

WHITING RICHARD M  
Form 4  
September 23, 2005

**FORM 4** UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
Washington, D.C. 20549

OMB APPROVAL

OMB Number: 3235-0287  
Expires: January 31, 2005  
Estimated average burden hours per response... 0.5

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**STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF SECURITIES**

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, Section 17(a) of the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935 or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person \*  
WHITING RICHARD M

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol  
PEABODY ENERGY CORP [BTU]

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

(Check all applicable)

(Last) (First) (Middle)  
701 MARKET STREET  
  
(Street)

3. Date of Earliest Transaction  
(Month/Day/Year)  
09/21/2005

\_\_\_\_ Director \_\_\_\_\_ 10% Owner  
 Officer (give title below) \_\_\_\_\_ Other (specify below)  
EVP - Sales and Marketing

ST. LOUIS, MO 63101-1826

4. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year)

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line)  
 Form filed by One Reporting Person  
 Form filed by More than One Reporting Person

(City) (State) (Zip)

**Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned**

| 1. Title of Security (Instr. 3) | 2. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year) | 2A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year) | 3. Transaction Code (Instr. 8) | 4. Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5) | 5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4) | 6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4) | 7. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4) |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|---|--|---|
| Common Stock                    | 09/21/2005                           |  | M                              | V   | Amount \$ 14.595  | 70,498   | D <sup>(1)</sup>                                      |
| Common Stock                    | 09/21/2005                           |  | S <sup>(2)</sup>               |   | Amount \$ 84.5  | 60,498   | I <sup>(1)</sup> By Trust                             |
| Common Stock                    |                                      |  |                                |   | 4,556   | D  |   |

Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially owned directly or indirectly.

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number.

**Table II - Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned**  
(e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)

| 1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 3) | 2. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security | 3. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year) | 3A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year) | 4. Transaction Code (Instr. 8) | 5. Number of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5) | 6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year) | 7. Title and Amount of Underlying Security (Instr. 3 and 4) | Amount or Number of Shares |
|--|--|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|--|---|----------------------------|
| Employee Stock Option (right to buy)       | \$ 14.595  | 09/21/2005                           |  | M                              | 10,000  | 01/02/2004 <sup>(3)</sup> 01/02/2013                     | Common Stock  | 10,000                     |

## Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address                                     | Relationships |           |                           |       |
|--|---------------|-----------|---------------------------|-------|
|  | Director      | 10% Owner | Officer                   | Other |
| WHITING RICHARD M<br>701 MARKET STREET<br>ST. LOUIS, MO 63101-1826 |               |           | EVP - Sales and Marketing |       |

## Signatures

Richard M. Whiting By: Joseph W. Bean,  
Attorney-in-Fact 09/23/2005

\_\_Signature of Reporting Person

Date

## Explanation of Responses:

- \* If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, see Instruction 4(b)(v).
- \*\* Intentional misstatements or omissions of facts constitute Federal Criminal Violations. See 18 U.S.C. 1001 and 15 U.S.C. 78ff(a).
- (1) Pursuant to the Rule 10b5-1 trading plan referred to in footnote 2, upon exercise of the options the shares are immediately transferred to a trust.
- (2) This sale was effected pursuant to a pre-existing Rule 10b5-1 trading plan adopted by the reporting person.
- (3) Of the 10,000 options exercised, 3,360 vested on January 2, 2004 and 6,640 vested on January 2, 2005.
- (4) Does not include an additional 254,700 options with different expiration dates and exercise prices.

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, see Instruction 6 for procedure. Potential persons who are to respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB number.