

PEABODY ENERGY CORP

Form 11-K

June 27, 2006

**UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549
FORM 11-K**

(Mark One)

**ANNUAL REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE
ACT OF 1934**

For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2005

or

**TRANSITION REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE
ACT OF 1934**

For the transition period from _____ to _____

Commission File Number: 1-16463

BLACK BEAUTY COAL COMPANY 401(K) PLAN

Full title of the plan

PEABODY ENERGY CORPORATION

701 Market Street, St. Louis, Missouri 63101-1826

Name of issuer of the securities held pursuant to the plan and the address of its principal executive office

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Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm

The Plan Administrator

Defined Contribution Administrative Committee

We have audited the accompanying statements of net assets available for benefits of Black Beauty Coal Company 401(k) Plan as of December 31, 2005 and 2004, and the related statements of changes in net assets available for benefits for the years then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Plan's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audits.

We conducted our audits in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States). Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. We were not engaged to perform an audit of the Plan's internal control over financial reporting. Our audits included consideration of internal control over financial reporting as a basis for designing audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Plan's internal control over financial reporting. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements, assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, and evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the net assets available for benefits of the Plan at December 31, 2005 and 2004, and the changes in its net assets available for benefits for the years then ended, in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles.

/s/ Ernst & Young LLP

St. Louis, Missouri

June 12, 2006

Black Beauty Coal Company 401(k) Plan
 Statements of Net Assets Available for Benefits

	December 31,	
	2005	2004
Assets:		
Investments, at fair value:		
Investments in mutual funds	\$	\$57,345,585
Investment in common/collective trust		4,142,848
Investment in Peabody Energy Stock Fund		1,903,638
 Total investments		 63,392,071
 Receivables:		
Employer contributions		2,490,281
 Net assets available for benefits	 \$	 \$65,882,352

See accompanying notes.

Black Beauty Coal Company 401(k) Plan
Statements of Changes in Net Assets Available for Benefits

	Years Ended December 31,	
	2005	2004
Additions		
Interest and dividends	\$ 2,315,787	\$ 992,834
Net realized and unrealized appreciation of investments	6,825,097	5,392,240
Net investment income	9,140,884	6,385,074
Contributions:		
Employee	7,187,746	5,873,726
Employer	8,150,863	5,971,901
Rollover	400,927	112,195
Total contributions	15,739,536	11,957,822
Total additions	24,880,420	18,342,896
Deductions		
Withdrawals by participants	(3,500,348)	(2,183,871)
Asset transfers out	(87,262,424)	
Total deductions	(90,762,772)	(2,183,871)
Net increase (decrease) in net assets available for benefits	(65,882,352)	16,159,025
Net assets available for benefits at beginning of year	65,882,352	49,723,327
Net assets available for benefits at end of year	\$	\$65,882,352

See accompanying notes.

Black Beauty Coal Company 401(k) Plan
Notes to Financial Statements
Years Ended December 31, 2005 and 2004

1. Description of the Plan

The following description of the Black Beauty Coal Company (the Company) 401(k) Plan (the Plan) provides only general information. Participants should refer to the plan documents for a more complete description of the Plan s provisions. The Company is an indirect, wholly-owned subsidiary of Peabody Energy Corporation (Peabody).

General

The Plan is a defined contribution plan offered by the Company and its divisions, Black Beauty Underground and Black Beauty Mining and its direct and indirect subsidiaries GIBCO Motor Express, LLC and GIBCO Fuels, LLC (collectively referred to as GIBCO). Participation in the Plan is voluntary and all full-time employees of the Company who are not covered by a collective bargaining agreement are eligible for participation in the Plan on the date of their employment or at any time afterward. Prior to March 15, 2004, eligible participants included full-time employees who had completed one year of service, attained 21 years of age, and were not covered by a collective bargaining agreement. The Plan is subject to the provisions of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA). Effective December 31, 2005, the net assets and related participant account balances of the Plan were merged into the Peabody Investments Corp. Employee Retirement Account (the Peabody Employee Retirement Account). The Statement of Net Assets Available for Benefits and the Statement of Changes in Net Assets Available for Benefits reflect the transfer of net assets and related participant account balances to the Peabody Employee Retirement Account as of December 31, 2005 in the amount of \$85.4 million. In February 2005, the Company sold GIBCO and in conjunction with this transaction, \$1.8 million of GIBCO net assets and related participant account balances were transferred out of the Plan into another plan maintained by the new owner. This asset transfer is also reflected in the Statement of Net Assets Available for Benefits and the Statement of Changes in Net Assets Available for Benefits as of December 31, 2005.

The Plan allows participants to invest in a selection of mutual funds, a common/collective trust, and the Peabody Energy Stock Fund. All investments in the Plan are participant-directed.

Black Beauty Coal Company 401(k) Plan
Notes to Financial Statements

1. Description of the Plan (continued)

Contributions

Each year, participants may contribute on a pre-tax basis any whole percentage from 1% to 60% of eligible compensation, as defined in the Plan. Participants may also rollover account balances from other qualified defined benefit or defined contribution plans. The Company makes matching contributions equal to 90% of the first 6% of eligible compensation that a participant contributes to the Plan.

Participants direct the investment of employee and employer matching contributions into various investment options offered by the Plan. All contributions are subject to certain limitations as defined by the Plan and the Internal Revenue Service (IRS).

In the calendar year that a participant is age 50 or older and each year thereafter, certain participants are permitted to make catch-up contributions to the Plan. These participants are able to contribute amounts in excess of the maximum otherwise permitted by the Plan, subject to certain limitations.

Peabody's Board of Directors establishes desired minimum and maximum performance targets that require the Company to pay a performance contribution between 0% and 4% of eligible compensation into the account of each active, eligible employee as of the end of the fiscal year, based upon Peabody's financial performance. If the minimum performance targets set for a fiscal year are not met, the Board of Directors may authorize the Company to contribute a discretionary amount to the Plan. If the maximum performance targets set for a fiscal year are exceeded, the Board of Directors, at its discretion, may authorize the Company to contribute up to an additional 2% of eligible compensation to the Plan.

At December 31, 2005, a \$3.9 million receivable was recorded for a 6% performance contribution of eligible employees' compensation related to the 2005 plan year. This receivable was transferred to the Peabody Employee Retirement Account along with the Plan's net assets and related participant account balances as of December 31, 2005. At December 31, 2004, a \$2.5 million receivable was recorded for a 4% performance contribution of eligible employees' compensation related to the 2004 plan year.

Vesting

Participants are vested immediately in their own contributions and the actual earnings thereon. Employer contributions, performance contributions, and discretionary contributions, if any, are immediately vested 100%.

Participant Accounts

Each participant's account is credited with the participant's contributions, the Company's contributions, and plan earnings. The benefit to which a participant is entitled is the vested balance of the participant's account.

Black Beauty Coal Company 401(k) Plan
Notes to Financial Statements

1. Description of the Plan (continued)

Payment of Benefits

Participants are eligible for distributions of their vested account balance upon termination of employment. Participants are eligible for distribution of their entire account balance upon death, disability, or termination of employment after age 65. Participants may elect to receive their distribution as either a lump-sum payment or as installments in certain circumstances, as defined in the Plan. Participants may also elect to transfer their account balance into an individual retirement account or another qualified plan or leave the balance in the Plan until reaching age 70^{1/2}. Withdrawals in cases of hardship are permitted, as defined in the Plan.

Plan Termination

The Plan is voluntary on the part of the Company. The Company may terminate the Plan in whole or in part subject to the provisions of ERISA. Participants' accounts remain fully vested upon termination or complete discontinuance of all contributions to the Plan. Currently, the Company has no intention to terminate the Plan.

Administrative Expenses

All significant administrative expenses of the Plan, including recordkeeping and trustee fees, are paid by the Company.

Black Beauty Coal Company 401(k) Plan
Notes to Financial Statements

2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

Basis of Presentation

The financial statements of the Plan are prepared using the accrual method of accounting.

Use of Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make estimates that affect the amounts reported in the financial statements and accompanying notes. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

Valuation of Investments and Income Recognition

The Plan's investments are stated at fair value. Shares of mutual funds are valued at quoted market prices, which represent the net asset value of shares held by the Plan at year-end. Units in the common/collective trust are valued at net asset value at year-end.

The stock fund is valued at the year-end unit closing price (comprised of the year-end market price plus uninvested cash position, if any).

Purchases and sales of securities are recorded on a trade-date basis. Interest income is recorded when earned.

Dividends are recorded on the ex-dividend date. Capital gain distributions are included in dividend income.

Payment of Benefits

Benefits are recorded when paid.

3. Related Party Transactions

The Plan invests in shares of mutual funds managed by an affiliate of its trustee, Vanguard Fiduciary Trust Company, a party-in-interest with respect to the Plan. These transactions are covered by an exemption from the prohibited transaction provisions of ERISA and the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (the Code), as amended. The Plan also invests in Peabody stock, through the Peabody Energy Stock Fund, which is a permitted party-in-interest transaction.

Black Beauty Coal Company 401(k) Plan
Notes to Financial Statements

4. Investments

The Plan's investments, including those purchased, sold or held during the year, appreciated in fair value as determined by quoted market prices as follows:

	Years Ended December 31,	
	2005	2004
Mutual funds	\$1,753,343	\$4,871,909
Peabody Energy Stock Fund	5,071,754	520,331
	\$6,825,097	\$5,392,240

Investments representing 5% or more of the fair value of the Plan's net assets were as follows:

	December 31,	
	2005	2004
Mutual funds:		
Fidelity Magellan Fund	\$	\$19,784,801
Vanguard LifeStrategy Moderate Growth Fund		10,721,760
Vanguard PRIMECAP Fund		13,423,473
Common/collective trust:		
Vanguard Retirement Savings Trust		4,142,848

5. Income Tax Status

The Plan received an opinion letter from the IRS dated August 22, 2001, stating that the Plan is qualified under Section 401(a) of the Code and, therefore, the related trust is exempt from taxation. Once qualified, the Plan is required to operate in conformity with the Code to maintain its qualification. The Plan was amended subsequent to the IRS opinion letter. The Plan's administrator believes the Plan is being operated in compliance with the applicable requirements of the Code and, therefore, believes the Plan, as amended, is qualified and the related trust is tax-exempt. The Plan's sponsor has indicated that it will take the necessary steps, if any, to maintain the Plan's qualified status.

Black Beauty Coal Company 401(k) Plan
Notes to Financial Statements

6. Risks and Uncertainties

The Plan invests in various investment securities. Investment securities are exposed to various risks such as interest rate, market and credit risks. Due to the level of risk associated with certain investment securities, it is at least reasonably possible that changes in the values of investment securities will occur in the near term and that such changes could materially affect participants' account balances and the amounts reported in the statements of net assets available for benefits (as transferred to the Peabody Employee Retirement Account on December 31, 2005).

SIGNATURES

Black Beauty Coal Company 401(K) Plan. Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the plan administrator has duly caused this annual report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned hereunto duly authorized.

Black Beauty Coal Company
401(K) Plan

Date: June 27, 2006

By: /s/ SHARON D. FIEHLER

Sharon D. Fiehler
Peabody Energy Corporation
Executive Vice President of
Human Resources and Administration

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EXHIBIT INDEX

The exhibits below are numbered in accordance with the Exhibit Table of Item 601 of Regulation S-K.

Exhibit

No.	Description of Exhibit
23	Consent of Ernst & Young LLP, Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm

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