

PEABODY ENERGY CORP

Form 4

December 21, 2004

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

Check this box  
if no longer  
subject to  
Section 16.  
Form 4 or  
Form 5  
obligations  
may continue.  
*See Instruction*  
1(b).

**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

## OMB APPROVAL

OMB  
Number: 3235-0287  
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2005  
Estimated average  
burden hours per  
response... 0.5

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person \*  
**PALMER FREDRICK D**

(Last) (First) (Middle)

**PEABODY ENERGY CORP, 701  
MARKET ST**

(Street)

**ST LOUIS, MO 63101**

(City) (State) (Zip)

2. Issuer Name **and** Ticker or Trading  
Symbol

**PEABODY ENERGY CORP [BTU]**

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

**12/20/2004**

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

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to  
Issuer

(Check all applicable)

\_\_\_\_ Director \_\_\_\_ 10% Owner  
\_\_\_\_X\_\_\_\_ Officer (give title below) \_\_\_\_ Other (specify below)

**EVP - Legal and Ext. Affairs**

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

**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 Ownership (Instr. 4)
Common Stock	12/20/2004		M	2,000	A \$ 26.86	6,765 <sup>(1)</sup>	D
Common Stock	12/20/2004		S <sup>(2)</sup>	2,000	D \$ 81	4,765 <sup>(1)</sup>	D

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

**Persons who respond to the collection of  
information contained in this form are not  
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SEC 1474  
(9-02)

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**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 Securities (Instr. 3 and 4)	Amount or Number of Shares
Employee Stock Option (right to buy)	\$ 26.86	12/20/2004		M	2,000	01/15/2003 01/14/2012	Common Stock	2,000

## Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships
	Director 10% Owner Officer Other
PALMER FREDRICK D PEABODY ENERGY CORP 701 MARKET ST ST LOUIS, MO 63101	EVP - Legal and Ext. Affairs

## Signatures

/s/ Jeffery L. Klinger, Attorney-in-fact for Fredrick D.  
Palmer

12/21/2004

\_\_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) Includes 1,742 shares acquired under the Company's Employee Stock Purchase Plan. Also includes 3,023 shares held indirectly by the plan trustee under the Company's 401(k) plan.

(2) The sale reported in this Form 4 was effected pursuant to a pre-existing Rule 10b5-1 trading plan adopted by the reporting person.

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, *see* Instruction 6 for procedure.

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