

ARCH COAL INC
Form S-3ASR
March 14, 2006

Table of Contents

As filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on March 14, 2006
Registration No. 333-

UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, DC 20549
FORM S-3
REGISTRATION STATEMENT UNDER
THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933
Arch Coal, Inc.
(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware
*(State or other jurisdiction
of incorporation or organization)*

43-0921172
*(I.R.S. Employer
Identification Number)*

One CityPlace Drive, Suite 300
St. Louis, Missouri 63141
(314) 994-2700
*(Address, including zip code, and telephone number, including area code
of registrant's principal executive offices)*

Robert G. Jones
Vice President Law, General Counsel and Secretary
Arch Coal, Inc.
One CityPlace Drive, Suite 300
St. Louis, Missouri 63141
(314) 994-2700
*(Name, address, including zip code, and telephone
number, including area code, of agent for service)*

With a copy to:
Ronald D. West
Kirkpatrick & Lockhart Nicholson Graham LLP
Henry W. Oliver Building
535 Smithfield Street
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15222
(412) 355-6500

Approximate date of commencement of proposed sale to the public: From time to time after the Registration Statement becomes effective.

If the only securities being registered on this form are being offered pursuant to dividend or interest reinvestment plans, please check the following box.

If any of the securities being registered on this form are to be offered on a delayed or continuous basis pursuant to Rule 415 under the Securities Act of 1933, other than securities offered only in connection with dividend or interest reinvestment plans, check the following box.

If this form is filed to register additional securities for an offering pursuant to Rule 462(b) under the Securities Act, please check the following box and list the Securities Act registration statement number of the earlier effective registration statement for the same offering.

If this form is a post-effective amendment filed pursuant to Rule 462(c) under the Securities Act, check the following box and list the Securities Act registration statement number of the earlier effective registration statement for the same offering.

If this form is a registration statement pursuant to General Instruction I.D. or a post-effective amendment thereto that shall become effective upon filing with the Commission pursuant to Rule 462(e) under the Securities Act, check the following box.

If this form is a post-effective amendment to a registration statement filed pursuant to General Instruction 1.D. filed to register additional securities or additional classes of securities pursuant to Rule 413(b) under the Securities Act, check the following box. o

CALCULATION OF REGISTRATION FEE

Title of Each Class of Securities to be Registered	Amount to be Registered(1)	Proposed Maximum Offering Price Per Unit(1)	Proposed Maximum Aggregate Offering Price(1)	Amount of Registration Fee(1)
Debt Securities				
Warrants				
Purchase Contracts(2)				
Units(3)				
Preferred Stock				
Depository Shares(4)				
Common Stock(5)				

- (1) An indeterminate aggregate initial offering price or amount of the securities of each identified class is being registered as may from time to time be offered at indeterminate prices. Separate consideration may or may not be received for securities that are issuable upon exercise, conversion or exchange of other securities or that are issued in units or represented by depository shares. In accordance with Rules 456(b) and 457(r), the registrant is deferring payment of all of the registration fee, except for \$126,700 that has already been paid with respect to \$1,000,000,000 aggregate initial offering price of securities that were previously registered pursuant to Registration Statement No. 333-120781 and were not sold thereunder.
- (2) Each purchase contract will represent obligations to purchase from Arch Coal, Inc., or to sell to Arch Coal, Inc., common stock, preferred stock, debt securities, depository shares or warrants of Arch Coal, Inc., or debt securities of third parties (including U.S. Treasury securities), an index or indices thereof or any combination thereof.
- (3) Each unit will be issued under a unit agreement or indenture and will consist of purchase contracts together with common stock, preferred stock, debt securities, depository shares or warrants of Arch Coal, Inc., or debt securities of third parties (including U.S. Treasury securities), securing the holders obligations to purchase the securities under the purchase contracts, or any of these securities in any combination.
- (4) Each depository share will be issued under a deposit agreement, will represent an interest in a fractional share or multiple shares of preferred stock and will be evidenced by a depository receipt.
- (5) Each share of common stock includes one preferred stock purchase right as described under Description of Capital Stock. No separate consideration will be received for the preferred stock purchase rights.

Table of Contents

Debt Securities
Warrants
Purchase Contracts
Units
Preferred Stock
Depository Shares
Common Stock

Arch Coal, Inc. from time to time may offer to sell, in one or more series, senior or subordinated debt securities, warrants, purchase contracts, units, preferred stock, depository shares and common stock, or any combination of these securities. The debt securities, warrants, purchase contracts and preferred stock may be convertible into or exercisable or exchangeable for our common or preferred stock or other securities or debt or equity securities of one or more other entities. Our common stock is listed on the New York Stock Exchange and trades under the ticker symbol ACI.

We may offer and sell these securities to or through one or more underwriters, dealers and agents, or directly to purchasers, on a continuous or delayed basis.

This prospectus describes some of the general terms that may apply to these securities. The specific terms of any securities to be offered, and the specific manner in which they may be offered, will be described in one or more supplements to this prospectus or in one or more reports which we file with the Securities and Exchange Commission pursuant to the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. This prospectus may not be used to sell securities unless it is accompanied by a prospectus supplement that contains a description of those securities.

We urge you to carefully read the information included or incorporated by reference in this prospectus and any prospectus supplement for a discussion of factors you should consider before deciding to invest in any securities offered by this prospectus.

Neither the Securities and Exchange Commission nor any other regulatory body has approved or disapproved of these securities or passed upon the accuracy or adequacy of this prospectus. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

The date of this prospectus is March 14, 2006.

Table of Contents

	Page
<u>Where You Can Find More Information</u>	1
<u>Available Information</u>	1
<u>Incorporation by Reference</u>	1
<u>Use of Proceeds</u>	2
<u>Description of Debt Securities</u>	2
<u>General</u>	2
<u>Terms</u>	2
<u>Events of Default</u>	4
<u>Modification of the Indentures</u>	5
<u>Satisfaction and Discharge, Defeasance and Covenant Defeasance</u>	6
<u>Record Dates</u>	7
<u>Subordinated Debt Securities</u>	7
<u>Governing Law</u>	7
<u>Book-Entry Securities</u>	7
<u>Description of Warrants</u>	8
<u>Description of Purchase Contracts</u>	9
<u>Description of Units</u>	10
<u>Description of Depositary Shares</u>	11
<u>General</u>	11
<u>Dividends and Other Distributions</u>	11
<u>Redemption of Depositary Shares</u>	11
<u>Exercise of Rights or Voting the Preferred Stock</u>	12
<u>Amendment and Termination of the Depositary Agreement</u>	12
<u>Charges of Depositary</u>	12
<u>Miscellaneous</u>	12
<u>Resignation and Removal of Depositary</u>	13
<u>Description of Capital Securities</u>	13
<u>Common Stock</u>	13
<u>Preferred Stock</u>	13
<u>Legal Matters</u>	17
<u>Experts</u>	17
<u>Form of Indenture for Senior Debt</u>	
<u>Form of Indenture for Subordinated Debt</u>	
<u>Opinion & Consent of Kirkpatrick & Lockhart Nicholson Graham LLP</u>	
<u>Consent of Ernst & Young LLP</u>	
<u>Power of Attorney</u>	

Table of Contents

Where You Can Find More Information

Available Information

We file reports, proxy statements and other information with the Securities and Exchange Commission, which we refer to as the SEC. These reports, proxy statements and other information can be read and copied at the SEC's public reference room at 100 F Street, N.E., Room 1580, Washington, D.C. 20549. Please call the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330 for further information on the public reference room. The SEC maintains an internet site that contains reports, proxy and information statements and other information regarding issuers that file electronically with the SEC, including Arch Coal. The SEC's Internet address is <http://www.sec.gov>. In addition, our common stock is listed on the New York Stock Exchange, and our reports and other information can be inspected at the offices of the New York Stock Exchange, 20 Broad Street, New York, New York 10005. Our Internet address is <http://www.archcoal.com>. The information on our Internet site is not part of this prospectus.

Incorporation by Reference

The SEC allows us to incorporate by reference in this prospectus the documents that we file with the SEC. This means that we can disclose important information to you by referring you to those documents. Any information we incorporate in this manner is considered part of this prospectus from the date we file that document.

We incorporate by reference into this prospectus the following documents or information that we have filed with the SEC and any filing that we will make with the SEC in the future under Section 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, including such documents filed with the SEC by us after the date of this prospectus and prior to the time we sell all of the securities covered by this prospectus, except as noted below:

Arch Coal's SEC Filings (File No. 1-13105)

Annual Report on Form 10-K
Current Reports on Form 8-K

Registration Statement on Form 8-A
Registration Statement on Form 8-A
Registration Statement on Form 8-B

Period or Date of Filing

Year ended December 31, 2005
January 6, 2006, February 16, 2006,
February 24, 2006
March 9, 2000
March 5, 2003
June 17, 1997

Pursuant to General Instruction B of Form 8-K, any information furnished under Item 2.02, Results of Operations and Financial Condition, or Item 7.01, Regulation FD Disclosure, of Form 8-K is not deemed to be filed for purposes of Section 18 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, and we are not subject to the liabilities of Section 18 with respect to information we furnish under Item 2.01 or Item 7.01 of Form 8-K. We are not incorporating by reference any information we furnish under Item 2.01 or Item 7.01 of Form 8-K into any filing under the Securities Act of 1933 or the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 or into this prospectus.

Statements contained in this prospectus as to the contents of any contract or other document referred to in this prospectus do not purport to be complete, and where reference is made to the particular provisions of that contract or other document, those provisions are qualified in all respects by reference to all of the provisions of that contract or other document. Any statement contained in a document incorporated by reference, or deemed to be incorporated by reference, in this prospectus will be deemed to be modified or superseded for purposes of this prospectus to the extent that a statement contained herein or in any other subsequently filed document which also is incorporated by reference

in this prospectus modifies or supersedes the statement. Any such statement so modified or superseded will not be deemed, except as so modified or superseded, to constitute a part of this prospectus.

We will provide without charge, upon written or oral request, a copy of any or all documents that are incorporated by reference into this prospectus and a copy of any or all other contracts or documents which are referred to in this prospectus. Requests should be directed to: Arch Coal, Inc., Attention: Investor Relations, One CityPlace Drive, Suite 300, St. Louis, Missouri 63141, telephone number: (314) 994-2700.

You should rely only on the information contained in or incorporated by reference into this prospectus. We have not authorized any other person to provide you with different information. We are not making an offer to sell securities in any jurisdiction where the offer or sale is not prohibited. You should assume that the information appearing in this prospectus is accurate as of the date hereof only.

Table of Contents

Use of Proceeds

We intend to use the net proceeds from the sale of the securities for general corporate purposes unless otherwise indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement relating to a specific issuance of securities or in a report which we file with the SEC under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, which we refer to as an Exchange Act Report. Our general corporate purposes include, but are not limited to, working capital, capital expenditures, investments in or loans to our subsidiaries or joint ventures, repayment, redemption or refinancing of debt, redemption or repurchase of our outstanding securities, funding of possible acquisitions and satisfaction of other obligations. Pending any such use, the net proceeds from the sale of the securities may be invested in short-term, investment-grade, interest-bearing instruments. We will include a more detailed description of the use of proceeds of any specific offering in the applicable prospectus supplement relating to the offering or in an Exchange Act Report.

Description of Debt Securities

The following is a general description of the debt securities that we may offer from time to time. The particular terms of the debt securities offered by any prospectus supplement and the extent, if any, to which the general provisions described below may apply will be described in the applicable prospectus supplement or in an Exchange Act Report. Although our securities include securities denominated in U.S. dollars, we may choose to issue securities in any other currency, including the euro.

The debt securities will be either senior debt securities or subordinated debt securities. We will issue the senior debt securities under a senior indenture between us and a trustee. We will issue the subordinated debt securities under a subordinated indenture between us and the same or another trustee. The senior indenture and the subordinated indenture are collectively referred to in this prospectus as the indentures, and each of the trustee under the senior indenture and the trustee under the subordinated indenture are referred to in this prospectus as the trustee. Any debt securities issued by us may be guaranteed by one or more of our subsidiaries.

The following description is only a summary of the material provisions of the indentures. We urge you to read the appropriate indenture because it, and not this description, defines your rights as holders of the debt securities. See the information under the heading **Where You Can Find More Information** to contact us for a copy of the appropriate indenture.

General

The senior debt securities will be unsubordinated obligations, will rank equally with all other unsubordinated debt obligations of ours and, unless otherwise indicated in the related prospectus supplement or in an Exchange Act Report, will be unsecured. The subordinated debt securities will be subordinate in right of payment to senior debt securities. A description of the subordinated debt securities is provided below under **Subordinated Debt Securities**. The specific terms of any subordinated debt securities will be provided in the related prospectus supplement or in an Exchange Act Report. For a complete understanding of the provisions pertaining to the subordinated debt securities, you should refer to the subordinated indenture attached as an exhibit to the Registration Statement of which this prospectus is a part.

Terms

The indentures will not limit the principal amount of debt we may issue.

We may issue notes or bonds in traditional paper form, or we may issue a global security. The debt securities of any series may be issued in definitive form or, if provided in the related prospectus supplement or in an Exchange Act Report, may be represented in whole or in part by a global security or securities, registered in the name of a depository designated by us. Each Debt Security represented by a global security is referred to as a Book-Entry Security.

Debt securities may be issued from time to time pursuant to this prospectus and will be offered on terms determined by market conditions at the time of sale. Debt securities may be issued in one or more series with the

Table of Contents

same or various maturities and may be sold at par, a premium or an original issue discount. Debt securities sold at an original issue discount may bear no interest or interest at a rate that is below market rates. Unless otherwise provided in the related prospectus supplement or in an Exchange Act Report, debt securities denominated in U.S. dollars will be issued in denominations of \$1,000 and integral multiples thereof.

Please refer to the related prospectus supplement or Exchange Act Report for the specific terms of the debt securities offered, including the following:

Designation of an aggregate principal amount, purchase price and denomination;

Date of maturity;

If other than U.S. currency, the currency for which the debt securities may be purchased;

The interest rate or rates and the method of calculating interest;

The times at which any premium and interest will be payable;

The place or places where principal, any premium and interest will be payable;

Any redemption or sinking fund provisions or other repayment obligations;

Any index used to determine the amount of payment of principal of and any premium and interest on the debt securities;

The application, if any, of the defeasance provisions to the debt securities;

If other than the entire principal amount, the portion of the debt securities that would be payable upon acceleration of the maturity thereof;

Whether the debt securities will be issued in whole or in part in the form of one or more global securities, and in such case, the depository for the global securities;

Whether the debt securities may be converted into or exercised or exchanged for our common stock, preferred stock, warrants, purchase contracts or purchase units and the terms of such conversion, exercise or exchange, if any;

Whether the debt securities will be guaranteed by one or more of our subsidiaries and, if so, the identity of the guarantors;

Any covenants applicable to the debt securities being offered;

Any events of default applicable to the debt securities being offered;

Any changes to the events of default described in this prospectus;

The terms of subordination, if applicable; and

Any other specific terms including any terms that may be required by or advisable under applicable law.

Except with respect to book-entry securities, debt securities may be presented for exchange or registration of transfer, in the manner, at the places and subject to the restrictions set forth in the debt securities and the related prospectus supplement or Exchange Act Report. Such services will be provided without charge, other than any tax or other governmental charge payable in connection therewith, but subject to the limitations provided in the indentures.

Debt Guarantees

Debt securities offered by us may be guaranteed by one or more of our subsidiaries. Any guarantee of debt securities offered by us will be set forth in the applicable indenture or a supplemental indenture and described in the applicable prospectus supplement or Exchange Act Report. The payment obligations of any guarantor with respect to a guarantee of debt securities offered by us will be effectively subordinate in right of payment to the prior payment in full of all senior indebtedness of any such guarantor to the same extent and manner that our payment

Table of Contents

obligations with respect to our subordinated debt securities are subordinate in right of payment to the prior payment in full of all of our senior indebtedness.

Events of Default

Except as otherwise set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement or in an Exchange Act Report, an event of default shall occur with respect to any series of debt securities when:

We default in paying principal of or premium, if any, on any of the debt securities of such series when due;

We default in paying interest on the debt securities of such series when due, continuing for 30 days;

We default in making deposits into any sinking fund payment with respect to any debt security of such series when due;

We or any subsidiary guarantor, if applicable, fail to perform any other covenant or warranty in the debt securities of such series or in the applicable indenture, and such failure continues for a period of 90 days after notice of such failure as provided in that indenture;

A subsidiary guarantee of our debt securities, if applicable, is held in any judicial proceeding to be unenforceable or invalid;

Certain events of bankruptcy, insolvency, or reorganization occur; or

Any other event of default occurs with respect to debt securities of that series.

We will be required annually to deliver to the trustee officers certificates stating whether or not the officers signing such certificates have any knowledge of any default in the performance by us of certain covenants.

If an event of default shall occur and be continuing with respect to any series (other than an event of default described in the sixth bullet point of the first paragraph above under Events of Default), the trustee or the holders of not less than 25% in principal amount of the debt securities of such series then outstanding (or, if any securities of that series are original issue discount securities, the portion of the principal amount of such securities as may be specified by the terms thereof) may declare the debt securities of such series to be due and payable. If an event of default described in the sixth bullet point of the first paragraph above under Events of Default occurs with respect to any series of debt securities, the principal amount of all debt securities of that series (or, if any securities of that series are original issue discount securities, the portion of the principal amount of such securities as may be specified by the terms thereof) will automatically become due and payable without any declaration by the trustee or the holders. The trustee is required to give holders of the debt securities of any series written notice of a default with respect to such series as and to the extent provided by the Trust Indenture Act. As used in this paragraph, a default means an event described in the first paragraph under Events of Default without including any applicable grace period.

If at any time after the debt securities of such series have been declared due and payable, and before any judgment or decree for the moneys due has been obtained or entered, we will pay or deposit with the trustee amounts sufficient to pay all matured installments of interest upon the debt securities of such series and the principal of all debt securities of such series which shall have become due, otherwise than by acceleration, together with interest on such principal and, to the extent legally enforceable, on such overdue installments of interest and all other amounts due under the applicable indenture shall have been paid, and any and all defaults with respect to such series under that indenture shall have been remedied, then the holders of a majority in aggregate principal amount of the debt securities of such

series then outstanding, by written notice to us and the trustee, may rescind and annul the declaration that the debt securities of such series are due and payable. In addition, the holders of a majority in aggregate principal amount of the debt securities of such series may waive any past default and its consequences with respect to such series, except a default in the payment of the principal of or any premium or interest on any debt securities of such series or a default in the performance of a covenant that cannot be modified under the indentures without the consent of the holder of each affected debt security.

The trustee is under no obligation to exercise any of the rights or powers under the indentures at the request, order or direction of any of the holders of debt securities, unless such holders shall have offered to the trustee

Table of Contents

reasonable security or indemnity. Subject to such provisions for the indemnification of the trustee and certain limitations contained in the indentures, the holders of a majority in aggregate principal amount of the debt securities of each series at the time outstanding shall have the right to direct the time, method and place of conducting any proceeding for any remedy available to the trustee, or exercising any trust or power conferred on the trustee, with respect to the debt securities of such series.

No holder of debt securities will have any right to institute any proceeding, judicial or otherwise, with respect to the indentures, for the appointment of a receiver or trustee or for any other remedy under the indentures unless:

The holder has previously given written notice to the trustee of a continuing event of default with respect to the debt securities of that series; and

The holders of at least 25% in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of that series have made a written request to the trustee, and offered reasonable indemnity, to the trustee to institute proceedings as trustee, the trustee has failed to institute the proceedings within 60 days and the trustee has not received from the holders of a majority in principal amount of the debt securities of that series a direction inconsistent with that request.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, the holder of any debt security will have an absolute and unconditional right to receive payment of the principal of and any premium and, subject to the provisions of the applicable indenture regarding the payment of default interest, interest on that debt security on the due dates expressed in that security and to institute suit for the enforcement of payment.

Modification of the Indentures

Each indenture will contain provisions permitting us and the trustee to modify that indenture or enter into or modify any supplemental indenture without the consent of the holders of the debt securities in regard to matters as shall not adversely affect the interests of the holders of the debt securities, including, without limitation, the following:

to evidence the succession of another corporation to us;

to add to our covenants further covenants for the benefit or protection of the holders of any or all series of debt securities or to surrender any right or power conferred upon us by that indenture;

to add any additional events of default with respect to all or any series of debt securities;

to add to or change any of the provisions of that indenture to facilitate the issuance of debt securities in bearer form with or without coupons, or to permit or facilitate the issuance of debt securities in uncertificated form;

to add to, change or eliminate any of the provisions of that indenture in respect of one or more series of debt securities thereunder, under certain conditions designed to protect the rights of any existing holder of those debt securities;

to secure all or any series of debt securities;

to establish the forms or terms of the debt securities of any series;

to evidence the appointment of a successor trustee and to add to or change provisions of that indenture necessary to provide for or facilitate the administration of the trusts under that indenture by more than one

trustee;

to cure any ambiguity, to correct or supplement any provision of that indenture which may be defective or inconsistent with another provision of that indenture;

to make other amendments that do not adversely affect the interests of the holders of any series of debt securities;

to release a subsidiary guarantor, if applicable, from its obligations under its guarantee (other than in accordance with the terms thereof); and

Table of Contents

to add, change or eliminate any provision of that indenture as shall be necessary or desirable in accordance with any amendments to the Trust Indenture Act.

We and the trustee may otherwise modify each indenture or any supplemental indenture with the consent of the holders of not less than a majority in aggregate principal amount of each series of debt securities affected thereby at the time outstanding, except that no such modifications shall

extend the fixed maturity of any debt securities or any installment of interest or premium on any debt securities, or reduce the principal amount thereof or reduce the rate of interest or premium payable upon redemption, or reduce the amount of principal of an original issue discount debt security or any other debt security that would be due and payable upon a declaration of acceleration of the maturity thereof, or change the currency in which the debt securities are payable or impair the right to institute suit for the enforcement of any payment after the stated maturity thereof or the redemption date, if applicable, or adversely affect any right of the holder of any debt security to require us to repurchase that security, without the consent of the holder of each debt security so affected;

reduce the percentage of debt securities of any series, the consent of the holders of which is required for any waiver or supplemental indenture, without the consent of the holders of all debt securities affected thereby then outstanding; or

modify the provisions of that indenture relating to the waiver of past defaults or the waiver or certain covenants or the provisions described under Modification of the indentures, except to increase any percentage set forth in those provisions or to provide that other provisions of that indenture may not be modified without the consent of the holder of each debt security affected thereby, without the consent of the holder of each debt security affected thereby.

Satisfaction and Discharge, Defeasance and Covenant Defeasance

Each indenture shall be satisfied and discharged if (i) we shall deliver to the trustee all debt securities then outstanding for cancellation or (ii) all debt securities not delivered to the trustee for cancellation shall have become due and payable, are to become due and payable within one year or are to be called for redemption within one year and we shall deposit an amount sufficient to pay the principal, premium, if any, and interest to the date of maturity, redemption or deposit (in the case of debt securities that have become due and payable), provided that in either case we shall have paid all other sums payable under that indenture.

Each indenture will provide, if such provision is made applicable to the debt securities of a series,

that we may elect either (A) to defease and be discharged from any and all obligations with respect to any debt security of such series, or defeasance, or (B) to be released from our obligations with respect to such debt security under certain of the covenants and events of default under that indenture together with additional covenants that may be included for a particular series; and

that certain events of default shall not be events of default under that indenture with respect to such series (covenant defeasance), upon the deposit with the trustee (or other qualifying trustee), in trust for such purpose, of money certain U.S. government obligations and/or, in the case of debt securities denominated in U.S. dollars, certain state and local government obligations which through the payment of principal and interest in accordance with their terms will provide money, in an amount sufficient to pay the principal of (and premium, if any) and interest on such debt security, on the scheduled due dates.

In the case of defeasance or covenant defeasance, the holders of such debt securities will be entitled to receive payments in respect of such debt securities solely from such trust. Such a trust may only be established if, among other things, we have delivered to the trustee an opinion of counsel (as specified in the indentures) to the effect that the holders of the debt securities affected thereby will not recognize income, gain or loss for Federal income tax purposes as a result of such defeasance or covenant defeasance and will be subject to Federal income tax on the same amounts, in the same manner and at the same times as would have been the case if such defeasance or covenant defeasance had not occurred. Such opinion of counsel, in the case of defeasance under clause (A) above, must refer

Table of Contents

to and be based upon a ruling of the Internal Revenue Service or a change in applicable Federal income tax law occurring after the date of the indentures.

Record Dates

The indentures will provide that in certain circumstances we may establish a record date for determining the holders of outstanding debt securities of a series entitled to join in the giving of notice or the taking of other action under the applicable indenture by the holders of the debt securities of such series.

Subordinated Debt Securities

Subordinated debt securities will be subordinate, in right of payment, to all senior debt. Senior debt is defined to mean, with respect to us, the principal, premium, if any, and interest on the following:

all indebtedness of ours, whether outstanding on the date of issuance or thereafter created, incurred or assumed, which is for money borrowed, or evidenced by a note or similar instrument given in connection with the acquisition of any business, properties or assets, including securities;

any indebtedness of others of the kinds described in the preceding clause for the payment of which we are responsible or liable (directly or indirectly, contingently or otherwise) as guarantor or otherwise; and

amendments, renewals, extensions and refundings of any indebtedness described above, unless in any instrument or instruments evidencing or securing such indebtedness or pursuant to which the same is outstanding, or in any such amendment, renewal, extension or refunding, it provides that such indebtedness is not senior or prior in right of payment to the subordinated debt securities.

Upon any distribution of our assets upon our dissolution, winding up, liquidation or reorganization, the payment of the principal of, premium, if any, and interest, if any, on the subordinated debt securities will be subordinated, to the extent provided in the subordinated debt indenture, in right of payment to the prior payment in full of all of our senior debt. Our obligation to make payment of the principal of, premium, if any, and interest, if any, on the subordinated debt securities will not otherwise be affected. In addition, no payment on account of principal and premium, if any, sinking fund or interest, if any, may be made on the subordinated debt securities at any time unless full payment of all amounts due in respect of the principal and premium, if any, sinking fund and interest, if any, on our senior debt has been made or duly provided for in money or money's worth.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, unless all of our senior debt has been paid in full, in the event that any payment or distribution made by us is received by the trustee or the holders of any of the subordinated debt securities, such payment or distribution must be paid over to the holders of our senior debt or a person acting on their behalf, to be applied toward the payment of all our senior debt remaining unpaid until all the senior debt has been paid in full. Subject to the payment in full of all of our senior debt, the rights of the holders of our subordinated debt securities will be subrogated to the rights of the holders of our senior debt.

By reason of this subordination, in the event of a distribution of our assets upon our insolvency, certain of our general creditors may recover more, ratably, than holders of our subordinated debt securities.

Governing Law

The laws of the State of New York will govern each indenture and will govern the debt securities.

Book-Entry Securities

The following description of book-entry securities will apply to any series of debt securities issued in whole or in part in the form of one or more global securities except as otherwise described in the related prospectus supplement or in an Exchange Act Report.

Book-entry securities of like tenor and having the same date will be represented by one or more global securities deposited with and registered in the name of a depository that is a clearing agent registered under the

Table of Contents

Exchange Act. Beneficial interests in book-entry securities will be limited to institutions that have accounts with the depository, or participants, or persons that may hold interests through participants.

Ownership of beneficial interests by participants will only be evidenced by, and the transfer of that ownership interest will only be effected through, records maintained by the depository. Ownership of beneficial interests by persons that hold through participants will only be evidenced by, and the transfer of that ownership interest within such participant will only be effected through, records maintained by the participants. The laws of some jurisdictions require that certain purchasers of securities take physical delivery of such securities in definitive form. Such laws may impair the ability to transfer beneficial interests in a global security.

Payment of principal of and any premium and interest on book-entry securities represented by a global security registered in the name of or held by a depository will be made to the depository, as the registered owner of the global security. Neither we, the trustee nor any agent of ours or the trustee will have any responsibility or liability for any aspect of the depository's records or any participant's records relating to or payments made on account of beneficial ownership interests in a global security or for maintaining, supervising or reviewing any of the depository's records or any participant's records relating to the beneficial ownership interests. Payments by participants to owners of beneficial interests in a global security held through such participants will be governed by the depository's procedures, as is now the case with securities held for the accounts of customers registered in street name, and will be the sole responsibility of such participants.

A global security representing a book-entry security is exchangeable for definitive debt securities in registered form, of like tenor and of an equal aggregate principal amount registered in the name of, or is transferable in whole or in part to, a person other than the depository for that global security, only if (a) the depository notifies us that it is unwilling or unable to continue as depository for that global security or the depository ceases to be a clearing agency registered under the Exchange Act, (b) there shall have occurred and be continuing an event of default with respect to the debt securities of that series or (c) other circumstances exist that have been specified in the terms of the debt securities of that series. Any global security that is exchangeable pursuant to the preceding sentence shall be registered in the name or names of such person or persons as the depository shall instruct the trustee. It is expected that such instructions may be based upon directions received by the depository from its participants with respect to ownership of beneficial interests in such global security.

Except as provided above, owners of beneficial interests in a global security will not be entitled to receive physical delivery of debt securities in definitive form and will not be considered the holders thereof for any purpose under the indentures, and no global security shall be exchangeable, except for a security registered in the name of the depository. This means each person owning a beneficial interest in such global security must rely on the procedures of the depository and, if such person is not a participant, on the procedures of the participant through which such person owns its interest, to exercise any rights of a holder under the indentures. We understand that under existing industry practices, if we request any action of holders or an owner of a beneficial interest in such global security desires to give or take any action that a holder is entitled to give or take under the indentures, the depository would authorize the participants holding the relevant beneficial interests to give or take such action, and such participants would authorize beneficial owners owning through such participant to give or take such action or would otherwise act upon the instructions of beneficial owners owning through them.

Description of Warrants

We may issue warrants for the purchase of our common stock, preferred stock or debt securities. We may issue warrants independently or as part of purchase units, and warrants issued as part of purchase units may be attached to or separate from any other securities part of those purchase units. Each series of warrants will be issued under a separate warrant agreement to be entered into between us and a bank or trust company, as warrant agent. The warrant

agent will act solely as our agent in connection with the warrants and will not assume any obligation or relationship of agency or trust for or with any registered holders of warrants or beneficial owners of warrants. This summary of some provisions of the warrants is not complete. You should refer to the applicable warrant agreement, including the applicable form of warrant certificate, relating to the specific warrants being offered for the complete terms of the warrant agreement and the warrants, as well as the identity of the applicable warrant agent. That warrant agreement, together with the applicable form of warrant certificate, will be filed with the SEC in connection with

Table of Contents

the offering of the specific warrants and will be available by the means described under [Where You Can Find More Information](#).

The particular terms of any issue of warrants will be described in the applicable prospectus supplement or in an Exchange Act Report relating to the issue. Those terms may include:

the securities for which you may exercise the warrants;

the designation, aggregate principal amount, currencies, denominations and terms of the series of debt securities purchasable upon exercise of warrants to purchase debt securities and the price at which the debt securities may be purchased upon exercise, if applicable;

the designation, number of shares, stated value and terms (including, without limitation, liquidation, dividend, conversion and voting rights) of the series of preferred stock purchasable upon exercise of warrants to purchase shares of preferred stock and the price at which that number of shares of preferred stock of such series may be purchased upon exercise, if applicable;

the number of shares of common stock purchasable upon the exercise of warrants to purchase shares of common stock and the price at which that number of shares of common stock may be purchased upon exercise, if applicable;

the date on which the right to exercise the warrants will commence and the date on which the right will expire;

the material U.S. federal income tax consequences applicable to the warrants; and

any other terms of the warrants.

The exercise price and the expiration date for warrants, as well as the kind, frequency and timing of any notice to be given, will be subject to adjustment as described in the applicable prospectus supplement or in an Exchange Act Report. Holders of warrants may exchange warrant certificates for new warrant certificates of different denominations and may exercise warrants at the corporate trust office of the warrant agent or any other office that we indicate in the applicable prospectus supplement or in an Exchange Act Report. Prior to the exercise of warrants, holders of warrants will not have any of the rights of holders of the common stock, preferred stock or debt securities purchasable upon that exercise, as the case may be, and will not be entitled to payments of principal, premium or interest, as applicable, on any debt securities purchasable upon the exercise or dividend payments, if any, or voting rights of any preferred stock or common stock purchasable upon the exercise.

Each warrant will entitle its holder to purchase the principal amount of debt securities or the number of shares of preferred stock or common stock, as the case may be, at the exercise price set forth in, or calculable as set forth in, the applicable prospectus supplement or in an Exchange Act Report. After the close of business on the expiration date, unexercised warrants will become void. We will specify the place or places where, and the manner in which, warrants may be exercised in the applicable prospectus supplement or in an Exchange Act Report.

We will forward the securities purchasable upon the exercise of warrants as soon as practicable after receipt of payment and the properly completed and executed warrant certificate at the corporate trust office of the warrant agent or other office stated in the applicable prospectus supplement or in an Exchange Act Report. If a holder of warrants exercises less than all of the warrants represented by the warrant certificate, we will issue a new warrant certificate for the remaining warrants.

Description of Purchase Contracts

We may issue purchase contracts for the purchase from us, or sale to us, of our common stock, preferred stock, debt securities, depositary shares or warrants, or debt securities of third parties (including U.S. Treasury securities), an index or indices of those securities or any combination of those securities. Purchase contracts may be issued separately or in purchase units, as specified in the applicable prospectus supplement or in an Exchange Act Report. Purchase contracts issued as part of purchase units may be attached to or separate from any other securities part of the purchase units.