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ARCH COAL INC  
Form 11-K  
June 23, 2003

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM 11-K

(X) ANNUAL REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 15(d) OF THE  
SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

For the Fiscal Year Ended December 31, 2002

OR

( ) TRANSITION REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 15(d) OF THE  
SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

Commission File Number 1-13105

Title of the Plan -

ARCH COAL, INC. EMPLOYEE THRIFT PLAN

Name and Address of the issuer of the Securities  
Held Pursuant to the Plan -

Arch Coal, Inc.  
One City Place Drive, Suite 300  
St. Louis, Missouri 63141

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND EXHIBITS

Financial Statements and Schedule

Independent Auditors' Report

Statement of Net Assets Available for Plan Benefits

Statement of Changes in Net Assets Available for Plan Benefits

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Notes to Financial Statements

Schedule of Assets Held

Exhibits:

- 23 Consent of Rubin, Brown, Gornstein & Co. LLP, Independent Auditors
- 99.1 Statement Under Oath of Principal Executive Officer Regarding Facts and Circumstances Relating to Exchange Act Filings executed by Steven F. Leer
- 99.2 Statement Under Oath of Principal Financial Officer Regarding Facts and Circumstances Relating to Exchange Act Filings executed by Robert J. Messey

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ARCH COAL, INC.  
 EMPLOYEE THRIFT PLAN  
 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
 DECEMBER 31, 2002

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INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

To the Audit Committee  
Arch Coal, Inc. Employee Thrift Plan  
St. Louis, Missouri

We have audited the accompanying statement of net assets available for plan benefits of the Arch Coal, Inc. Employee Thrift Plan as of December 31, 2002 and 2001 and the related statement of changes in net assets available for plan benefits for the years then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Plan's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the net assets available for plan benefits at December 31, 2002 and 2001, and the changes in net assets available for benefits for the years then ended in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

/s/ Rubin, Brown, Gornstein & Co. LLP

St. Louis, Missouri  
June 17, 2003

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ARCH COAL, INC. EMPLOYEE THRIFT PLAN

STATEMENT OF NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR PLAN BENEFITS

	DECEMBER 31,
	2002
ASSETS	
INVESTMENTS, AT FAIR VALUE (NOTE 3)	
Money market	\$ 1,564
Mutual funds and common/collective fund	106,587
Guaranteed investment account	55,380
Company stock	15,495
Participant loans (Note 4)	9,618
Brokerage securities	7,787
-----	
TOTAL INVESTMENTS	196,433
-----	
NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR PLAN BENEFITS	\$ 196,433
=====	

See the accompanying report letter and notes to financial statements.

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ARCH COAL, INC. EMPLOYEE THRIFT PLAN

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS  
AVAILABLE FOR PLAN BENEFITS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2002

	FOR THE YEAR ENDED
	2002
ADDITIONS TO NET ASSETS ATTRIBUTED TO:	
INVESTMENT INCOME (LOSS) (NOTE 3)	
Dividends and interest	\$ 5,314
Net depreciation in fair value of investments	(26,599)
-----	
NET INVESTMENT INCOME (LOSS)	(21,284)
-----	
CONTRIBUTIONS	
Salary deferral contributions	13,252

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Employer contribution	10,224
Employee after-tax contribution	1,301
Rollover contribution	417
-----	
TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS	25,195
-----	
TOTAL ADDITIONS	3,910
DEDUCTIONS FROM NET ASSETS ATTRIBUTED TO:	
Benefits paid directly to participants	14,495
-----	
NET DECREASE	(10,585)
NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR PLAN BENEFITS -	
BEGINNING OF YEAR	207,018
-----	
NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR PLAN BENEFITS -	
END OF YEAR	\$ 196,433
=====	

See the accompanying report letter and notes to financial statements.

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ARCH COAL, INC. EMPLOYEE THRIFT PLAN

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NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
DECEMBER 31, 2002 AND 2001

1. DESCRIPTION OF THE PLAN

The Arch Coal, Inc. Employee Thrift Plan was established by Arch Coal, Inc. (Company) for the benefit of the eligible employees of the Company, its subsidiaries and controlled affiliates.

The following description of the Plan provides only general information. Participants should refer to the Summary Plan Description for a more complete description of the Plan's provisions.

Certain provisions of the Plan as described below do not apply to or have been modified for certain subsidiaries and affiliates of the Company.

GENERAL

The Plan, which has been adopted by Arch Coal, Inc. is a defined contribution profit sharing plan which includes a 401(k) provision. The Plan covers all full-time salaried employees, all full-time nonunion hourly employees, and certain union employees where specified by applicable collective bargaining agreements of the Company, its subsidiaries, and any controlled affiliates that elect to participate in the Plan. It is subject to the provisions of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 ("ERISA").

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### CONTRIBUTIONS

Participants may elect to defer between 1 percent and 50 percent of compensation, depending upon the location of the employee. Highly compensated employees may contribute up to 16%, with the exception of those employed at Mingo Logan who may contribute 17%. The percentage of employer match or nondiscretionary contribution also depends upon the location.

### PARTICIPANT ACCOUNTS

Each participant's account is credited with the participant's contributions, the employer's matching contribution, if applicable, or employer non-discretionary contribution, if applicable, and an allocation of Plan earnings. The allocation of earnings is determined by the earnings of the participant's investment selection based on each participant's account balance, as defined in the Plan agreement. The benefit to which a participant is entitled is the benefit that can be provided from the participant's account.

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### ARCH COAL, INC. EMPLOYEE THRIFT PLAN

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#### Notes To Financial Statements (Continued)

### VESTING

Participants are fully vested in their contributions plus actual earnings. All eligible employees of the Company at December 31, 1997 became fully vested in the Plan. Eligible employees hired subsequent to December 31, 1997 vest in Company contributions and earnings upon the completion of three full and consecutive years of service.

All participants become fully vested upon death while employed, total disability, or normal retirement age, regardless of the number of months of participation.

### PARTICIPANT LOANS

Active participants, with some exceptions, may borrow from their fund accounts a minimum of \$500 or up to a maximum equal to the lesser of \$50,000 or 50 percent of their vested account balances. Loan terms range from one to five years or longer for the purchase of a primary residence. The loans are secured by the balance in the participant's account and bear interest at the prime rate listed in the Wall Street Journal on the day the loan is processed. Principal and interest is paid ratably through payroll deductions.

### PAYMENT OF BENEFITS

Upon death, termination of service, or attainment of age 70-1/2, a participant may elect to receive either a lump-sum amount equal to the value of the participant's vested interest in his or her account, a single annuity, a joint and survivorship annuity with various survivor options or a series of installment payments.

### FORFEITED ACCOUNTS

Forfeited amounts of employer contributions are used to offset future Company matching contributions of the Plan. At December 31, 2002 and 2001, forfeited amounts available to reduce future Company contributions were \$273,997 and \$185,074, respectively.

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ARCH COAL, INC. EMPLOYEE THRIFT PLAN

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Notes To Financial Statements (Continued)

2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

ESTIMATES AND ASSUMPTIONS

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities, disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements, and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

BASIS OF ACCOUNTING

The financial statements of the Plan are prepared under the accrual method of accounting.

INVESTMENT VALUATION AND INCOME RECOGNITION

Investments in mutual funds are valued at reported net asset value at December 31 as determined by the fund manager.

Investment income is recorded as earned on the accrual basis.

PAYMENT OF BENEFITS

Benefits are recorded when paid.

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ARCH COAL, INC. EMPLOYEE THRIFT PLAN

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Notes To Financial Statements (Continued)

3. INVESTMENTS

The Company has established a Pension Committee to oversee the activities of the Plan and has appointed the Vice President - Human Resources as the Plan Administrator. Fleet Bank is the trustee for the Plan and Putnam Fiduciary Trust Company is the Plan recordkeeper.

Investments at fair value as of December 31, 2002 and 2001 consist of

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the following:

	DECEMBER 31,	
	2002	
PUTNAM MONEY MARKET FUND	\$ 1,564,190	\$ 1
-----		
MUTUAL FUNDS AND COMMON COLLECTIVE FUND		
American Century Income and Growth Fund	23,606,930*	28
Barclay's Lifepath 2010	599,395	
Barclay's Lifepath 2020	554,161	
Barclay's Lifepath 2030	223,176	
Barclay's Lifepath 2040	238,111	
Dodge & Cox Balanced Fund	12,219,588*	
Franklin Templeton Balance Sheet Fund	10,406,097	9
Investment Company of America	67,188	
PIMCO Total Return Fund	13,867,234*	10
Putnam Balanced Fund	63,475	14
Putnam Growth Opportunities Fund	14,182,019*	19
Putnam International Growth Fund	7,833,417	9
Putnam OTC Emerging Growth Fund	1,304,682	1
Putnam S&P 500 Index	16,023,021*	18
Putnam Vista Fund	5,399,013	6
-----		
TOTAL MUTUAL FUNDS AND COMMON/COLLECTIVE FUND	106,587,507	119
-----		
ARCH COAL, INC. COMMON STOCK	15,495,457*	16
-----		
PUTNAM DIRECT PERSONAL CHOICE RETIREMENT ACCOUNT	7,787,352	8
-----		
PRIMCO STABLE VALUE FUND	55,380,598*	50
-----		
PARTICIPANT LOANS	9,618,429	9
-----		
	\$ 196,433,533	\$ 207
=====		

\*Investment represents 5 percent or more of net assets at the beginning of the respective Plan year.

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ARCH COAL, INC. EMPLOYEE THRIFT PLAN

Notes To Financial Statements (Continued)



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CHANGES IN NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR PLAN BENEFITS:

	FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31,	
	2002	2001
Investment Income (Loss):		
Dividends and interest	\$ 5,314,719	\$ 5,501,477
Net depreciation in fair value of investments	(26,599,478)	(21,381,000)
Net Investment Income (Loss)	\$ (21,284,759)	\$ (15,879,523)

Interest income on the Primco Stable Value Fund is calculated and credited daily based on the aggregate contract yield of the underlying investments. The investment contracts included in this fund had an average yield of 4.51% and 5.52% for the years ended December 31, 2002 and 2001, respectively. The average crediting interest rate was 5.52% and 5.87% at December 31, 2002 and 2001, respectively. The fair value of the investment contract was \$55,380,598 and \$50,853,111 at December 31, 2002 and 2001, respectively.

4. PARTICIPANTS LOANS

Notes receivable are secured by participants' vested balances. The notes are due in bi-weekly payments including principal and interest at varying rates reflective of the prime rate as of the time of issue. The final installments are due at various dates.

5. PLAN TERMINATION

Although it has not expressed intent to do so, the Company has the right under the Plan to discontinue its contributions at any time and to terminate the Plan, subject to the provisions of ERISA. In the event of Plan termination, participants will become 100% vested in their accounts.

ARCH COAL, INC. EMPLOYEE THRIFT PLAN

Notes To Financial Statements (Continued)

6. TAX STATUS

The Plan obtained its latest determination letter on September 26, 2002 in which the Internal Revenue Service stated that the Plan, as then designed, was in compliance with the applicable requirements of the Internal Revenue Code. The Plan has been amended during 2002 to incorporate language required by the passing of certain laws, commonly

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referred to as "EGTRRA." The Plan Administrator and the Plan's tax counsel believe the Plan is correctly designed and operated with the applicable requirements of the Internal Revenue Code. Therefore, the Plan Administrator believes the Plan was qualified and the related trust tax exempt.

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INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT ON SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

Our audit was made for the purpose of forming an opinion on the basic financial statements taken as a whole. The schedule of assets held is presented for purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the basic financial statements, but is supplementary data required by the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under the Employee Income Security Act of 1974. Such information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements and, in our opinion, is fairly stated in all material respects in relation to the basic financial statements taken as a whole.

/s/ Rubin, Brown, Gornstein & Co. LLP

June 17, 2003

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ARCH COAL, INC. EMPLOYEE THRIFT PLAN

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E.I.N. 43-0921172 PLAN 006  
SCHEDULE OF ASSETS HELD  
DECEMBER 31, 2002

IDENTITY OF ISSUER

DESCRIPTION OF INVESTMENT

MONEY MARKET

Putnam Investments

Putnam Money Market Fund

MUTUAL FUNDS AND COMMON/COLLECTIVE FUND

American Fund Corporation

American Fund Corporation

American Century Income and Growth Fund

Investment Company of America

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Barclay Global Investors	Barclay's Lifepath 2010
Barclay Global Investors	Barclay's Lifepath 2020
Barclay Global Investors	Barclay's Lifepath 2030
Barclay Global Investors	Barclay's Lifepath 2040
Dodge & Cox Funds	Dodge & Cox Balanced Fund
Franklin Investments	Franklin Templeton Balance Sheet Fund
PIMCO Investments	PIMCO Total Return Fund
Putnam Investments	Putnam Balanced Fund
Putnam Investments	Putnam Growth Opportunities Fund
Putnam Investments	Putnam OTC Emerging Growth Fund
Putnam Investments	Putnam International Growth Fund
Putnam Investments	Putnam S&P 500 Index
Putnam Investments	Putnam Vista Fund

TOTAL MUTUAL FUNDS AND COMMON/COLLECTIVE FUND

COMMON STOCK

Arch Coal, Inc.	Common stock
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PARTICIPANT DIRECTED BROKERAGE ACCOUNTS

Putnam	Putnam Direct Personal Choice Retirement Account (Participants Directed Brokerage Accounts)
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BALANCE CARRIED FORWARD

The above information is a required disclosure for IRS Form 5500, Schedule H, Part IV, line 4i.

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ARCH COAL, INC. EMPLOYEE THRIFT PLAN

E.I.N. 43-0921172 PLAN 006  
 SCHEDULE OF ASSETS HELD  
 DECEMBER 31, 2002

IDENTITY OF ISSUER	DESCRIPTION OF INVESTMENT
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BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD

GUARANTEED INVESTMENT ACCOUNT -  
 PRIMCO STABLE VALUE FUND

Allstate Life Insurance Company	Synthetic GIC
Allstate Life Insurance Company Wrapper	Synthetic GIC

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Bank of America NT & SA	103-121E
Bank of America NT & SA Wrapper	103-121E
ING Life Insurance & Annuity Company	103-121E
ING Life Insurance & Annuity Company Wrapper	103-121E
John Hancock Life Insurance	PSA
John Hancock Life Insurance Wrapper	PSA
JP Morgan Chase Bank	103-121E
JP Morgan Chase Bank Wrapper	103-121E
Monumental Life Insurance Company	Synthetic GIC
Monumental Life Insurance Company Wrapper	Synthetic GIC
Monumental Life Insurance Company	103-121E
Monumental Life Insurance Company Wrapper	103-121E
State Street Bank & Trust	Synthetic GIC
State Street Bank & Trust Wrapper	Synthetic GIC
State Street Bank & Trust	103-121E
State Street Bank & Trust Wrapper	103-121E
UBS AG	Synthetic GIC
UBS AG Wrapper	Synthetic GIC
Boston Company	Common/Collective Trust
Bus Men's Assur-MBIA Insd	GIC
Security Life of Denver	GIC

TOTAL GUARANTEED INVESTMENT ACCOUNT

PARTICIPANT LOANS

Notes Receivable

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SIGNATURE PAGE

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the duly authorized Plan Administrator has executed this annual report.

ARCH COAL, INC. EMPLOYEE THRIFT PLAN

Date: June 20, 2003

By: /s/ Sheila Feldman

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Sheila Feldman  
Plan Administrator

INDEX TO EXHIBITS

Exhibit 23	Consent of Rubin, Brown, Gornstein & Co. LLP, Independent Auditors
Exhibit 99.1	Statement Under Oath of Principal Executive Officer Regarding Facts and Circumstances Relating to Exchange Act Filings executed by Steven F. Leer

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Exhibit 99.2

Statement Under Oath of Principal Financial Officer Regarding  
Facts and Circumstances Relating to Exchange Act Filings  
executed by Robert J. Messey

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