

KARN ROBERT B III  
 Form 4  
 January 05, 2006

**FORM 4**

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

OMB APPROVAL

OMB Number: 3235-0287  
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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 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 \*  
**KARN ROBERT B III**

(Last) (First) (Middle)

**C/O PEABODY ENERGY CORPORATION,, 701 MARKET STREET**

(Street)

**ST. LOUIS, MO 63101-1826**

(City) (State) (Zip)

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol

**PEABODY ENERGY CORP [BTU]**

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

**01/03/2006**

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

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

(Check all applicable)

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

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line)

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)
				(A) or (D) Code V Amount (D) Price			
Common Stock	01/03/2006		A	435 D \$ 0	435	D	
Common Stock					7,256 <sup>(1)</sup>	I	By Trust

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

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SEC 1474 (9-02)

**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
Director Stock Option (right to buy)	\$ 86.2	01/03/2006		A	1,133	01/03/2007 <sup>(2)</sup> 01/02/2016	Common Stock	1,133

**Reporting Owners**

**Reporting Owner Name / Address**

**Relationships**

Director    10% Owner    Officer    Other

KARN ROBERT B III  
 C/O PEABODY ENERGY CORPORATION,  
 701 MARKET STREET  
 ST. LOUIS, MO 63101-1826

X

**Signatures**

Robert B. Karn III by Joseph W. Bean,  
 Attorney-in-Fact

01/05/2006

\*\*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) The number of shares has been adjusted to reflect the 2-for-1 stock split effected by the Company in March 2005.
- (2) The options vest in three equal annual installments beginning January 3, 2007.
- (3) Does not include an additional 8,648 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.