

ARCH COAL INC  
Form 8-K  
October 12, 2005

**SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**  
**Washington, D.C. 20549**

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**FORM 8-K**  
**CURRENT REPORT**  
**Pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the**  
**Securities Exchange Act of 1934**

Date of Report (Date of earliest event reported): October 12, 2005 (October 11, 2005)

Arch Coal, Inc.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware

1-13105

43-0921172

(State or other jurisdiction  
of incorporation)

(Commission File Number)

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

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

(Address of principal executive offices) (Zip code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: (314) 994-2700

Check the appropriate box below if the Form 8-K filing is intended to simultaneously satisfy the filing obligation of the registrant under any of the following provisions:

- Written communications pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act (17 CFR 230.425)
- Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14a-12)
- Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d-2(b) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14d-2(b))
- Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13e-4(c) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.13e-4(c))

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**Item 1.01. Entry into a Material Definitive Agreement.**

On October 11, 2005, Arch Coal, Inc. (the Company ) announced via a press release that it has signed a definitive agreement ( Agreement ) to contribute certain mining operations and properties to a new company called Magnum Coal Company ( Magnum ) that would mine and market low-sulfur coal in the Central Appalachian region. The Agreement provides that the Company will contribute to Magnum its Hobet 21, Arch of West Virginia, Samples and Campbells Creek mining operations, and certain related assets and agreements, in exchange for an approximately 37.5% ownership interest in Magnum. ArcLight Capital Partners, LLC ( ArcLight ) will contribute its Panther longwall mine and its Remington, Jupiter and Dakota deep mines, and certain related assets and agreements, in exchange for the remaining ownership interests in Magnum. The Agreement further provides that the Company and ArcLight will cooperate to take Magnum public.

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

(c) Exhibits.

**Exhibit**

**Number**

**Description of Exhibit**

99.1 Press Release dated October 11, 2005

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SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned hereunto duly authorized.

Dated: October 12, 2005

ARCH COAL, INC.

By: /s/ Robert G. Jones

Robert G. Jones

Vice President Law, General Counsel and Secretary

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EXHIBIT INDEX

| Exhibit No. | Description  |
|-------------|--|
| 99.1        | Press Release dated October 11, 2005<br>Page 4 of 4 pages. |