

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
Washington, D.C. 20549

Form S-8-A

POST-EFFECTIVE AMENDMENT TO  
REGISTRATION STATEMENT UNDER  
THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1933

ARCH COAL, INC.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware 43-0921172

(State or other jurisdiction of (I.R.S. Employer  
incorporation or organization) Identification No.)

CityPlace One, Suite 300, St. Louis, Missouri 63141  
(Address of principal executive offices) (Zip Code)

ASHLAND COAL, INC. EMPLOYEE THRIFT PLAN  
(Full title of the plan)

JEFFRY N. QUINN

ARCH COAL, INC.

SUITE 300, CITYPLACE ONE

ST. LOUIS, MO 63141

(314) 994-2720

(Name, address and telephone number of agent for service of process)

On July 1, 1997, 100,000 shares of Arch Coal, Inc.'s (the "Registrant") common stock, par value \$0.01 per share (the "Common Stock") were registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC") on Form S-8, No. 333-30563 ("the Ashland Coal, Inc. Employee Thrift Plan Registration Statement") for issuance in connection with and pursuant to the terms of the Ashland Coal, Inc. Employee Thrift Plan (the "Plan"). The contents of the Ashland Coal, Inc. Employee Thrift Plan Registration Statement are hereby incorporated herein by reference to the extent not replaced hereby.

On January 1, 1998, the Plan was merged into the Arch Coal, Inc. Employee Thrift Plan (No. 333-32777). Sixty-six thousand two hundred forty eight (66,248) shares of registered Common Stock remained unissued at the time the Plan was merged.

Pursuant to an undertaking in Item 9(a)(3) of the Ashland Coal, Inc. Employee Thrift Plan Registration Statement, 66,248 shares of the Registrant's Common Stock, are hereby deregistered as well as any corresponding interests that have not been issued under the Plan.



THE PLAN. Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, this Post-Effective Amendment to the Registration Statement has been signed by the undersigned Plan Administrator in the City of Huntington, State of West Virginia, as of the 16th day of March, 1998.

ASHLAND COAL, INC.  
EMPLOYEE THRIFT PLAN

By: /s/ Teresa A. Daniel  
Teresa A. Daniel  
Plan Administrator