

RICHARDSON DEBRA J  
Form 4  
December 03, 2010

**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 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 \*  
RICHARDSON DEBRA J

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol  
AMERICAN EQUITY INVESTMENT LIFE HOLDING CO [AEL]

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

(Check all applicable)

Director  10% Owner  
 Officer (give title below)  Other (specify below)  
Executive VP & Secretary

(Last) (First) (Middle)

3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)  
12/02/2010

6000 WESTOWN PARKWAY  
(Street)

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

WEST DES MOINES, IA 50266  
(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 Ownership (Instr. 4) |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|---|--|--|
|                                 |                                      |  | Code                           | V   | Amount  | (A) or (D)   | Price                                      |
| Common Stock                    | 12/02/2010                           |  | M                              |   | 30,000  | A  | \$ 9.67                                    |
| Common Stock                    | 12/02/2010                           |  | F                              |   | 32  | D  | \$ 11.24                                   |
| Common Stock                    | 12/02/2010                           |  | F                              |   | 354   | D  | \$ 11.25                                   |
| Common Stock                    | 12/02/2010                           |  | F                              |   | 80  | D  | \$ 11.26                                   |
| Common Stock                    | 12/02/2010                           |  | F                              |   | 322   | D  | \$ 11.27                                   |

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|              |            |   |       |   |          |         |   |
|--------------|------------|---|-------|---|----------|---------|---|
| Common Stock | 12/02/2010 | F | 1,082 | D | \$ 11.28 | 130,178 | D |
| Common Stock | 12/02/2010 | F | 1,292 | D | \$ 11.29 | 128,886 | D |
| Common Stock | 12/02/2010 | F | 2,222 | D | \$ 11.3  | 126,664 | D |
| Common Stock | 12/02/2010 | F | 2,162 | D | \$ 11.31 | 124,502 | D |
| Common Stock | 12/02/2010 | F | 2,939 | D | \$ 11.32 | 121,563 | D |
| Common Stock | 12/02/2010 | F | 7,362 | D | \$ 11.33 | 114,201 | D |
| Common Stock | 12/02/2010 | F | 2,163 | D | \$ 11.34 | 112,038 | D |
| Common Stock | 12/02/2010 | F | 1,861 | D | \$ 11.35 | 110,177 | D |
| Common Stock | 12/02/2010 | F | 2,766 | D | \$ 11.36 | 107,411 | D |
| Common Stock | 12/02/2010 | F | 444   | D | \$ 11.37 | 106,967 | D |
| Common Stock | 12/02/2010 | F | 900   | D | \$ 11.38 | 106,067 | D |
| Common Stock | 12/02/2010 | F | 1,057 | D | \$ 11.39 | 105,010 | D |
| Common Stock | 12/02/2010 | F | 192   | D | \$ 11.4  | 104,818 | D |

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

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(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 Security (Instr. 3 and 4) |
|--|--|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|--|---|
|  |  |                                      |  | Code                           | V (A) (D)   |  | Title   |

|                         |         |            |  |   | Date<br>Exercisable | Expiration<br>Date |            | Am<br>or<br>Nur<br>of S |    |
|-------------------------|---------|------------|--|---|---------------------|--------------------|------------|-------------------------|----|
| Options-Right<br>to Buy | \$ 9.67 | 12/02/2010 |  | M | 30,000              | 12/29/2000         | 12/29/2010 | Common<br>Stock         | 30 |

## Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address  | Relationships |           |                                |       |
|---|---------------|-----------|--------------------------------|-------|
|   | Director      | 10% Owner | Officer                        | Other |
| RICHARDSON DEBRA J<br>6000 WESTOWN PARKWAY<br>WEST DES MOINES, IA 50266 | X             |           | Executive<br>VP &<br>Secretary |       |

## Signatures

Debra J.  
Richardson

12/03/2010

\_\_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).

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

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