

## **Arch Coal, Inc. Announces New Share Repurchase Program**

September 21, 2006 12:00 AM ET

ST. LOUIS, (September 21, 2006) – Arch Coal, Inc. (NYSE:ACI) announced today that its Board of Directors has authorized the company to repurchase up to 14,000,000 shares of its common stock, effective immediately. The timing of any purchases, and the ultimate number of shares to be purchased, will depend on market conditions. The shares will be acquired in the open market or through private transactions in accordance with Securities and Exchange Commission requirements. The company had 143,544,602 common shares outstanding as of September 15, 2006.

"The long-term outlook for the U.S. coal sector continues to strengthen, and we believe that Arch's extensive reserve base, highly productive operations and skilled workforce position the company for future success," said Steven F. Leer, Arch's chairman and chief executive officer. "As a result, Arch's board and management consider the company's stock to be an attractive investment option, and we view share repurchase as an effective way to create value for shareholders."

Arch Coal is the nation's second largest coal producer. The company's core business is providing U.S. power generators with clean-burning, low-sulfur coal for electric generation. Through its national network of mines, Arch supplies the fuel for approximately 6% of the electricity generated in the United States.

**Forward-Looking Statements:** This press release contains "forward-looking statements" – that is, statements related to future, not past, events. In this context, forward-looking statements often address our expected future business and financial performance, and often contain words such as "expects," "anticipates," "intends," "plans," "believes," "seeks," or "will." Forward-looking statements by their nature address matters that are, to different degrees, uncertain. For us, particular uncertainties arise from changes in the demand for our coal by the domestic electric generation industry; from legislation and regulations relating to the Clean Air Act and other environmental initiatives; from operational, geological, permit, labor and weather-related factors; from fluctuations in the amount of cash we generate from operations; from future integration of acquired businesses; and from numerous other matters of national, regional and global scale, including those of a political, economic, business, competitive or regulatory nature. These uncertainties may cause our actual future results to be materially different than those expressed in our forward-looking statements. We do not undertake to update our forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise, except as may be required by law. For a description of some of the risks and uncertainties that may affect our future results, you should see the risk factors described from time to time in the reports we file with the Securities and Exchange Commission.