

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, DC 20549

SCHEDULE 13D

UNDER THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

(AMENDMENT NO. 6)

Arch Coal, Inc.  
(Name of Issuer)

Common Stock  
(Title of class of Securities)

039380100  
(CUSIP Number)

David L. Hausrath  
Vice President and  
General Counsel  
Ashland Inc.  
50 E. RiverCenter Boulevard  
P.O. Box 391  
Covington, KY 41012-0391  
(606) 815-3333

(Name, address and telephone number of person  
authorized to receive notices and communications)

March 16, 2000

(Date of event which requires filing of this statement)

If the filing person has previously filed a statement on Schedule 13G to report the acquisition which is the subject of this Schedule 13D, and is filing this schedule because of Rule 13d-1(b)(3) or (4), check the following box .

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CUSIP No. 039380100 13D

- 1 NAME OF REPORTING PERSONS Ashland Inc.  
I.R.S. IDENTIFICATION NOS. OF ABOVE PERSONS  
61-0122250
- 2 CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOX IF A MEMBER OF A GROUP (a)   
N/A (b)
- 3 SEC USE ONLY
- 4 SOURCE OF FUNDS 00 (See Item 3)
- 5 CHECK BOX IF DISCLOSURE OF LEGAL PROCEEDINGS IS REQUIRED PURSUANT  
TO ITEM 2(d) or 2(e)
- 6 CITIZENSHIP OR PLACE OF ORGANIZATION  
Kentucky
- 7 SOLE VOTING POWER  
22,123,273
- 8 SHARED VOTING POWER  
0
- 9 SOLE DISPOSITIVE POWER  
22,123,273
- 10 SHARED DISPOSITIVE POWER  
0
- 11 AGGREGATE AMOUNT BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON  
22,123,273 shares of common stock
- 12 CHECK BOX IF THE AGGREGATE AMOUNT IN ROW (11) EXCLUDES CERTAIN  
SHARES
- 13 PERCENT OF CLASS REPRESENTED BY AMOUNT IN ROW (11)  
58.0% of the shares of common stock
- 14 TYPE OF REPORTING PERSON  
CO

Securities and Exchange Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20549  
Schedule 13D

Item 1. Security and Issuer

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Ashland Inc. ("Ashland") currently owns 22,123,273 shares of common stock ("common stock"), par value \$.01 per share, of Arch Coal, Inc. ("Arch Coal").

Arch Coal is a Delaware corporation with its principal executive offices located at City Place One, Suite 300, Creve Coeur, Missouri 63141.

Item 2. Identity and Background

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(a), (b) and (c) Ashland is a Kentucky corporation with its principal executive offices located at 50 E. RiverCenter Blvd., P. O. Box 391, Covington, Kentucky 41012-0391. Ashland is a diversified company with wholly owned operations in distribution, specialty chemicals, motor oil and car care products, and highway construction. Ashland also has a 38-percent equity interest in Marathon Ashland Petroleum LLC and a 58-percent equity interest in Arch Coal.

The executive officers and directors of Ashland and their principal occupations are shown on the attached Schedule I. The business address of each executive officer is shown on Schedule I. Each director's business address is Ashland Inc., c/o Office of the Secretary, 50 E. RiverCenter Boulevard, P. O. Box 391, Covington, KY 41012-0391.

(d-e) During the last five years, neither Ashland nor any of the persons listed in Schedule I hereto, has been (i) convicted in a criminal proceeding (excluding traffic violations and similar misdemeanors) or (ii) a party to a civil proceeding of a judicial or administrative body of competent jurisdiction and as a result of such proceeding was or is subject to a judgment, decree or final order enjoining future violations of, or prohibiting or mandating activities subject to, Federal or state securities laws or finding any violation with respect to such laws.

(f) Each executive officer and director is a U.S. citizen.

Item 3. Source and Amount of Funds or Other Consideration

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Not applicable.

Item 4. Purpose of Transaction

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On June 22, 1999, Ashland, as a shareholder of Arch Coal, announced that it had retained the investment banking firm of Goldman Sachs to help Ashland explore strategic alternatives for its investment in Arch Coal.

On October 5, 1999, Ashland announced that it was making progress on its study to explore strategic alternatives for its investment in Arch Coal and that, at that point, a tax-free spin-off to its shareholders seemed to be its preferred alternative. Ashland also announced that it had submitted a proposal to Arch Coal and had begun discussions with a special committee of the Arch Coal Board of Directors regarding such a spin-off transaction. Such a spin-off would have been subject, among other things, to a negotiated agreement with the special committee of the Arch Coal Board of Directors, approval by the Arch Coal shareholders, a favorable ruling from the Internal Revenue Service, and approval by Ashland's Board of Directors.

On January 24, 2000, Ashland announced that it was continuing to pursue spin-off alternatives for its investment in Arch Coal, including both tax-free and taxable distributions.

On February 24, 2000, Ashland announced that, absent intervening circumstances or material events, Ashland's management intended to recommend to its Board of Directors at the next Ashland Board meeting, to be held on March 16, 2000, a distribution to Ashland's shareholders of 17,397,233 shares of its Arch Coal Common Stock in the form of a taxable dividend. Ashland also announced that, in anticipation of the taxable distribution, two of Ashland's four employees currently on the Arch Coal Board of Directors, Paul W. Chellgren and J. Marvin Quin, will not stand for re-election to the Arch Coal Board at Arch Coal's upcoming Annual Meeting on April 20, 2000.

On March 16, 2000, Ashland announced that its Board of Directors had approved a taxable distribution of 17,397,233 shares of Arch Coal Common Stock to Ashland's shareholders, and had set a record date of March 24, 2000 for the distribution. The distribution will be a taxable event to Ashland and will constitute dividend income to Ashland shareholders. Ashland will retain shares of Arch Coal Common Stock to satisfy any federal tax withholding on the distribution. Any fractional shares of Arch Coal Common Stock resulting from the distribution will be retained by Ashland with Ashland subsequently distributing the equivalent cash value. Arch Coal has indicated to Ashland that the Arch Coal Common Stock distributed by Ashland will be issued by Arch Coal's transfer agent in book-entry form by means of direct registration effective on March 27, 2000. Also on March 27, 2000, Ashland intends to mail to its shareholders an information statement in respect of the distribution. Ashland anticipates that direct registration statements listing the number of shares of Arch Coal

Common Stock received by each Ashland shareholder will be mailed commencing on or about March 31, 2000 by Arch Coal's transfer agent.

Following the distribution, Ashland intends, subject to then-existing market conditions but within one year, to dispose of Ashland's remaining 4,726,040 shares of Arch Coal Common Stock plus any fractional shares of Arch Coal Common Stock retained pursuant to the distribution, and any shares retained to satisfy tax withholding, in a transaction or transactions that qualify as a sale for federal income tax purposes.

Item 5. Interest in Securities of the Issuer

I. Ashland

(a) Ashland presently owns 22,123,273 shares of Arch Coal common stock which represents approximately 58.0% of the total issued and outstanding stock of Arch Coal.

(b) Ashland has sole voting power and the sole power to dispose or to direct the disposition of its shares of Arch Coal common stock.

(c) Neither Ashland nor the persons listed in Item 2 has effected any transaction relating to Arch Coal common stock within the last 60 days.

(d) Not applicable.

(e) Not applicable.

II. Executive Officers and Directors of Ashland

The beneficial ownership of the common stock of Arch Coal of certain executive officers and directors of Ashland Inc. is listed on Schedule II. If not listed on Schedule II, the executive officer or director does not beneficially own Arch Coal common stock.

Item 6. Contracts, Arrangements, Understandings or Relationships with Respect to Securities of the Issuer

Pursuant to a Stockholders Agreement between Arch Coal, Ashland and Carboex S.A. ("Carboex"), Arch Coal has agreed to nominate for election as a director of Arch Coal a person designated by Carboex, and Ashland has agreed, among other things, to vote its shares of Arch Coal common stock in a manner sufficient to cause the election of such nominee.

Item 7. Material to be Filed as Exhibits

Stockholders Agreement between Arch Coal, Ashland and Carboex S.A. dated April 4, 1997 (filed as Exhibit 7 to Ashland's Schedule 13D (Amendment No. 2) dated June 22, 1999, and incorporated herein by reference).

SIGNATURE

After reasonable inquiry and to the best of my knowledge and belief, I certify that the information set forth in this statement is true, complete and correct.

March 16, 2000

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(Date)

/s/ David L. Hausrath

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David L. Hausrath  
Vice President and General Counsel

Schedule I  
DIRECTORS AND EXECUTIVE OFFICERS  
OF  
ASHLAND INC.  
PRINCIPAL OCCUPATIONS AND BUSINESS ADDRESSES

DIRECTORS	PRINCIPAL OCCUPATION*
Samuel C. Butler	Partner of Cravath, Swaine & Moore, Attorneys, New York, New York
Frank C. Carlucci	Chairman of the Board of The Carlyle Group, Washington, D.C.
Paul W. Chellgren	Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer of Ashland Inc., Covington, Kentucky
Ernest H. Drew	Former CEO of Westinghouse Industries and Technology Group
James B. Farley	Private Investor and Retired Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Mutual Life Insurance Company of New York, New York (now known as The MONY Group)
Bernadine P. Healy	President of the American Red Cross, Washington, D.C.
Mannie L. Jackson	Majority owner and Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of the Harlem Globetrotters, International
Patrick F. Noonan	Chairman of the Board of The Conservation Fund, Arlington, Virginia
Jane C. Pfeiffer	Management Consultant, Vero Beach, Florida
William L. Rouse, Jr.	Investments, Naples, Florida
Theodore M. Solso	Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Cummins Engine Company, Inc., Columbus, Indiana

\* For business addresses, see Item 2.

## EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

## BUSINESS ADDRESS

## PRINCIPAL OCCUPATION

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS	BUSINESS ADDRESS	PRINCIPAL OCCUPATION
Paul W. Chellgren	P. O. Box 391 Covington, KY 41012	Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer
James R. Boyd	P. O. Box 391 Covington, KY 41012	Senior Vice President and Group Operating Officer
David J. D'Antoni	P. O. Box 2219 Columbus, OH 43216	Senior Vice President and Group Operating Officer
J. Marvin Quin	P. O. Box 391 Covington, KY 41012	Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer
James J. O'Brien	P. O. Box 1400 Lexington, KY 40512	Senior Vice President; President, The Valvoline Company
Charles F. Potts	APAC, Inc. 3340 Peachtree Rd., NE Tower Place Atlanta, GA 30326	Senior Vice President; President, APAC, Inc.
Kenneth L. Aulen	P. O. Box 391 Ashland, KY 41114	Administrative Vice President; Controller
Philip W. Block	P. O. Box 391 Covington, KY 41012	Administrative Vice President
J. Dan Lacy	P. O. Box 391 Covington, KY 41012	Vice President
David L. Hausrath	P. O. Box 391 Covington, KY 41012	Vice President and General Counsel
Richard P. Thomas	P. O. Box 391 Covington, KY 41012	Vice President and Secretary
Peter M. Bokach	P. O. Box 2219 Columbus, OH 43216	Vice President; President of Ashland Distribution Company

James A. Duquin

P. O. Box 2219  
Columbus, OH 43216

Vice President;  
President of Ashland  
Specialty Chemical Company

Lamar M. Chambers

P. O. Box 391  
Covington, KY 41012

Auditor



SCHEDULE II

Stock Transactions  
effected within  
past 60 days

Executive Officer of  
of Ashland

Total Ownership

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Paul W. Chellgren

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8,000 - direct

598 - direct - held in  
the Arch Coal DRIP

J. Marvin Quin

1,500 - direct

James R. Boyd

5,000 - direct

Philip W. Block

400 - direct

EXHIBIT INDEX

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