

RICHARDSON DEBRA J

Form 5

February 12, 2010

FORM 5**UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**
Washington, D.C. 20549Check this box if
no longer subject
to Section 16.Form 4 or Form
5 obligations
may continue.See Instruction
1(b).Form 3 Holdings
Reported

Form 4

Transactions

Reported

**ANNUAL 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: 3235-0362Expires: January 31,
2005Estimated average
burden hours per
response... 1.01. Name and Address of Reporting Person *
RICHARDSON DEBRA J

(Last) (First) (Middle)

6000 WESTOWN PARKWAY

(Street)

WEST DES MOINES, IA 50266

(City) (State) (Zip)

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading
SymbolAMERICAN EQUITY
INVESTMENT LIFE HOLDING
CO [AEL]3. Statement for Issuer's Fiscal Year Ended
(Month/Day/Year)
12/31/20094. 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)
Executive VP & Secretary

6. Individual or Joint/Group Reporting

(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 at end of Issuer's Fiscal Year (Instr. 3 and 4)	6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4)	7. Nature of Ownership (Instr. 4)
Common Stock	Â	Â	Â	Â Â Â Â	101,424	D	Â
Common Stock	Â	Â	Â	Â Â Â Â	2,012	I	By ESOP (1)

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 required to respond unless
the form displays a currently valid OMB control number.**SEC 2270
(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)
					(A) (D)	Date Exercisable Expiration Date	Title Amount or Number of Shares
Options - Right to Buy	\$ 7	Â	Â	Â	Â Â	05/08/2012 05/08/2019	Common Stock 40,000
Options - Right to Buy	\$ 10.85	Â	Â	Â	Â Â	06/11/2011 06/11/2018	Common Stock 40,000
Options - Right to Buy	\$ 10.77	Â	Â	Â	Â Â	06/30/2005 12/31/2014	Common Stock 20,000
Options - Right to Buy	\$ 11	Â	Â	Â	Â Â	06/10/2004 06/10/2014	Common Stock 20,000
Options - Right to Buy	\$ 9	Â	Â	Â	Â Â	12/04/2003 12/04/2013	Common Stock 20,000
Options - Right to Buy	\$ 9.67	Â	Â	Â	Â Â	12/29/2000 12/29/2010	Common Stock 30,000
Options - Right to Buy	\$ 9.67	Â	Â	Â	Â Â	05/05/2000 05/05/2010	Common Stock 17,250
American Equity Capital Trust I 8% Conv TP	\$ 10	Â	Â	Â	Â Â	09/30/2002 09/30/2029	Common Stock 3,000

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address

Relationships

Reporting Owners

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Director 10% Owner Officer

Other

RICHARDSON DEBRA J

6000 WESTOWN PARKWAY

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Executive VP & Secretary

 $\hat{A}$

WEST DES MOINES, IA 50266

Signatures

Debra J.

Richardson

02/12/2010

****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) 189 shares of the total ESOP Ownership reported represent an estimated number for the December 31, 2009 allocation.

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space provided 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.