) For purposes of determining total compensation, we have included base salary, targeted annual cash incentives and the value of targeted long-term incentive awards. The information used to prepare the table shown above differs from the information contained in the Summary Compensation Table on page 26 primarily because we have used the grant date fair market value for equity awards rather than the current year's amortized expense for such awards recognized in our consolidated financial statements. In addition, we have not considered the increased value of other compensation elements such as pension plans, nor have we assigned cash values to perquisites.
- (2) In determining the percentages shown above, the annual cash incentives and the long-term incentive awards are assumed to be paid at target levels.
- (3) Mr. Drexler was promoted to Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer in April 2008 and, at that time, the percentage of his total compensation dependent upon short- and long-term incentive awards was changed to reflect the level and amount of responsibility associated with his position. The information contained in the table above for 2008 reflects the percentages of total compensation at the time of Mr. Drexler's promotion.

Base Salary We provide each executive with an annual base salary. Base salaries for our executives depend on the executives' experience and scope of responsibilities as well as the median market data for comparable job positions. We increase base salary primarily in response to notable achievements or for changes in scope of responsibilities. In addition, we may increase base salary to remain competitive in the marketplace.

At the beginning of 2008, upon the recommendation of the committee, the board of directors approved increases in the annual base salaries for our executives. In making its recommendations, the committee considered market data provided to the committee by management and by our compensation consultant. In addition, Mr. Drexler received an increase in his annual base salary concurrently with his promotion to Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer in April 2008. In making its recommendation, the committee reviewed comparable market data and considered the increased scope of Mr. Drexler's responsibilities.

Annual Cash Incentive Program We provide approximately 275 key employees, including the executives named in this proxy statement, the opportunity to earn additional cash compensation through annual cash incentive awards. The committee intends for our annual cash incentive program to focus our organization on meeting certain financial and operating objectives by rewarding those key employees with the greatest ability to influence our results.

Early each year, the committee considers whether annual cash incentives should be awarded. If so, the committee recommends to the board of directors the group of employees eligible to receive an award for that year. Annual cash incentive awards contain various incentive levels based on the participant's accountability and impact on our performance, with target opportunities established as a percentage of base salary.

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The following table shows the target opportunities available to the executives named in this proxy statement as a percentage of their base salaries and the actual payouts as a percentage of their base salaries each of the last three years:

| Name | 2006 | | 2007 | | 2008 | |
|----------------------|-------------------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|---|
| | Target as % of Base Salary | Actual Payout as % of Base Salary | Target as % of Base Salary | Actual Payout as % of Base Salary | Target as % of Base Salary | Actual Payout as % of Base Salary |
| Steven F. Leer | 75% | 70% | 100% | 88% | 100% | 176% |
| John T. Drexler | 45% | 41% | 50% | 35% | 50% | 81% ⁽¹⁾ |
| C. Henry Besten, Jr. | 50% | 47% | 50% | 44% | 50% | 88% |
| John W. Eaves | 60% | 56% | 80% | 70% | 80% | 140% |
| David N. Warnecke | 50% | 47% | 50% | 44% | 60% | 105% |
| Robert J. Messey | 50% | 47% | 50% | 44% | 50% | 81% ⁽¹⁾ |

(1) In accordance with the terms of the plan, the payouts for Messrs. Drexler and Messey were prorated to account for Mr. Messey's retirement in April 2008 and Mr. Drexler's concurrent promotion to Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer in April 2008.

Payouts under our annual cash incentive program depend upon our earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization (EBITDA), earnings per share, safety and environmental performance and, for some employees, our production costs per ton. Some or all of these performance measures may be used for our other key employees, and the performance measures may differ for various groups or classifications of employees. By identifying meaningful performance measures and by assigning certain measures greater weight, we are able to more closely align compensation to the achievement of those business objectives over which particular employees have the greatest impact. The following table shows the relative weighting of the performance measures used for the executives named in this proxy statement for 2008:

| Performance Measure | Relative Weighting |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| EBITDA | 50% |
| Earnings per share | 20% |
| Safety | 15% |
| Environmental | 15% |

We generally establish the financial performance levels based on budgeted earnings for the upcoming year, and the target levels are generally consistent with the range of earnings that we provide to investors. We generally establish safety and environmental performance targets based on our prior performance history with the objective of promoting meaningful improvements in those areas. The committee considers the performance targets approved by the board of directors to be challenging given conditions prevailing within the coal industry at the time and, with respect to safety and environmental performance targets, given the strength of our performance in those areas in recent periods. Over the past five years, we have paid amounts to the executives named in this proxy statement under annual cash incentive

awards above the target levels in two years.

In order to inspire performance above the targets we set and to acknowledge certain levels of performance below those targets, annual cash incentive awards contain minimum, target and maximum

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levels for each performance measure. Payouts under the awards depend upon the achievement of our objectives. The table below shows the threshold and maximum performance levels for the executives named in this proxy statement for 2008. We may prorate payouts under the annual cash incentive awards for performance levels that fall within these ranges.

| Performance Measure | Threshold | Maximum |
|----------------------------|------------------|----------------|
| EBITDA | 25% | 200% |
| Earnings per share | 25% | 200% |
| Safety | 25% | 200% |
| Environmental | 25% | 200% |

In early 2009, upon the recommendation of the committee, the board of directors approved payouts under the 2008 annual cash incentive awards above targeted levels based on our performance relative to the targets approved by the board of directors. In addition, the board of directors, upon the recommendation of the committee, established an annual cash incentive program for 2009, identifying those individuals eligible to participate, the target opportunity for each participant and the performance measures that will be used. The overall design of the 2009 annual cash incentive program is generally consistent with the program approved by the board of directors for 2008.

Long-Term Incentive Program Our long-term incentive program is designed to achieve the compensation objectives established by the committee. The committee intends for our long-term incentive program to promote decision-making that creates long-term value for our stockholders. The committee believes that an effective long-term incentive program should also create strong retention incentives for those key employees who are most likely to influence our long-term performance. In addition, we attempt to align the long-term interests of our executives with those of our stockholders by tying a portion of total compensation to appreciation in the value of our common stock.

The committee has retained flexibility in the types of awards that it may use to implement our long-term incentive program. We have used performance units and performance-contingent phantom stock in order to promote the achievement of our long-term financial and operating performance objectives. In addition, we have used restricted stock, restricted stock units, stock options and other awards tied to the value of our common stock in order to align the long-term interests of our executives and our stockholders and for retention purposes. In determining the aggregate value of long-term awards and the mix of those awards for our executives, the committee considers the executives scope of responsibility, peer group market data, market competition for the particular position, relative internal equity and leadership continuity.

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The following table shows the types of awards that we have generally included as a component of our long-term incentive program for each of the last three years and for 2009 and the percentage of targeted long-term compensation associated with each award:

| Compensation Objective | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 | 2009 |
|--------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Performance units | 44% | | | 50% |
| Restricted stock units | 12% | | | |
| Stock options | | 100% | 100% | 50% |
| Performance-contingent phantom stock | 44% | | | |

The following is a description of each of these types of awards:

Performance Units Prior to 2007, we used performance units as a component of our long-term incentive program in order to motivate our executives to focus on our financial and operating performance over a multi-year period. Performance units generally provide an opportunity for key employees to earn additional compensation upon the successful achievement of our objectives over a three-year period. The committee has also retained discretion to further align the long-term interests of our stockholders and executives by providing that payouts under performance units may be in the form of cash, stock or a combination of the two.

In the past, payouts under performance units have depended upon the relationship of the compound annual growth rate of our adjusted EBITDA to that of a peer group and the percentage improvement in our safety and environmental performance. By identifying meaningful performance measures and by assigning certain measures greater weight, the committee has sought to align our long-term incentive program with our overall strategic objectives. We believe that our overall operating results are highly dependent upon our safety and environmental performance. The following table shows the relative weighting of the performance measures under the performance units awarded to the executives named in this proxy statement in 2006.

| Performance Measure | Relative Weighting |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| EBITDA growth | 60% |
| Safety | 20% |
| Environmental | 20% |

For the performance units we granted in 2006, we established the EBITDA performance level based on our long-term financial forecast reviewed by our board of directors and on the recent growth in EBITDA for certain companies within our peer group. For payouts at targeted levels of performance under these awards, we were required to match the weighted compound annual adjusted EBITDA growth for a peer group of companies over the relevant performance period. We established the safety and environmental performance targets based on our prior performance history. For payouts at targeted levels of performance under these awards, we were required to achieve a specified percentage improvement in our three-year average safety and environmental performance over the relevant performance period. The committee considers the performance targets approved by the board of directors to be challenging since higher payouts require us to outperform our peer group over an extended period of time.

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In order to inspire performance above the targets we set and to acknowledge certain levels of performance below those targets, performance unit awards contain minimum, target and maximum levels for each performance measure. Payouts under the awards depend upon the achievement of our objectives. The table below shows the threshold and maximum performance levels under the performance units awarded to the executives named in this proxy statement in 2006. We retained discretion to prorate payouts under the performance units for performance levels that fall within these ranges.

| Performance Measure | Threshold | Maximum |
|----------------------------|------------------|----------------|
| EBITDA growth | 25% | 200% |
| Safety | 100% | 200% |
| Environmental | 100% | 200% |

In early 2009, upon the recommendation of the committee, our board of directors approved payouts under the performance units granted in 2006 at maximum levels based on our achievement of the long-term performance targets approved by the board of directors. In addition, at the beginning of 2009, the board of directors, upon the recommendation of the committee, determined to again include performance units as a component of our long-term incentive program. In making its recommendation, the committee considered the degree to which the stock options granted in 2007 and 2008 satisfied the compensation objectives established by the committee, particularly in light of volatile market conditions during 2008. In addition, the committee reviewed peer group market data provided by our compensation consultant and relevant proxy and other information supplied by management. Based on that information and in an effort to increase the likelihood that our long-term incentive program would accomplish the compensation objectives established by the committee, the committee recommended a combination of performance units and stock options.

Payouts under the performance units granted in 2009 will depend upon our achievement of certain financial and operating performance objectives over a three-year period. The board of directors, upon the recommendation of the committee, determined that our safety and environmental performance remains a critical measure of our long-term success. In redesigning our long-term incentive program for 2009, we evaluated potential performance measures within and outside our industry. Relative total shareholder return has become a preferred long-term performance measure by shareholders because it rewards management for outperforming industry competitors and is directly aligned with shareholder value. As such, to more closely align the interests of our executives and our stockholders, the committee recommended that the board of directors replace EBITDA as the financial measure historically used by our board of directors with a measure of our total stockholder return relative to a peer group consisting of coal industry competitors. For these purposes, we will determine total stockholder return as the compound total stockholder return assuming reinvestment of dividends over the relevant performance period, and our performance will be assessed on a relative basis versus the external benchmark.

Restricted Stock Units and Restricted Stock Prior to 2007, we used restricted stock units as a component of our long-term incentive program designed to align the long-term interests of our stockholders and our executives and for retention purposes. In addition, from time to time, we grant restricted stock to certain key employees as an additional retention incentive. Restricted stock units and

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restricted stock can provide a significant retention incentive since they have real, current value that an executive may forfeit if his or her employment terminates before the awards vest. In addition, restricted stock units and restricted stock satisfy our compensation objectives by promoting long-term decision-making that results in appreciation in the value of our common stock. We have historically used restricted stock units rather than restricted stock because recipients could elect to defer receipt of the common stock and the corresponding tax obligation upon vesting.

When awarded in the past, we have generally conditioned receipt of the common stock underlying these awards on the executive's continued employment. Restricted stock units and restricted stock usually vests ratably over a period of time, generally three or four years. Certain restricted stock awards that we have granted in the past cliff vest at the end of a specified period in order to provide an additional retention incentive. In determining the conditions associated with these types of awards, the committee considers the market competition for the executive's position, the ability of the executive to influence our long-term financial and operating performance and succession planning. The committee has retained discretion whether or not to consider the number of shares of our common stock held by an executive in recommending subsequent awards of restricted stock units or restricted stock.

In early 2008, upon the recommendation of the committee, the board of directors approved one-time awards of restricted stock units to Messrs. Leer and Eaves to provide a significant retention incentive for those key executives and for leadership continuity purposes. One-half of the restricted stock units vests after three years and the remaining one-half of the restricted stock units vests after four years, subject to each executive's continued employment. In determining the number of units to award these executives, the committee considered the executives, experience and scope of responsibilities and certain succession planning goals.

Stock Options In 2007, the board of directors, upon the recommendation of the committee, determined to replace the value of restricted stock units and performance units with stock options. In making its recommendation, the committee determined that long-term stock price appreciation was reflective of our achievement of the long-term performance objectives established by our board of directors. As a result and in an effort to simplify our long-term incentive compensation program, we used stock options as the sole component of our long-term incentive program for 2007 and 2008.

In 2007 and 2008, the committee used stock options in order to achieve each of the compensation objectives established by the committee. Stock options represent the opportunity to buy shares of our common stock at a fixed price at a future date. Under the terms of our stock incentive plan, the exercise price of stock options cannot be less than the fair market value of a share of our common stock on the date of grant. As such, stock options have value for our executives only if the price of our common stock increases after the date of grant.

In the past, our board of directors has generally approved stock options grants in connection with our annual performance assessment and evaluation process. Our policy is to issue stock options on the dates on which the awards are approved and to set the exercise prices of those awards equal to the closing market price of our common stock on that date. In order to provide some retention incentive, our stock options

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generally vest over a stated period measured from the date of grant. Depending upon the strength of the retention incentive intended by the committee, stock options may vest over three or four years. As is typical, the stock options we grant expire after ten years, except in limited circumstances.

In early 2008, upon the recommendation of the committee, the board of directors approved one-time awards of stock options to Messrs. Leer and Eaves to provide a significant retention incentive for those key executives and for leadership continuity purposes. One-half of the stock options vests after three years and the remaining one-half of the stock options vests after four years, subject to each executive's continued employment. In determining the number of stock options to award these executives, the committee considered the executives' experience and scope of responsibilities and certain succession planning goals.

Performance-Contingent Phantom Stock On occasion, we have used performance-contingent phantom stock in order to provide our executives with an opportunity to receive additional compensation for exceptional long-term financial performance. For example, in 2005, we granted performance-contingent phantom stock to our executives. Payouts under those awards depended upon the attainment of a sustained average closing price of our common stock and the achievement of a minimum EBITDA over the trailing 12-month period. Under the awards we granted in 2005, one-half of the performance-contingent phantom stock was conditioned upon an average closing price of our common stock for a period of 20 consecutive trading days equal to \$35.00 or more, and the remaining one-half was conditioned upon an average closing price of our common stock for a period of 20 consecutive trading days equal to \$40.00 or more, in each case subject to the achievement of certain EBITDA requirements. When granted, the committee considered the performance objectives used for these awards to be particularly challenging since higher payouts required long-term stock price appreciation to be attributable, in part, to our achievement of specified levels of EBITDA instead of appreciation in the broader equity market or in the coal industry generally.

In early 2008, our board of directors determined that the performance conditions associated with one-half of the 2005 performance-contingent phantom stock that had not yet vested were satisfied and, as a result, we paid out that portion of the award.

Perquisites and Other Benefits We provide various perquisites and other benefits to our executives for a variety of different reasons, including our intent to attract and retain executives with a comprehensive compensation package. Many of these perquisites and other benefits are not tied to any formal performance objectives. We provide the following perquisites to our executives:

Financial and Tax Planning Services We provide our executives with financial and tax planning services in order to assist them with the complexities of the various compensation arrangements that we maintain, retirement planning and compliance with our stock ownership guidelines.

Club Membership Dues We provide a limited number of executives with memberships for dining and/or country clubs. We intend for these club memberships to provide access to facilities that our executives may use for more private business and business entertainment meetings.

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Other Perquisites We provide certain executives with a number of other perquisites, including limited personal use of our corporate aircraft and executive physical examinations. For more information about these perquisites, including the incremental cost to us for providing those perquisites, you should see the table included as a footnote to the Summary Compensation Table beginning on page 26.

Participation in Benefit Plans and Other Compensation Arrangements Each of our executives is eligible to participate in the same health and welfare plans as our other eligible employees. These plans include medical and dental insurance, life, travel and accidental death and dismemberment insurance, short- and long-term disability coverage and participation in our qualified defined benefit pension plan and qualified defined contribution plan. In addition, each of our executives is eligible to participate in our supplemental retirement plan and non-qualified deferred compensation plan, and each of our executives is subject to an employment agreement.

The following is a summary of certain benefit plans and other compensation arrangements available to our executives but for which our other employees may not be eligible:

Supplemental Retirement Plan Benefits We sponsor a tax-qualified defined benefit plan covering all of our eligible employees, including our executives. The Internal Revenue Code limits the amount of qualified retirement benefits we may provide for certain employees. As a result, we sponsor a supplemental retirement plan that provides eligible employees, including the executives named in this proxy statement, with additional retirement benefits that would otherwise be available under our defined benefit pension plan but for the limitations contained in the Internal Revenue Code. For more information about our defined benefit pension plan and our supplemental retirement plan, including the accumulated benefits attributable to the executives named in this proxy statement, you should see Pension Benefits beginning on page 31.

Non-Qualified Deferred Compensation Plan We sponsor a tax-qualified defined contribution plan covering all of our eligible employees, including the executives named in this proxy statement. Under this plan, eligible employees may contribute up to 50% of their base salaries to the plan, subject to certain limitations contained in the Internal Revenue Code. We contribute one dollar for each dollar contributed by our employees, up to a maximum of 6% of employees base salaries. The Internal Revenue Code limits the amount certain of our employees may contribute to our defined contribution plan in any tax year. As a result, we sponsor a non-qualified deferred compensation plan that allows eligible employees, including the executives named in this proxy statement, to defer receipt of a portion of their base salaries and certain annual and long-term cash incentive awards not subject to these limits. The deferred compensation plan provides higher-paid employees with the full company matching contribution to which they would otherwise be entitled under our defined contribution plan but for the limitations contained in the Internal Revenue Code. For more information about our deferred compensation plan, including information about amounts attributable to the executives named in this proxy statement, you should see Non-Qualified Deferred Compensation beginning on page 33.

Employment Agreements In order to provide certain key employees, including the executives named in this proxy statement, with some financial security in the event their employment with our organization

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is terminated without cause or under certain circumstances following a change of control, we provide those employees with employment agreements. Those agreements provide for cash payments to the key employees in the event their employment with us is terminated under certain circumstances. We believe that the employment agreements we maintain with our key employees provides a meaningful mechanism by which to retain those individuals who are most capable of affecting our future performance. For more information about the employment agreements with the executives named in this proxy statement, you should see *Potential Payments Upon Termination of Employment or Change-in-Control* beginning on page 34.

Stock Ownership Guidelines Our board of directors has adopted stock ownership guidelines that are intended to promote meaningful stock ownership by our executives. These guidelines specify a number of shares of our common stock, including unvested restricted stock, unvested restricted stock units, shares held through our qualified defined contribution plan and hypothetical shares of our common stock held through our non-qualified deferred compensation plan, that our executives must accumulate by January 1, 2009 or, if elected after January 1, 2004, within five years of becoming an executive. The specific share holding requirements are determined based on a multiple of base salary ranging from one to three times, with the higher multiples applicable to the executives having the highest levels of responsibility. As of December 31, 2008, each of the individuals who has been an executive for at least five years satisfied the stock ownership goal adopted by the board of directors.

Impact of Tax Considerations on Compensation

The Internal Revenue Code limits the amount of the tax deduction we are entitled to take for compensation paid to the executives named in this proxy statement for a particular year unless the compensation meets specific standards. We may deduct compensation in excess of \$1 million if compensation is performance-based and is paid pursuant to a plan that meets certain requirements. In developing, implementing and administering our executive compensation program, the committee considers the impact of these limits and balances the desire to maximize the deductibility of compensation with the goal of attracting, motivating and retaining highly-talented executives.

We generally seek to maximize the tax deductibility of all elements of compensation. However, in light of the need to maintain flexibility in administering our executive compensation program, the committee retains discretion to recommend to the board of directors compensation in excess of the limits, even if a portion of it may not be deductible.

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The following table is a summary of compensation information for our chief executive officer, our chief financial officer, our former chief executive officer and each of the other three most highly compensated executives for each of the last three years:

| Name and Title | Year | Salary (\$) ⁽¹⁾ | Bonus (\$) | Stock Awards (\$) ⁽²⁾ | Option Awards (\$) ⁽²⁾ | Non-Equity Incentive Plan Compensation (\$) ⁽³⁾ | Change in Pension Value and Nonqualified Deferred | All Other Compensation (\$) ⁽⁵⁾ | Total (\$) |
|--|------|-------------------------------|---------------|--|---|--|---|--|---------------|
| | | | | | | | Compensation Earnings (\$) ⁽⁴⁾ | | |
| F. Leer, President and Chief Executive Officer | 2008 | \$ 850,000 | | \$ 450,792 | \$ 1,819,085 | \$ 3,037,000 | \$ 122,273 | \$ 282,459 | \$ 6,560,539 |
| | 2007 | 800,000 | | 224,775 | 468,983 | 1,272,800 | 198,008 | 102,634 | 3,067,190 |
| | 2006 | 750,000 | | 2,999,550 | 152,011 | 1,433,200 | 190,858 | 89,853 | 5,614,412 |
| Drexler, Vice President and Chief Financial Officer | 2008 | 298,632 | | | 289,110 | 407,000 | (6) | 93,078 | 1,087,820 |
| | 2007 | 207,270 | | | 36,953 | 104,432 | 7,251 | 12,436 | 365,912 |
| | 2006 | 189,615 | | | 10,226 | 82,410 | 14,543 | 11,481 | 307,275 |
| W. Besten, Jr., Vice President- Strategic Development | 2008 | 290,000 | | 83,011 | 924,398 | 968,690 | 75,544 | 39,892 | 2,381,535 |
| | 2007 | 280,000 | | 107,320 | 167,934 | 389,300 | 82,933 | 36,911 | 1,064,298 |
| | 2006 | 265,000 | | 414,187 | 39,027 | 589,850 | 91,685 | 33,560 | 1,427,659 |
| J. Eaves, Vice President, Chief Operating Officer and Director | 2008 | 535,000 | | 732,515 | 1,171,341 | 1,674,000 | 26,170 | 170,953 | 4,309,989 |
| | 2007 | 500,000 | | 611,786 | 303,797 | 690,400 | 68,185 | 125,440 | 2,299,008 |
| | 2006 | 450,000 | | 2,197,614 | 49,929 | 811,200 | 83,273 | 78,971 | 3,670,787 |
| N. Warnecke, Vice President-Marketing and Chief Financial Officer | 2008 | 360,000 | | 149,576 | 560,231 | 1,123,750 | 17,665 | 51,534 | 2,252,196 |
| | 2007 | 350,000 | | 179,326 | 219,213 | 233,300 | 49,686 | 35,196 | 1,067,621 |
| | 2006 | 275,000 | | 428,873 | 18,263 | 253,900 | 56,701 | 34,391 | 1,066,137 |
| J. Messey, Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer | 2008 | 120,000 | | 301,858 | 1,393,715 | 108,500 | 24,574 | 52,486 | 2,000,629 |
| | 2007 | 350,000 | | 354,015 | 157,890 | 397,300 | 63,229 | 51,617 | 1,373,041 |
| | 2006 | 335,000 | | 1,432,161 | 47,568 | 582,800 | 52,982 | 51,765 | 2,509,276 |

(1) Amounts shown include amounts that the executives named in this proxy statement elected to defer, on a discretionary basis, pursuant to our deferred compensation plan.

(2) Amounts shown represent the compensation cost we recognized in our consolidated financial statements as a result of certain stock or stock option awards made during the year indicated and in prior years. We have determined the compensation cost in accordance with Statement of Financial Accounting Standards No. 123R, *Share-Based Payment*. The compensation cost is subject to certain estimates and assumptions described in Note 16 to our consolidated financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2008 and under the heading *Stock-Based Compensation* in the section entitled *Critical Accounting Policies* included in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2008. Amounts shown do not necessarily represent the actual value

that may ultimately be received by the executives.

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(3) Amounts shown include the following payouts:

| Name | Year | Annual Cash Incentive Awards | Performance Unit Awards |
|----------------------|-------------|---|--|
| Steven F. Leer | 2008 | \$ 1,537,000 | \$ 1,500,000 |
| | 2007 | 700,800 | 572,000 |
| | 2006 | 523,200 | 910,000 |
| John T. Drexler | 2008 | 247,000 | 160,000 |
| | 2007 | 73,432 | 31,000 |
| | 2006 | 82,410 | |
| C. Henry Besten, Jr. | 2008 | 262,200 | 706,490 |
| | 2007 | 122,700 | 266,600 |
| | 2006 | 123,300 | 466,550 |
| John W. Eaves | 2008 | 774,000 | 900,000 |
| | 2007 | 350,400 | 340,000 |
| | 2006 | 251,200 | 560,000 |
| David N. Warnecke | 2008 | 390,600 | 733,150 |
| | 2007 | 153,300 | 80,000 |
| | 2006 | 127,900 | 126,000 |
| Robert J. Messey | 2008 | 108,500 | |
| | 2007 | 153,300 | 244,000 |
| | 2006 | 155,800 | 427,000 |

Amounts shown include amounts that the executives named in this proxy statement elected to defer, on a discretionary basis, pursuant to our deferred compensation plan.

(4) Amounts shown represent the changes in the actuarial present value of the accumulated benefits for the executives named in this proxy statement under our defined benefit pension plans, including our supplemental retirement plan, computed in accordance with Statement of Financial Accounting Standards No. 87, *Employer's Accounting for Pensions*. The present value of accumulated benefits is subject to certain actuarial assumptions described in Note 13 to our consolidated financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2008 and under the heading *Employee Benefit Plans* in the section entitled *Critical Accounting Policies* included in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2008.

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(5) Amounts shown include the following:

| Name | Year | Credits | | Dividend Equivalents | Financial Planning Services | Club | | Other* | Total |
|----------------------------|------|---|---|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|------------|------------|
| | | Matching Contributions to Thrift Plan | Under Deferred Compensation Plan | | | Membership Dues | Reimbursements Tax | | |
| Steven F. Leer | 2008 | \$ 12,545 | \$ 35,587 | \$ 11,781 | \$ 13,608 | \$ 9,675 | \$ 98,943 | \$ 100,320 | \$ 282,459 |
| | 2007 | 12,250 | 33,431 | 2,376 | 9,016 | 11,860 | 15,399 | 18,302 | 102,634 |
| | 2006 | 11,513 | 31,895 | 9,687 | 9,150 | 7,620 | 13,057 | 6,931 | 89,853 |
| John T. Drexler | 2008 | 10,343 | | | 6,328 | 49,560 | 26,847 | | 93,078 |
| | 2007 | 12,436 | | | | | | | 12,436 |
| | 2006 | 11,481 | | | | | | | 11,481 |
| C. Henry Besten, Jr. | 2008 | 12,875 | 5,559 | 260 | 11,200 | | 8,998 | 1,000 | 39,892 |
| | 2007 | 10,829 | 4,818 | 846 | 11,281 | | 8,667 | 470 | 36,911 |
| | 2006 | 11,058 | 4,494 | 2,214 | 10,320 | | 5,125 | 349 | 33,560 |
| John W. Eaves | 2008 | 12,780 | 17,093 | 7,808 | 12,100 | 8,760 | 71,540 | 40,872 | 170,953 |
| | 2007 | 12,827 | 14,315 | 28,421 | 13,802 | 15,780 | 23,942 | 16,353 | 125,440 |
| | 2006 | 12,645 | 13,520 | 27,901 | 9,040 | 7,020 | 8,082 | 763 | 78,971 |
| David N. Warnecke | 2008 | 13,341 | 8,001 | 272 | 9,934 | | 19,986 | | 51,534 |
| | 2007 | 12,878 | 3,463 | 432 | 9,234 | | 5,681 | 3,509 | 35,196 |
| | 2006 | 12,997 | 2,218 | 528 | 10,660 | | 6,051 | 1,936 | 34,391 |
| Robert J. Messey | 2008 | 7,874 | 7,476 | 68 | 9,488 | 2,115 | 25,404 | 61 | 52,486 |
| | 2007 | 13,500 | 6,851 | 1,052 | 9,368 | 8,020 | 12,826 | | 51,617 |
| | 2006 | 13,200 | 6,294 | 6,441 | 8,600 | 7,620 | 8,382 | 1,228 | 51,765 |

* Other items shown in the table above include reimbursement of the costs of annual physical examinations, reimbursement of spousal travel expenses incurred in connection with their attendance at an out-of-town board meeting in 2006 for Messrs. Leer, Eaves and Messey, personal use of corporate aircraft in 2008 and 2007 for Messrs. Leer and Eaves and matching contributions to institutions of higher education in 2006 for Mr. Leer. We determined the aggregate incremental cost of financial planning services, club membership dues, annual physical examinations and spousal travel expenses by reference to our actual out-of-pocket costs for such benefits or a prorated portion of our actual out-of-pocket costs in the event such costs were not separately identifiable. For 2008, the incremental cost of the personal use of corporate aircraft for Mr. Leer was \$94,224 and the incremental cost of the personal use of corporate aircraft for Mr. Eaves was \$40,872. We determined the aggregate incremental cost of the personal use of corporate aircraft by reference to a cost-per-flight-hour charge developed by a nationally-recognized and independent service. This flight-hour charge reflects the direct operating costs of the aircraft, including fuel, additives and lubricants, airport fees and assessments, as well as aircraft landing and parking, customs and permit fees, in-flight supplies and food, and flight planning

and weather services. In addition, the flight-hour charge provides for periodic engine and auxiliary power unit overhauling, outside labor and maintenance parts for the airframe, engine and avionics, crew travel expenses and other miscellaneous costs.

- (6) The value of Mr. Drexler's pension account decreased \$2,264 during 2008.
- (7) Amounts shown in the tables above include information for Mr. Messey, our former Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, through the date of his retirement in April 2008.

Table of Contents**Grants of Plan-Based Awards for the Year Ended December 31, 2008**

The following table shows information relating to the grants of certain equity and non-equity awards made to the executives named in this proxy statement during 2008:

| Name | Grant Date | Estimated Future Payouts Under Non-Equity Incentive Plan Awards | | | All Other Stock Awards: Number of Shares of Stock or Units (#) ⁽²⁾ | All Other Option Awards: Number of Securities Underlying Options (#) ⁽³⁾ | Exercise or Base Price of Option Awards (\$/Sh) | Grant Date Fair Value of Stock and Option Awards ⁽⁴⁾ |
|----------------------|-------------------------|---|----------------------------|-----------------------------|---|---|---|---|
| | | Threshold (\$) ⁽¹⁾ | Target (\$) ⁽¹⁾ | Maximum (\$) ⁽¹⁾ | | | | |
| Steven F. Leer | 02/21/08 | \$ 212,500 | \$ 850,000 | \$ 1,700,000 | | | \$ | |
| | 02/21/08 | | | | | 191,200 | 52.69 | 4,234,188 |
| | 02/21/08 | | | | 32,550 | | | 1,715,060 |
| John T. Drexler | 02/21/08 ⁽⁵⁾ | 45,048 | 144,263 | 270,561 | | | | |
| | 02/21/08 | | | | | 4,650 | 52.69 | 95,930 |
| | 04/24/08 ⁽⁵⁾ | 40,625 | 162,500 | 325,000 | | | | |
| | 04/24/08 | | | | | 34,400 | 56.84 | 760,240 |
| C. Henry Besten, Jr. | 02/21/08 | 36,250 | 145,000 | 290,000 | | | | |
| | 02/21/08 | | | | | 31,000 | 52.69 | 639,530 |
| John W. Eaves | 02/21/08 | 107,000 | 428,000 | 856,000 | | | | |
| | 02/21/08 | | | | | 122,750 | 52.69 | 2,725,563 |
| | 02/21/08 | | | | 21,700 | | | 1,143,373 |
| David N. Warnecke | 02/21/08 | 54,000 | 216,000 | 432,000 | | | | |
| | 02/21/08 | | | | | 42,300 | 52.69 | 872,649 |
| | 02/21/08 | | | | 5,000 | | | 263,450 |
| Robert J. Messey | 02/21/08 | 45,000 | 180,000 | 360,000 | | | | |
| | 02/21/08 | | | | | 52,450 | 52.69 | 1,082,044 |

(1) Amounts represent the potential amounts payable to the executives named in this proxy statement under the annual cash incentive awards for 2008 assuming threshold, target and maximum levels of performance. Amounts

paid to the executives named in this proxy statement under our annual cash incentive awards for 2008 have been included under the column entitled *Non-Equity Incentive Plan Compensation* in the Summary Compensation Table on page 26 of this proxy statement.

- (2) Amounts represent the number of shares of restricted stock or restricted stock units we granted to the executives named in this proxy statement during 2008. You should see the information under the heading *Elements of Our Compensation Program* in the section entitled *Compensation Discussion and Analysis* beginning on page 14 of this proxy statement for more information about our restricted stock and restricted stock unit awards.
- (3) Amounts represent the number of stock options we granted to the executives named in this proxy statement during 2008. You should see the information under the heading *Elements of Our Compensation Program* in the section entitled *Compensation Discussion and Analysis* beginning on page 14 of this proxy statement for more information about our stock option awards.
- (4) Amounts represent the grant date fair value of restricted stock, restricted stock units or stock options we awarded to the executives named in this proxy statement for 2008 determined in accordance with Statement of Financial Accounting Standards No. 123R, *Share-Based Payment*. The compensation cost is subject to certain estimates and assumptions described in Note 16 to our consolidated financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2008 and under the heading *Stock-Based Compensation* in the section entitled *Critical Accounting Policies* included in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2008.
- (5) In accordance with the terms of the plan, the estimated future payouts under our annual cash incentive program for Mr. Drexler are prorated to account for Mr. Drexler's promotion to Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer in April 2008.

Table of Contents**Outstanding Equity Awards at December 31, 2008**

The following table shows information relating to the equity awards previously made to the executives named in this proxy statement which remain outstanding at December 31, 2008.

| Name | Option Awards | | | | Stock Awards | | | |
|-----------------|---|---|---|---------------------|------------------------|---|---|---|
| | Number of Securities Underlying Unexercised Options (#) | Number of Securities Underlying Unexercised Options (#) | Equity Incentive Plan Awards: Number of Securities Underlying Unexercised Options (#) | Exercise Price (\$) | Option Expiration Date | Number of Shares or Units of Stock That Have Not Vested (#) | Market Value of Unearned Shares, Units or Other Rights That Have Not Vested (\$) ⁽¹⁾ | Equity Incentive Plan Awards: Market Payout Value of Unearned Shares, Units or Other Rights That Have Not Vested (\$) |
| Steven F. Leer | 218,900 ⁽²⁾ | | | \$ 9.08 | 02/28/12 | | \$ | \$ |
| | 218,900 ⁽³⁾ | | | 11.30 | 04/25/12 | | | |
| | 44,350 ⁽⁴⁾ | 88,700 ⁽⁴⁾ | | 32.99 | 02/22/17 | | | |
| | | 127,100 ⁽⁵⁾ | | 52.69 | 02/21/18 | | | |
| | | 64,100 ⁽⁶⁾ | | 52.69 | 02/21/18 | | | |
| | | | | | | 2,100 ⁽⁷⁾ | | |
| | | | | | | 32,550 ⁽⁸⁾ | | |
| <i>Total</i> | 482,150 | 279,900 | | | | 34,650 | | |
| John T. Drexler | 2,074 ⁽²⁾ | | | \$ 9.08 | 02/28/12 | | \$ | \$ |
| | 2,074 ⁽³⁾ | | | 11.30 | 04/25/12 | | | |
| | 5,400 ⁽⁹⁾ | | | 16.10 | 07/22/14 | | | |
| | 2,900 ⁽⁴⁾ | 5,800 ⁽⁴⁾ | | 32.99 | 02/22/17 | | | |
| | | 4,650 ⁽⁵⁾ | | 52.69 | 02/21/18 | | | |
| | | 34,400 ⁽¹⁰⁾ | | 56.84 | 04/24/18 | | | |

| | | | | | |
|--------------|------------------------|-----------------------|-------|----------|-----------------------|
| <i>Total</i> | 12,448 | 44,850 | | | |
| C. Henry | | | | | |
| Besten, Jr. | 14,050 ⁽³⁾ | | 11.30 | 04/25/12 | |
| | 15,884 ⁽⁴⁾ | 31,766 ⁽⁴⁾ | 32.99 | 02/22/17 | |
| | | 31,000 ⁽⁵⁾ | 52.69 | 02/21/18 | 766 ⁽⁷⁾ |
| <i>Total</i> | 29,934 | 62,766 | | | 766 |
| John W. | | | | | |
| Eaves | 18,200 ⁽¹¹⁾ | | 10.98 | 02/22/11 | |
| | 71,900 ⁽²⁾ | | 9.08 | 02/28/12 | |
| | 71,900 ⁽³⁾ | | 11.30 | 04/25/12 | |
| | 28,734 ⁽⁴⁾ | 57,466 ⁽⁴⁾ | 32.99 | 02/22/17 | |
| | | 80,000 ⁽⁵⁾ | 52.69 | 02/21/18 | |
| | | 42,750 ⁽⁶⁾ | 52.69 | 02/21/18 | 1,266 ⁽⁷⁾ |
| | | | | | 21,700 ⁽⁸⁾ |
| <i>Total</i> | 133,834 | 180,216 | | | 22,966 |
| David N. | | | | | |
| Warnecke | 20,734 ⁽⁴⁾ | 41,466 ⁽⁴⁾ | 32.99 | 02/22/17 | |
| | | 42,300 ⁽⁵⁾ | 52.69 | 02/21/18 | |
| | | | | | 800 ⁽⁷⁾ |
| | | | | | 5,000 ⁽¹²⁾ |
| <i>Total</i> | 20,734 | 83,766 | | | 5,800 |
| Robert J. | | | | | |
| Messey | | 52,450 ⁽⁵⁾ | 52.69 | 02/21/18 | |
| <i>Total</i> | | 52,450 | | | |

(1) Calculated using the closing price for our common stock as reported on the New York Stock Exchange on December 31, 2008.

(2) Stock options vested at the rate of 25% per year, with vesting dates of February 28, 2003, February 28, 2004, February 28, 2005 and February 28, 2006.

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- (3) Stock options vested at the rate of 25% per year, with vesting dates of April 25, 2003, April 25, 2004, April 25, 2005 and April 25, 2006.
- (4) Stock options vest at the rate of 33 1/3% per year, with vesting dates of February 22, 2008, February 22, 2009 and February 22, 2010.
- (5) Stock options vest at the rate of 33 1/3% per year, with vesting dates of February 21, 2009, February 21, 2010 and February 21, 2011.
- (6) One-half of the stock options vest on each of February 21, 2011 and February 21, 2012.
- (7) Restricted stock units vest at the rate of 33 1/3% per year, with vesting dates of February 23, 2007, February 23, 2008 and February 23, 2009.
- (8) One-half of the restricted stock units vest on each of February 21, 2011 and February 21, 2012.
- (9) Stock options vested at the rate of 33 1/3% per year, with vesting dates of July 22, 2005, July 22, 2006 and July 22, 2007.
- (10) Stock options vest at the rate of 33 1/3% per year, with vesting dates of April 24, 2009, April 24, 2010 and April 24, 2011.
- (11) Stock options vested at the rate of 33 1/3% per year, with vesting dates of February 22, 2002, February 22, 2003 and February 22, 2004.
- (12) Restricted stock vests on February 21, 2011.

Option Exercises and Stock Vested for the Year Ended December 31, 2008

The following table shows information relating to the exercise or vesting of certain equity awards previously made to the executives named in this proxy statement during 2008.

| Name | Option Awards | | Stock Awards | |
|----------------------|------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| | Number of Shares | Value Realized | Number of Shares | Value Realized |
| | Acquired on | on | Acquired on | Value Realized |
| | Exercise (#) | Exercise (\$) ⁽¹⁾ | Vesting (#) ⁽²⁾ | on Vesting (\$) ⁽³⁾ |
| Steven F. Leer | | \$ | 96,400 | \$ 4,772,997 |
| John T. Drexler | | | | |
| C. Henry Besten, Jr. | 14,050 | 652,271 | 11,767 | 591,582 |
| John W. Eaves | 20,000 | 1,136,320 | 157,298 | 7,232,053 |
| David N. Warnecke | | | 20,200 | 1,080,254 |
| Robert J. Messey | 49,182 | 1,804,818 | 41,232 | 2,041,880 |

- (1) Amounts shown represent the value realized upon exercise of outstanding stock options calculated by multiplying the number of shares acquired upon exercise by the difference between the option exercise price and the fair market value of our common stock on the date of exercise.
- (2) Amounts shown represent the portion of outstanding restricted stock units and performance-contingent phantom stock awards that vested during 2008, including shares that the executive elected to defer, on a discretionary basis, under our deferred compensation plan as follows: 96,400 shares for Mr. Leer and 38,325 shares for Mr. Eaves.
- (3) Amounts shown represent the value realized upon vesting of restricted stock units or performance-contingent phantom stock awards calculated by multiplying the number of shares or units that vested during 2008 by the fair market value of our common stock on the date of vesting.

Pension Benefits

Defined Benefit Pension Plan. We sponsor a defined benefit pension plan covering all of our eligible employees, including our executives. Employees become eligible to participate in the plan after working

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1,000 hours. We credit each participant in the plan with a cash balance account. Participants become vested in their cash balance accounts after serving three years with us. Upon retirement or upon termination of employment following three years of service with us, participants or their beneficiaries may elect to receive benefits in a lump sum, in installments over a period of time or at a later date. Under the terms of the plan, normal retirement occurs on the first day of the month following the date a participant turns 65.

We credit each participant's cash balance account with a monthly interest amount based on the U.S. Treasury rate, subject to a minimum rate of 4.25% and a maximum rate of 10%. In addition, we may provide transition credits to employees who participated in certain predecessor plans for a period up to the number of years of credited service with the predecessor plan, subject to certain maximum amounts depending upon the particular plan. The transition contribution rates range from 1% to 4% of compensation, depending upon the participant's age at the end of the year. Annually, we also credit each participant's cash balance account with an amount, reflected as a percentage of compensation, based on the participant's age at the end of the year. For purposes of determining the contribution amount, compensation includes salary, regular wages, overtime pay, earned vacation pay, short-term incentive compensation payments and amounts contributed by the participant to a qualified profit-sharing or cafeteria plan maintained by us, subject to certain limits imposed under the Internal Revenue Code. The following table shows the percentages of compensation we contribute to each participant's account, based on the participant's age at the end of the year:

| Age at End of Year | Contribution Rate (% of Compensation) |
|---------------------------|--|
| Less than 30 | 3% |
| 30-39 | 4% |
| 40-44 | 5% |
| 45-49 | 6% |
| 50-54 | 7% |
| 55 and over | 8% |

Supplemental Retirement Plan. We sponsor a supplemental retirement plan covering all of our eligible employees, including our executives, whose retirement benefits under our defined benefit pension plan are limited by the Internal Revenue Code. Under our supplemental retirement plan, each eligible employee is entitled to receive a lump sum amount equal to the difference between the amount that would have been paid under our defined benefit pension plan but for the limitations contained in the Internal Revenue Code and the actual amount that the employee is entitled to receive under our defined benefit pension plan after taking into account the limitations imposed by the Internal Revenue Code. Subject to the limitations contained in the Internal Revenue Code, benefits under the supplemental retirement plan commence on the same date an eligible employee is entitled to begin receiving benefits under the defined benefit pension plan.

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The following table shows information relating to the accumulated benefits to which the executives named in this proxy statement are entitled under our defined benefit pension plans at December 31, 2008:

| Name | Plan Name | Number of Years Credited Service (#)⁽¹⁾ | Present Value of Accumulated Benefit (\$)⁽²⁾ | Payments During Last Fiscal Year (\$) |
|----------------------|--|---|--|--|
| Steven F. Leer | Arch Coal, Inc. Retirement Account Plan | 28 | \$ 447,179 | \$ |
| | Arch Coal, Inc. Supplemental Retirement Plan | 28 | 1,422,235 | |
| John T. Drexler | Arch Coal, Inc. Retirement Account Plan | 11 | 57,672 | |
| | Arch Coal, Inc. Supplemental Retirement Plan | 11 | 9,834 | |
| C. Henry Besten, Jr. | Arch Coal, Inc. Retirement Account Plan | 28 | 669,419 | |
| | Arch Coal, Inc. Supplemental Retirement Plan | 28 | 315,537 | |
| John W. Eaves | Arch Coal, Inc. Retirement Account Plan | 26 | 276,955 | |
| | Arch Coal, Inc. Supplemental Retirement Plan | 26 | 363,315 | |
| David N. Warnecke | Arch Coal, Inc. Retirement Account Plan | 25 | 359,286 | |
| | Arch Coal, Inc. Supplemental Retirement Plan | 25 | 155,169 | |
| Robert J. Messey | Arch Coal, Inc. Retirement Account Plan | 8 | | 163,242 |
| | Arch Coal, Inc. Supplemental Retirement Plan | 8 | | 175,880 |

(1) Under our defined benefit pension plans, certain executives named in this proxy statement have been credited with additional years of service attributable to employment with one or more predecessor entities as follows: Mr. Leer 16 years, Mr. Besten 16 years, Mr. Eaves 15 years and Mr. Warnecke 13 years. In addition to an annual credit to our defined benefit pension plans, each of the executives receives a transition credit ranging from 1% to 4% of his compensation as a result of the additional years of service.

(2) Amounts shown for each named executive represent the actuarial present value of the named executive's accumulated benefit under our defined benefit pension plans as of December 31, 2008, computed in accordance with Statement of Financial Accounting Standards No. 87, *Employer's Accounting for Pensions*. The present value of accumulated benefits is subject to certain actuarial assumptions described in Note 14 to our consolidated financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2008 and under the heading "Employee Benefit Plans" in the section entitled "Critical Accounting Policies" included in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2008.

Non-Qualified Deferred Compensation

We maintain a deferred compensation plan that allows an eligible employee to defer receipt of his or her base salary and/or annual incentive payment until the date or dates elected by the participant. The amounts deferred are invested in cash accounts that mirror the gains and/or losses of a number of different investment funds, including a hypothetical investment in shares of our common stock. The deferred compensation plan offers participants a wide-range of publicly-available investment funds, including international, U.S. equity, bond and money market funds. These investment funds are substantively similar to the investment alternatives offered to participants of our defined contribution plan. The plan does not offer any above-market rates of return to our executives.

Participants in the plan may defer up to 85% of their base salaries and up to 100% of their annual incentive awards. The plan also allows participants to defer receipt of up to 100% of the shares issuable under any restricted stock units or performance-contingent phantom stock awards granted to executives under our long-term incentive program. Participants are always vested in their deferrals to the plan and any related earnings. We contribute one dollar for each dollar of base salary deferred by participants in the plan, up to a maximum of 6% of the participant's base salaries. We have established a grantor trust to

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fund our obligations under the deferred compensation plan. The trust has purchased corporate-owned life insurance to offset these obligations. Participants have an unsecured contractual commitment by us to pay the amounts due under the deferred compensation plan.

Under the plan, we credit each participant's account with the number of units equal to the number of shares or units that the participant could purchase or receive with the amount of compensation deferred under the plan on the date we credit the participant's account, based upon the fair market value of the underlying investment on that date. We will pay the amount of compensation deferred under the plan to the participant (or to his or her designated beneficiary in the event of death) in annual installments or in a lump sum, at the participant's election, following the participant's termination of employment or on the date or dates specified by the participant in his or her payment election. The amount we pay will be based on the number of units credited to each participant's account, valued on the basis of the fair market value of an equivalent number of shares or units of the underlying investment on the date payment occurs. We may also pay a participant the amount of compensation deferred under the plan prior to the date the participant initially elected to receive payment if we determine that the employee has a demonstrated financial hardship.

The following table shows information relating to the activity in the deferred compensation plan accounts for the executives named in this proxy statement during 2008:

| Name | Executive Contributions in Last Fiscal Year (\$) | Registrant Contributions in Last Fiscal Year (\$)⁽¹⁾ | Aggregate Earnings in Last Fiscal Year (\$) | Aggregate Withdrawals/ Distributions (\$) | Aggregate Balance at Last Fiscal Year End (\$)⁽²⁾ |
|----------------------|---|--|--|--|---|
| Steven F. Leer | \$ 5,201,430 | \$ 35,587 | \$ (13,530,422) | \$ | \$ 9,234,762 |
| John T. Drexler | 13,750 | | (2,968) | | 10,782 |
| C. Henry Besten, Jr. | 86,269 | 5,559 | (157,783) | | 1,081,243 |
| John W. Eaves | 2,071,967 | 17,093 | (3,769,527) | | 2,706,159 |
| David N. Warnecke | 165,089 | 8,001 | (141,051) | | 338,343 |
| Robert J. Messey | | 7,476 | (1,360,897) | | 877,375 |

(1) Amounts shown represent credits we made under our deferred compensation plan to the named executive's account that are intended to provide the named executive with the full company matching contributions to which they would otherwise be entitled under our defined contribution plan but for certain limitations contained in the Internal Revenue Code. We have included these amounts in the column entitled "All Other Compensation" contained in the Summary Compensation Table on page 26.

(2) Amounts shown include the following that we have reported as compensation for 2008 in the Summary Compensation Table on page 26: Mr. Leer \$35,587; Mr. Besten \$5,559; Mr. Eaves \$17,093; Mr. Warnecke \$8,001; and Mr. Messey \$7,476.

Potential Payments Upon Termination of Employment or Change-in-Control

We maintain certain agreements or arrangements with each of the executives named in this proxy statement that provide for the payment or acceleration of certain benefits in the event that such executive's employment is terminated without cause or following a change-in-control. In addition to the benefits described below, the executives named in this proxy statement would also be entitled to receive certain benefits under our defined benefit pension plan,

supplemental retirement plan and deferred compensation

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plan. You should see the section entitled *Pension Benefits* beginning on page 31 of this proxy statement for more information on the benefits accumulated under our defined benefit pension plan and our supplemental retirement plan that are attributable to each of the executives named in this proxy statement and the section entitled *Non-Qualified Deferred Compensation* beginning on page 33 of this proxy statement for more information on the aggregate balance maintained under our deferred compensation plan by each of the executives named in this proxy statement.

Potential Payments Upon Termination of Employment

We maintain employment agreements with each of our executives, including the executives named in this proxy statement, and certain other key employees. Each of the employment agreements has a term of one year that is automatically extended for successive one-year periods unless either party terminates the agreement upon at least one year notice prior to the end of any one-year term. Under the employment agreements and certain other arrangements we have with the executives named in this proxy statement, we may be required to provide compensation in the event of a termination of employment or a change in control of the company. As a condition to each executive's entitlement to receive payments under the employment agreements, the executive is required to execute a waiver of claims against us and to abide by certain non-disclosure, non-competition and non-solicitation requirements. These restrictions prohibit executives from engaging in any business that competes with any of our business operations for a period of six months following the date of termination and from soliciting for employment, hiring or retaining any of our employees for a period of one year following the date of termination.

Voluntary termination and termination for cause Each of the executives named in this proxy statement may terminate his or her employment at any time. In addition, we may terminate the employment of the executives named in this proxy statement for cause at any time. Under the terms of the employment agreements with the executives named in this proxy statement, a termination is for cause if it is for any of the following reasons:

- a willful and continual failure to perform his or her duties;
- gross misconduct that is materially and demonstrably detrimental to us; or
- the commission of a felony.

If we terminate an executive's employment for cause or if an executive terminates his or her employment for any reason prior to a change of control or for other than good reason following a change of control, then we will pay the executive an amount equal to the executive's accrued and unpaid base salary and unused vacation time. If we terminate an executive's employment for cause or if the executive terminates his or her employment for any reason without our consent, then all of the unexpired, unvested restricted stock, restricted stock units, performance units, stock options, performance-contingent phantom stock or other awards granted to the executive under our stock incentive plan that remain outstanding on the date of termination shall automatically be forfeited. If we terminated each of the executives named in this proxy statement for cause or if each of the executives named in this proxy statement terminated his

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employment on December 31, 2008, then the executives would not have been entitled to receive any amounts from us.

Termination without cause prior to a change of control Each of the executives named in this proxy statement may be entitled to certain benefits if we terminate the executive's employment for reasons other than cause. If we terminate an executive without cause prior to a change of control, then under the terms of the employment agreement we will pay the executive a lump sum cash amount equal to the following:

one times (two times for Mr. Leer) the executive's annual base salary;

12 times (18 times for Mr. Leer) the effective monthly COBRA rate;

12 times (24 times for Mr. Leer) the applicable monthly life insurance premium rate;

a pro-rata portion of any amounts to which the executive would be entitled under our annual cash incentive awards or our long-term cash and equity-based incentive awards;

one times the higher of the executive's annual cash incentive award for the most recent year or the average annual cash incentive award for the three preceding years;

the matching contribution under our defined contribution plan and executive deferred compensation plan and the annual cash balance credit amounts under our defined benefit plans as if the executive continued to participate in those plans for a period of 12 months (24 months for Mr. Leer) and the amount of any related income taxes; and

the value of any unused vacation time.

In addition, if we terminate an executive for reasons other than for cause prior to a change of control, all unexpired stock options held by the executive on the date of termination will immediately vest and become exercisable by the executive in accordance with the terms of our stock incentive plan and related stock option award agreements. Also, we have agreed to reimburse the executives named in this proxy statement for the cost of financial counseling services (up to a maximum of \$5,000) for a period of 12 months (24 months for Mr. Leer), the cost of reasonable outplacement services for a period of 12 months (24 months for Mr. Leer) and the amount of any excise taxes imposed on the executive under the Internal Revenue Code.

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The following table shows the amounts each of the executives named in this proxy statement would receive if we terminated his employment for reasons other than for cause prior to a change of control on December 31, 2008:

| | Steven F. Leer | John T. Drexler | C. Henry Besten | John W. Eaves | David N. Warnecke |
|---|---------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|
| Cash payments: | | | | | |
| Cash severance | \$ 2,550,000 | \$ 469,263 | \$ 435,000 | \$ 963,000 | \$ 576,000 |
| Healthcare coverage | 23,750 | 16,617 | 10,752 | 16,617 | 16,617 |
| Life insurance premiums | 8,364 | 1,599 | 1,427 | 2,632 | 1,771 |
| Incentive awards ⁽¹⁾ | 1,600,000 | 224,263 | 498,245 | 878,000 | 582,575 |
| Retirement benefits | 1,220,271 | 96,391 | 222,394 | 289,843 | 227,653 |
| Financial counseling and outplacement services | 30,000 | 20,000 | 20,000 | 20,000 | 20,000 |
| Accrued salary and accrued vacation | | | | | |
| Excise tax and gross up | | | | | |
| Acceleration of equity awards: | | | | | |
| Restricted stock units | | | | | |
| Stock options | | | | | |
| Total | \$ 5,432,385 | \$ 828,133 | \$ 1,187,817 | \$ 2,170,092 | \$ 1,424,616 |

(1) For purposes of estimating the amounts payable by us under our annual cash incentive awards or our long-term cash and equity-based incentive awards, we have assumed that we achieved target levels of performance under those awards.

Termination in connection with a change of control Each of the executives named in this proxy statement may be entitled to certain benefits if we terminate the executive's employment for reasons other than cause following a change of control or if the executive terminates his or her employment for good reason during the two years following a change of control. Under the terms of the employment agreements with the executives named in this proxy statement, a termination is for good reason if it is for any of the following reasons:

a material diminution in position, title, duties, responsibilities or authority;

a reduction in base salary or a failure to increase base salary by a percentage that is similar to the average percentage increase in base salary for other officers;

(i) the discontinuation of an incentive, retirement, stock ownership or health and welfare plan, (ii) the adoption of changes to those plans that would adversely affect participation or materially reduce benefits or (iii) the reduction of incentive compensation levels;

the relocation of our executive offices outside the St. Louis metropolitan area or the failure to pay relocation expenses, including the amount of any loss on the sale of a personal residence;

a material breach of the employment agreement; or

a failure to require a successor to assume the employment agreement.

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Under the terms of the employment agreements with the executives named in this proxy statement, a change of control means any of the following:

a consolidation, merger or similar transaction in which we do not survive or in which shares of our common stock are converted into cash, securities or other property, other than a merger in which the holders of our common stock immediately prior to the merger maintain substantially the same proportionate ownership of the common stock of the surviving entity immediately after the merger;

the sale, lease, exchange or other transfer of all or substantially all of our assets;

the approval by our stockholders of a plan of liquidation or dissolution; or

the failure of our directors to constitute a majority of our board of directors at any time during any two consecutive years.

If we terminate an executive for reasons other than for cause following a change of control or if the executive terminates his or her employment for good reason during the two years following a change of control, then under the terms of the employment agreement we will pay the executive a lump sum cash amount equal to the following:

two times (three times for Mr. Leer) the executive's highest annual base salary during the preceding three years;

18 times the effective monthly COBRA rate;

24 times (36 times for Mr. Leer) the applicable monthly life insurance premium rate;

the full amount of any long-term cash awards and a pro-rata portion of any amounts to which the executive would be entitled under our annual cash incentive awards;

two times (three times for Mr. Leer) the higher of the executive's annual cash incentive award for the most recent year or the average annual cash incentive award for the three years preceding the date of termination;

the matching contribution under our defined contribution plan and nonqualified executive deferred compensation plan and the annual credit amounts under our defined benefit plans as if the executive continued to participate in those plans for a period of 24 months (36 months for Mr. Leer) and the amount of any related income taxes; and

the value of any unused vacation time.

In addition to the foregoing, if we terminate an executive for reasons other than for cause following a change of control, all unexpired stock options held by the executive on the date of termination will immediately vest and become exercisable by the executive in accordance with the terms of our stock incentive plan and related equity award agreements. Also, we have agreed to reimburse the executives named in this proxy statement for the cost of financial counseling services (up to a maximum of \$5,000) for a period of 24 months (36 months for Mr. Leer), the cost of reasonable outplacement services for a

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period of 24 months (36 months for Mr. Leer) and the amount of any excise taxes imposed on the executive under the Internal Revenue Code.

The following table shows the amounts each of the executives named in this proxy statement would receive if we terminated their employment on December 31, 2008 for reasons other than for cause following a change of control or if each of the executives named in this proxy statement terminated his or her employment on December 31, 2008 for good reason following a change of control:

| | Steven F. Leer | John T. Drexler | C. Henry Besten | John W. Eaves | David N. Warnecke |
|---|---------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|
| Cash payments: | | | | | |
| Cash severance | \$ 5,100,000 | \$ 958,526 | \$ 870,000 | \$ 1,926,000 | \$ 1,152,000 |
| Healthcare coverage | 23,750 | 23,750 | 15,368 | 23,750 | 23,750 |
| Life insurance premiums | 12,546 | 6,593 | 5,707 | 10,529 | 7,085 |
| Incentive awards ⁽¹⁾ | 850,000 | 144,263 | 145,000 | 428,000 | 216,000 |
| Retirement benefits | 1,750,597 | 175,502 | 415,113 | 515,177 | 417,272 |
| Financial counseling and outplacement services | 30,000 | 20,000 | 20,000 | 20,000 | 20,000 |
| Accrued salary and accrued vacation | | | | | |
| Excise tax and gross up ⁽²⁾ | | 99,072 | | | |
| Acceleration of equity awards: | | | | | |
| Restricted stock units | | | | | |
| Stock options | | | | | |
| Total | \$ 7,766,893 | \$ 1,427,706 | \$ 1,471,188 | \$ 2,923,456 | \$ 1,836,107 |

(1) For purposes of estimating the amounts payable by us under our annual cash incentive awards, we have assumed that we achieved target levels of performance under those awards. Payouts under performance units would be triggered upon a change of control and, accordingly, we have not included those payouts in the table above. Instead, payouts under performance units have been included in the table below under the heading Potential Payments Upon Change-in-Control.

(2) We have assumed that the effective federal income tax rate is 35% and that the effective state income tax rate is 6%.

Retirement, death and disability In the event an executive's employment is terminated as a result of his or her retirement, death or disability, then we will pay the executive an amount equal to the executive's accrued and unpaid base salary, unused vacation time and all other amounts, including payouts under our annual cash incentive awards, that the executive has earned but which have not yet been paid. If an executive's employment is terminated as a result of his or her retirement, death or disability, then all of the vested stock options that remain outstanding will remain exercisable for a period of one year from the date of termination and any restricted stock, restricted stock units, performance units, unvested stock options, performance-contingent phantom stock or other awards granted to the executive under our stock incentive plan that remain outstanding on the date of termination.

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The following table shows the amounts each of the executives named in this proxy statement would receive if the employment of the executive terminated on December 31, 2008 as a result of his retirement, death or disability:

| | Steven F. Leer | John T. Drexler | C. Henry Besten | John W. Eaves | David N. Warnecke |
|---|---------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|
| Cash payments: | | | | | |
| Cash severance | \$ | \$ | \$ | \$ | \$ |
| Healthcare coverage | | | | | |
| Life insurance premiums | | | | | |
| Incentive awards ⁽¹⁾ | 850,000 | 144,263 | 145,000 | 428,000 | 216,000 |
| Retirement benefits | | | | | |
| Financial counseling and outplacement services | | | | | |
| Accrued salary and accrued vacation | | | | | |
| Excise tax and gross up | | | | | |
| Acceleration of equity awards: | | | | | |
| Restricted stock units | | | | | |
| Stock options | | | | | |
| Total | \$ 850,000 | \$ 144,263 | \$ 145,000 | \$ 428,000 | \$ 216,000 |

(1) For purposes of estimating the amounts payable by us under our annual cash incentive awards, we have assumed that we achieved target levels of performance under those awards.

Potential Payments Upon Change-in-Control.

Under the terms of our stock incentive plan and the agreements governing the various awards outstanding at December 31, 2008, the executives named in this proxy statement would be entitled to certain benefits in the event a change in control occurs. Under the terms of our stock incentive plan, all outstanding stock options will become fully exercisable and will remain exercisable for the original term of the options, all outstanding restricted stock and restricted stock units will become fully vested and be distributed to the executive and all of the performance units and performance-contingent phantom stock will be paid out in the event a change of control occurs.

Under the terms of the stock incentive plan, a change in control means any change in control that would be required to be reported as such with the Securities and Exchange Commission, including without limitation any of the following:

a consolidation or merger in which we do not survive or in which shares of our common stock are converted to cash, securities or other property, other than a merger in which the holders of our common stock immediately prior to the merger maintain more than 50% of the ownership of common stock of the surviving corporation immediately after the merger;

the sale, lease, exchange or other transfer of all or substantially all of our assets;

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the adoption by our board of directors of a plan of liquidation or dissolution; or

the acquisition by any person of more than 20% of our outstanding common stock.

The following table shows the amounts each of the executives named in this proxy statement would receive if we had undergone a change of control on December 31, 2008.

| | Steven F. Leer | John T. Drexler | C. Henry Besten | John W. Eaves | David N. Warnecke |
|---|---------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|
| Cash payments: | | | | | |
| Cash severance | \$ | \$ | \$ | \$ | \$ |
| Healthcare coverage | | | | | |
| Life insurance premiums | | | | | |
| Incentive awards ⁽¹⁾ | 1,500,000 | 160,000 | 706,490 | 900,000 | 733,150 |
| Retirement benefits | | | | | |
| Financial counseling and outplacement services | | | | | |
| Accrued salary and accrued vacation | | | | | |
| Excise tax and gross up | | | | | |
| Acceleration of equity awards: | | | | | |
| Restricted stock units and restricted stock ⁽²⁾ | 530,240 | | | 353,493 | 81,450 |
| Stock options | | | | | |
| Total | \$ 2,030,240 | \$ 160,000 | \$ 706,490 | \$ 1,253,493 | \$ 814,600 |

(1) For purposes of estimating the amounts payable by us under performance unit awards, we have assumed that we achieved maximum levels of performance under those awards.

(2) For purposes of estimating the amounts payable under the stock incentive plan in the event of a change of control, we have calculated the value of accelerated vesting of restricted stock units and restricted stock by multiplying the number of shares underlying unvested restricted stock units outstanding at December 31, 2008 by the closing price of our common stock on December 31, 2008.

Director Compensation for the Year Ended December 31, 2008

Our director compensation program is designed to compensate our non-employee directors, through a simple and understandable structure, for the amount of work required for a company of our size and scope and to align the interests of our non-employee directors with the long-term interests of our stockholders. Directors who are employees do not receive separate retainers or attendance fees for their service as directors.

The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee periodically reviews the compensation structure and amounts for our non-employee directors. Our human resources department supports the committee by researching the

structures and amounts of compensation programs sponsored by other similarly-sized public companies and compiling the results of that research for the committee. From time to time, the committee may engage a compensation consultant to provide survey or proxy data on the structure and amount of director compensation for other companies.

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The following table sets forth compensation paid to each non-employee director during 2008.

| Name | Fees Earned or Paid in Cash⁽¹⁾ | All Other Compensation (\$)⁽²⁾ | Total (\$) |
|--------------------|--|--|-------------------|
| James R. Boyd | \$ 180,000 | \$ 6,000 | \$ 186,000 |
| Frank M. Burke | 185,000 | 6,000 | 191,000 |
| Patricia F. Godley | 165,000 | 2,000 | 167,000 |
| Douglas H. Hunt | 150,000 | 6,000 | 156,000 |
| Brian J. Jennings | 155,000 | | 155,000 |
| Thomas A. Lockhart | 155,000 | 1,734 | 156,734 |
| A. Michael Perry | 155,000 | 4,000 | 159,000 |
| Robert G. Potter | 170,000 | | 170,000 |
| Theodore D. Sands | 160,000 | 6,000 | 166,000 |
| Wesley M. Taylor | 160,000 | | 160,000 |

(1) Amounts shown include amounts that the directors elected to defer, on a discretionary basis, pursuant to our deferred compensation plan for non-employee directors described below. In lieu of equity awards, non-employee directors must defer 50% of the annual retainer into a hypothetical investment in our common stock pursuant to our deferred compensation plan for non-employee directors described below. This policy is intended to align the interests of our directors with the long-term interests of our stockholders by tying a portion of the annual retainer to the performance of our common stock. In addition, non-employee directors must defer 100% of the new director fee into a hypothetical investment in our common stock pursuant to our deferred compensation plan for non-employee directors described below. This policy is intended to quickly align the interests of new directors with the long-term interests of our stockholders by tying a portion of the director's wealth to the performance of our common stock.

(2) Amounts shown represent contributions under our director matching gift program.

Deferred Compensation Plan. Our board of directors has adopted a deferred compensation plan for non-employee directors. Under the plan, non-employee directors may choose to defer receipt of any or all of the compensation paid to them in a cash account that mirrors the gains and/or losses of a number of different investment funds, one of which is a hypothetical investment in shares of our common stock. Non-employee directors must defer 50% of the annual retainer and 100% of the new director fee into a hypothetical investment in our common stock in order to more closely align the interests of our directors with the long-term interests of our stockholders. We credit each non-employee director's account with the number of units equal to the number of shares or units that the non-employee director could purchase or receive with the amount of compensation deferred under the plan on the date we credit the non-employee director's account, based upon the fair market value of the underlying investment on that date.

When a director terminates his or her service as a director, we will pay the amount of compensation deferred under the plan to the director (or to his or her designated beneficiary in the event of death) in annual installments or in a lump sum, at the director's election. The amount we pay will be based on the number of units credited to each director's account, valued on the basis of the fair market value of an equivalent number of shares or units of the underlying investment on the date payment occurs. We may also pay a director the amount of compensation deferred under the plan prior to the termination of a

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director's service as a director if the board determines that the director has a demonstrated financial hardship.

Other Compensation Arrangements. In addition to the compensation elements described above, we sponsor a director matching gift program. Under our matching gift program, we donate \$2.00 for each dollar contributed by a director to accredited institutions of higher education up to a maximum of \$6,000 each year. We have included the matching gifts paid on behalf of each of our non-employee directors for 2008 in the table on page 42 of this proxy statement. We have included the matching gifts paid on behalf of Mr. Leer in the table on page 26 of this proxy statement. During 2008, we did not pay any matching gifts on behalf of Mr. Eaves. We reimburse each director for their travel expenses incurred in connection with attendance at board and committee meetings and other matters related to service on our board and for the costs of attending continuing education seminars. We also pay the premiums for directors' liability insurance and travel accident insurance for each director. These amounts are not included in the table above since they are deemed to be business-related payments and not perquisites. We do not maintain a directors' retirement plan, and non-employee directors do not participate in our health, welfare or benefit plans.

Stock Ownership Guidelines. In order to more closely align the interests of our non-employee directors with the long-term interests of our stockholders and in lieu of granting equity awards to our directors, our board of directors has adopted stock ownership guidelines for non-employee directors. The guidelines establish a goal for each of our non-employee directors to own a number of shares of our common stock equal in value to five times the portion of the annual retainer that the directors are not required to defer, or \$300,000. Each non-employee director is expected to satisfy this goal by April 27, 2011 or, if elected after April 27, 2006, within five years of becoming a director. As of December 31, 2008, each of the non-employee directors who has been on our board of directors for at least five years satisfied the stock ownership goal adopted by the board of directors. You should see the table under the heading "Security Ownership of Directors and Executive Officers" beginning on page 46 of this proxy statement for more information about the beneficial ownership of our common stock by our non-employee directors.

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PERSONNEL AND COMPENSATION COMMITTEE REPORT

The Personnel and Compensation Committee is comprised entirely of independent directors and has the responsibility for reviewing and recommending changes in our executive compensation policies and programs to the board of directors. The committee also reviews and makes recommendations for all compensation payments to our chief executive officer and other executives, which are approved by the board of directors as a whole.

The Personnel and Compensation Committee has reviewed and met with management to discuss the disclosures contained in the section entitled "Compensation Discussion and Analysis" beginning on page 14 of this proxy statement. Based on that review and discussions with management, the Personnel and Compensation Committee recommended to the board of directors, and the board of directors approved, including the disclosures contained in the section entitled "Compensation Discussion and Analysis" in this proxy statement and, by incorporating that section by reference, in the Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2008 for filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Personnel and Compensation Committee

Robert G. Potter, Chairman

Frank M. Burke

Douglas H. Hunt

Thomas A. Lockhart

Theodore D. Sands

Wesley M. Taylor

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AUDIT COMMITTEE REPORT

The Audit Committee oversees our financial reporting process on behalf of the board of directors. Management is primarily responsible for the financial statements and reporting process, including the systems of internal controls, while the independent registered public accounting firm is responsible for performing an independent audit of our financial statements in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States and expressing an opinion on the conformity of those financial statements with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States.

In this context, the Audit Committee has reviewed our audited consolidated financial statements and has met with and held discussions with management, our internal auditors and with Ernst & Young, LLP, our independent registered public accounting firm, to discuss those financial statements and related matters. The Audit Committee reviewed with our internal and independent auditors the overall scope and plans for their respective audits. The Audit Committee also met, at least quarterly, with the auditors, with and without management present, to discuss the results of their examinations, their evaluations of our internal controls and the overall quality of our financial reporting. The Audit Committee also reviewed with the independent auditors their judgment as to the quality and the appropriateness of our accounting principles and financial controls and such other matters as are required to be discussed with the Audit Committee under auditing standards generally accepted in the United States.

Our independent registered public accounting firm also provided to the Audit Committee the written disclosures proscribed by applicable requirements of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board regarding independence, and the Audit Committee discussed with the independent auditors that firm's independence, including those matters required to be discussed by Statement on Auditing Standards No. 61, as amended by Statement on Auditing Standards No. 90. The Audit Committee considered whether the performance by Ernst & Young LLP of non-audit services was compatible with their independence.

In reliance on the reviews and discussions referred to above, the Audit Committee recommended to the board of directors, and the board of directors approved, including the audited consolidated financial statements in the Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2008 for filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission. The Audit Committee has retained Ernst & Young LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm for 2009.

While the Audit Committee has the responsibilities and powers set forth in its charter, it is not the duty of the Audit Committee to plan or conduct audits or to determine that our financial statements are complete and accurate or are in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. This is the responsibility of management and the independent auditor.

Audit Committee
Frank M. Burke, Chairman
James R. Boyd
Patricia F. Godley
Brian J. Jennings
Thomas A. Lockhart
A. Michael Perry
Robert G. Potter

Table of Contents**SECURITY OWNERSHIP OF DIRECTORS AND EXECUTIVE OFFICERS**

The following table sets forth, as of February 23, 2009, information concerning the beneficial ownership of our common stock by each director, each of the executives named in this proxy statement and all current directors and executive officers as a group. Under rules of the Securities and Exchange Commission, persons who have power to vote or dispose of securities, either alone or jointly with others, are deemed to be the beneficial owners of such securities. Each person reflected in the table below has both sole voting and investment power with respect to the shares included in the table, except as described in the footnotes below

| Name of Beneficial Owner | Number of Actual Shares Owned | Options Exercisable | Amount and Nature of Beneficial Ownership | Percent of Class | Other Stock- Based Items ⁽³⁾ | Total Stock-Based Ownership |
|---|--|----------------------------------|---|------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|
| | Directly or Indirectly ⁽¹⁾ | Within 60 Days ⁽²⁾ | | | | |
| James R. Boyd, Director ⁽⁴⁾ | 87,078 | | 87,078 | * | 77,075 | 164,153 |
| Frank M. Burke, Director ⁽⁴⁾ | 100,000 | | 100,000 | * | 37,965 | 137,965 |
| John W. Eaves, President, Chief Operating Officer and Director | 220,487 | 246,134 | 466,621 | * | 21,700 | 488,321 |
| Patricia F. Godley, Director | 1,000 | | 1,000 | * | 18,878 | 19,878 |
| Douglas H. Hunt, Director ⁽⁴⁾ | 22,000 | | 22,000 | * | 45,101 | 67,101 |
| Brian J. Jennings, Director | | | | * | 9,858 | 9,858 |
| Steven F. Leer, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer ⁽⁴⁾ | 497,338 | 568,867 | 1,066,205 | * | 32,550 | 1,098,755 |
| Thomas A. Lockhart, Director | 200 | | 200 | * | 14,114 | 14,314 |
| A. Michael Perry, Director | 12,558 | | 12,558 | * | 17,395 | 29,953 |
| Robert G. Potter, Director ⁽⁴⁾ | 21,000 | | 21,000 | * | 42,575 | 63,575 |
| Theodore D. Sands, Director | 50,000 | | 50,000 | * | 61,959 | 111,959 |
| Wesley M. Taylor, Director | 15,300 | | 15,300 | * | 10,087 | 25,387 |
| C. Henry Besten, Jr., Senior Vice President-Strategic Development | 71,391 | 56,151 | 127,542 | * | 12,385 | 139,927 |
| John T. Drexler, Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer | 1,196 | 28,365 | 29,561 | * | 239 | 29,800 |
| David N. Warnecke, Vice President-Marketing and Trading | 27,276 | 55,567 | 82,843 | * | 2,907 | 85,750 |
| All of our directors and executive officers as a group | 1,321,787 | 1,064,111 | 2,385,898 | 1.7% | 404,788 | 2,790,686 |

(20 persons)

* Less than one percent of the outstanding shares.

- (1) Includes, for executive officers, shares of restricted stock, shares of our common stock that the executives have elected to defer under our deferred compensation plan for executive officers and indirect interests in shares of our common stock held under our defined contribution plan.
- (2) Represents shares of our common stock that could be acquired by exercising stock options through April 24, 2009.
- (3) Includes, for directors, indirect interests in shares of our common stock held under our deferred compensation plan for non-employee directors. Includes, for executive officers, unvested restricted stock units awarded to executives under our equity-based compensation plans and indirect interests in shares of our common stock held under our deferred compensation plan for executive officers. While restricted stock units and indirect interests in shares of our common stock under our deferred compensation plans may not be voted or transferred, we have included them in the table as they represent an

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economic interest in our common stock that is subject to the same market risk as ownership of actual shares of our common stock.

- (4) Includes, for Mr. Boyd, 2,090 shares and, for Mr. Leer, 2,020 shares held jointly with such person's spouse and for which such person shares voting and investment power. Includes, for Mr. Burke, 40,000 shares held by Burke, Mayborn Co., Ltd. for which Mr. Burke has voting and investment power and 60,000 shares held in Mr. Burke's SEP-IRA account for which Mr. Burke has sole voting and investment power. Includes, for Mr. Hunt, 145,100 shares held by the Lyda Hunt-Herbert Trusts—Douglas Herbert Hunt under which Mr. Hunt is a beneficiary but for which Mr. Hunt has no voting or investment power. Includes, for Mr. Potter, 16,500 shares held by the Robert G. Potter Trust dated 11/05/92, Robert G. Potter, as trustee, for which Mr. Potter has voting and investment power and 1,000 shares held by Mr. Potter's spouse.

SECURITY OWNERSHIP OF CERTAIN BENEFICIAL OWNERS

The following table shows all persons or entities that we know were beneficial owners of more than five percent of our common stock on February 23, 2009.

| Name and Address of Beneficial Owner | Amount and Nature of Beneficial Ownership | Percent of Class |
|--|---|---------------------|
| FMR LLC 82 Devonshire Street Boston, Massachusetts 02109 | 8,968,772 ⁽¹⁾ | 6.3% |
| PRIMECAP Management Company 225 South Lake Avenue, #400 Pasadena, California 91101 | 8,056,779 ⁽²⁾ | 5.6% |

- (1) Based on its filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission, Fidelity Management & Research Company, a subsidiary of FMR LLC and an investment adviser registered under Section 203 of the Investment Advisors Act of 1940, is the beneficial owner of 8,226,879 shares of our common stock as a result of acting as investment advisor to various investment companies registered under the Investment Company Act of 1940. Edward C. Johnson 3d and FMR LLC, through its control of Fidelity Management & Research Company, each has sole power to dispose of 8,226,879 shares of common stock. Neither FMR LLC nor Edward C. Johnson 3d has the sole power to vote or direct the voting of the shares owned directly by the funds, which power resides with the funds' board of trustees.

Strategic Advisers, Inc., a subsidiary of FMR LLC and an investment adviser registered under Section 203 of the Investment Advisors Act of 1940, provides investment advisory services to individuals. Strategic Advisers, Inc. is the beneficial owner of 2,618 shares of our common stock. FIL Limited and various foreign-based subsidiaries of FMR LLC provide investment advisory and management services to a number of non-U.S. investment companies and certain institutional investors. FIL Limited is the beneficial owner of 739,275 shares of our common stock. Partnerships controlled predominantly by members of the family of Edward C. Johnson 3d, or trusts for their benefit, own shares of voting stock of Fidelity International Limited with the right to cast approximately 47% of the total votes which may be cast by all such holders.

- (2) Based on its filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission, PRIMECAP Management Company, an investment adviser registered under Section 203 of the Investment Advisors Act of 1940, is the beneficial owner

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of 8,056,779 shares of our common stock as a result of acting as investment advisor to various clients. PRIMECAP Management Company has the sole power to vote 4,154,464 shares of common stock and the sole power to dispose of 8,056,779 shares of common stock.

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SECTION 16(a) BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP REPORTING COMPLIANCE

Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 requires our directors, executive officers and any persons beneficially holding more than ten percent of our common stock to report their ownership of common stock and any changes in that ownership to the Securities and Exchange Commission and the New York Stock Exchange. The Securities and Exchange Commission has established specific due dates for these reports, and we are required to report in this proxy statement any failure to file by these dates. Based solely on a review of the copies of the reports furnished to us and written representations that no other such statements were required, we believe that all such reports of our directors and executive officers were filed on a timely basis, except that Form 4s reporting four separate transactions were filed on behalf of Messrs. Hunt and Potter after the due dates of the reports as a result of an administrative error.

STOCKHOLDER PROPOSALS FOR THE 2010 ANNUAL MEETING

If you wish to submit proposals for possible inclusion in our 2010 proxy materials, we must receive them at our principal executive offices no later than the close of business on November 20, 2009. Proposals should be addressed to Robert G. Jones, Senior Vice President-Law, General Counsel and Secretary, Arch Coal, Inc., One CityPlace Drive, Suite 300, St. Louis, Missouri 63141.

If you wish to nominate directors and/or propose proper business from the floor for consideration at the 2010 annual meeting of stockholders, our bylaws provide that:

you must notify our secretary in writing;

your notice must have been received at our headquarters not earlier than January 24, 2010 and not later than February 13, 2010; and

your notice must contain the specific information required in our bylaws.

We will send copies of these requirements to any stockholder who writes to us requesting this information. Please note that these three requirements apply only to matters that you wish to bring before your fellow stockholders at the 2010 annual meeting of stockholders without submitting them for possible inclusion in our 2010 proxy materials.

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INTERNET AVAILABILITY OF PROXY MATERIALS

**Important Notice Regarding the Availability of Proxy Materials
for the Stockholder Meeting to be held on April 23, 2009**

The notice of annual meeting, proxy statement and our 2008 annual report may be viewed online under Annual Reports in the Investors section of our website at <http://investor.archcoal.com/annuals.cfm>. Information on our website does not constitute part of this proxy statement. You may find more information about the date, time and location of the annual meeting of stockholders, as well as the items to be voted on by stockholders at the annual meeting, in the section entitled Proxy and Voting Information beginning on page 1 of this proxy statement. There, you will also find information about attending the annual meeting and voting your proxy, including where you may find the individual control numbers necessary to vote your shares by telephone or over the Internet.

If you are a stockholder of record and are interested in receiving future proxy statements and annual reports electronically, you should contact our transfer agent by accessing your account at amstock.com and selecting Shareholder Account Access. If you hold shares of our common stock through a broker, bank or other nominee, please refer to the instructions provided by that entity for instructions on how to elect this option.

PROXY SOLICITATION

We are paying the cost of preparing, printing, and mailing these proxy materials. We will reimburse brokerage firms, banks and others for their reasonable expenses in forwarding proxy materials to beneficial owners and obtaining their instructions.

Proxies will be solicited by mail and also may be solicited by our executive officers and other employees personally, by telephone or by electronic means, but such persons will not be specifically compensated for such services. It is contemplated that brokerage firms, banks, custodians, fiduciaries and other nominees will be requested to forward the soliciting material to the beneficial owners of stock held of record by such persons, and we will reimburse them for their reasonable expenses incurred. If we decide to retain a proxy solicitor, we will pay the fees charged by the proxy solicitor.

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DIRECTIONS TO THE ANNUAL MEETING

From downtown St. Louis: Take Highway 40 West approximately 14 miles to Interstate 270 North (Exit #25). Continue approximately two miles on Interstate 270 North to Olive Boulevard (Exit #14). Take Olive Boulevard East one mile to CityPlace Drive. Turn North on CityPlace Drive and continue to our headquarters at CityPlace One.

From Lambert International Airport: Take Highway 70 West approximately three miles to Interstate 270 South (Exit #232). Continue approximately six miles on Interstate 270 South to Olive Boulevard (Exit #14). Take Olive Boulevard East one mile to CityPlace Drive. Turn North on CityPlace Drive and continue to our headquarters at CityPlace One.

By order of the Board of Directors,
Robert G. Jones
Senior Vice President Law, General Counsel and Secretary

March 27, 2009

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