

AMERICAN EXPRESS CO  
Form 4  
October 02, 2008

**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 \*  
**WILLIAMS RONALD A**  
  
(Last) (First) (Middle)

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol  
**AMERICAN EXPRESS CO [AXP]**

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer  
  
(Check all applicable)

**AETNA INC., 151 FARMINGTON AVENUE**  
  
(Street)  
  
**HARTFORD, CT 06156**  
  
(City) (State) (Zip)

3. Date of Earliest Transaction  
(Month/Day/Year)  
**09/30/2008**

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

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

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 Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4)
				(A) or (D) Code V Amount (D) Price			

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

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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	2. Conversion or Exercise	3. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	3A. Deemed Execution Date, if any	4. Transaction Code	5. Number of Derivative Securities	6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year)	7. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities (Instr. 3 and 4)	8. D

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(Instr. 3)	Price of Derivative Security	(Month/Day/Year)	(Instr. 8)	Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5)	Code V	(A)	(D)	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of Shares
Share Equivalent Units	(1)	09/30/2008	A	611.75 (2)				(3)	(3)	Common Stock	611.75

## Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships			
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other
WILLIAMS RONALD A AETNA INC. 151 FARMINGTON AVENUE HARTFORD, CT 06156	X			

## Signatures

Stephen P. Norman,  
attorney-in-fact

10/02/2008

\*\*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 Share Equivalent Units convert into common stock on a one-for-one basis.
  - (2) The reported Share Equivalent Units were acquired pursuant to the Directors' Deferred Compensation Plan and will be settled in cash following termination of service as a Director.
  - (3) The Share Equivalent Units are convertible immediately and have no expiration date.
  - (4) Includes Share Equivalent Units acquired pursuant to a dividend reinvestment feature of the Directors' Deferred Compensation Plan and/or the 2003 Share Equivalent Unit Plan for Directors.

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.