

# SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

## FORM 4

Statement of changes in beneficial ownership of securities

Filing Date: **2007-12-10** | Period of Report: **2007-12-06**  
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### REPORTING OWNER

#### **BOYCE GREGORY H**

CIK: **1265769**

Type: **4** | Act: **34** | File No.: **001-16463** | Film No.: **071296926**

Mailing Address

*701 MARKET STREET  
ST. LOUIS MO 63101*

### ISSUER

#### **PEABODY ENERGY CORP**

CIK: **1064728** | IRS No.: **134004153** | State of Incorp.: **DE** | Fiscal Year End: **1231**  
SIC: **1221** Bituminous coal & lignite surface mining

Mailing Address

*701 MARKET ST  
ST LOUIS MO 63101-1826*

Business Address

*701 MARKET ST  
ST LOUIS MO 63101-1826  
3143423400*

# FORM 4

## UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

### OMB APPROVAL

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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

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

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person <b>BOYCE GREGORY H</b>			2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol <b>PEABODY ENERGY CORP [BTU]</b>			5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Director <input type="checkbox"/> 10% Owner <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Officer (give title below) <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify below) <b>Chairman and CEO</b>		
(Last)	(First)	(Middle)	3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year) <b>12/06/2007</b>			6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing (Check applicable line) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Form Filed by One Reporting Person <input type="checkbox"/> Form Filed by More than One Reporting Person		
PEABODY ENERGY CORPORATION, 701 MARKET STREET			4. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year)					
(Street) ST. LOUIS, MO 63101								
(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)
			Code	V	Amount	(A) or (D)	Price			
Common Stock	12/06/2007		M	(1)	25,000	A	\$7.9674	125,000	D	
Common Stock	12/06/2007		S	(1)	25,000	D	\$58	100,000 (2)	D	

**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 Securities Underlying Derivative Security (Instr. 3 and 4)	8. Price of Derivative Security (Instr. 5)	9. Number of Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 4)	10. Ownership Form of Derivative Security: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4)	11. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4)	
				Code	V	(A)	(D)	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date						Amount or Number of Shares
Employee Stock Option (right to buy)	\$7.9674	12/06/2007		M	(1)	25,000		10/01/2003	10/01/2013	Common Stock	25,000	(3)	83,456 (4)	D	

**Explanation of Responses:**

- This exercise/sale was effected pursuant to a pre-existing Rule 10b5-1 trading plan adopted by the reporting person.
- Does not include 4,329 shares acquired pursuant to the Company's Employee Stock Purchase Plan.

3. Not applicable.
4. Does not include an additional 829,448 options with different expiration dates and exercise prices.

**Signatures**

Gregory H. Boyce By: Kenneth L. Wagner Attorney-in-Fact

\*\* Signature of Reporting Person

12/10/2007

Date

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

\* 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).

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

**Persons who respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB Number.**