Meintjes Charles F Form 3 July 12, 2012

FORM 3

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

OMB APPROVAL

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SECURITIES

INITIAL STATEMENT OF BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF

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 2. Date of Event Requiring 3. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol Person * Statement PEABODY ENERGY CORP [BTU] Meintjes Charles F (Month/Day/Year) 07/03/2012 (Last) (First) (Middle) 4. Relationship of Reporting 5. If Amendment, Date Original Person(s) to Issuer Filed(Month/Day/Year) 701 MARKET STREET (Check all applicable) (Street) 6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line) 10% Owner Director _X_ Form filed by One Reporting _X__ Officer Other Person ST. LOUIS, MOÂ 63101 (give title below) (specify below) Form filed by More than One Acting President - Americas Reporting Person (City) (State) (Zip) Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned 2. Amount of Securities 4. Nature of Indirect Beneficial 1. Title of Security Beneficially Owned Ownership Ownership (Instr. 4) (Instr. 4) Form: (Instr. 5) Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 5) D Â Common Stock $19,800^{(1)}$ Common Stock 15,324 I By Trust

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

SEC 1473 (7-02)

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Table II - Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned (e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)

| 1. Title of Derivative | 2. Date Exercisable and | 3. Title and Amount of | 4. | 5. | 6. Nature of Indirect |
|------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|-------------|------------|-----------------------|
| Security | Expiration Date | Securities Underlying | Conversion | Ownership | Beneficial |
| (Instr. 4) | (Month/Day/Year) | Derivative Security | or Exercise | Form of | Ownership |
| | | (Instr. 4) | Price of | Derivative | (Instr. 5) |
| | | | Derivative | Security: | |

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| | Date Exercisable | Expiration Date | Title | Amount or Number of Shares | Security | Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 5) | |
|-----------------------------|------------------|--------------------|-----------------|----------------------------------|----------|------------------------------------------------|---|
| Stock Option (Right to Buy) | 01/03/2012(2) | 01/03/2021 | Common Stock | 5,383 | \$ 64.52 | D | Â |
| Stock Option (Right to Buy) | 01/03/2013(3) | 01/03/2022 | Common Stock | 10,211 | \$ 36.27 | D | Â |

Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address | Relationships | | | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|------------|-----------------------------------|-------|--|
| | Director | 10% Owner | Officer | Other | |
| Meintjes Charles F 701 MARKET STREET ST. LOUIS, MO 63101 | Â | Â | Acting President - Americas | Â | |
| Signatures | | | | | |
| Charles F. Meintjes By Kenneth L. Wagner Attorney-in-Fact | | 07/12/2012 | | | |
| **Signature of Reporting | | Date | | | |

Explanation of Responses:

- * If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, see Instruction 5(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 5,598 restricted shares that vest on January 4, 2013, 13,785 restricted shares that vest on January 3, 2015 and 417 shares held by the reporting person in the Company's Employee Stock Purchase Plan.
- (2) The options vest in three equal annual installments beginning January 3, 2012.
- (3) The options vest in three equal annual installments beginning January 3, 2013.

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.

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