

Johnson Ted Morris
 Form 4
 April 08, 2011

FORM 4

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

OMB APPROVAL

OMB Number: 3235-0287
 Expires: January 31, 2005
 Estimated average burden hours per response... 0.5

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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 *
 Johnson Ted Morris

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)
 Vice President-Controller

(Last) (First) (Middle)
 6000 WESTOWN PARKWAY
 (Street)

3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)
 04/06/2011

WEST DES MOINES, IA 50266
 (City) (State) (Zip)

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 Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4) |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|---|--|---|
| | | | Code | V | Amount or Price | | |
| Common Stock | 04/06/2011 | | M | | 30,000 A \$ 9.67 | 40,161 | D |
| Common Stock | 04/06/2011 | | F | | 3,000 D \$ 13.24 | 37,161 | D |
| Common Stock | 04/06/2011 | | F | | 100 D \$ 13.2401 | 37,061 | D |
| Common Stock | 04/06/2011 | | F | | 2,000 D \$ 13.245 | 35,061 | D |
| Common Stock | 04/06/2011 | | F | | 1,600 D \$ 13.25 | 33,461 | D |

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| | | | | | | | |
|--------------|------------|---|-------|---|-----------|--------|---|
| Common Stock | 04/06/2011 | F | 100 | D | \$ 13.255 | 33,361 | D |
| Common Stock | 04/06/2011 | F | 6,800 | D | \$ 13.26 | 26,561 | D |
| Common Stock | 04/06/2011 | F | 1,000 | D | \$ 13.265 | 25,561 | D |
| Common Stock | 04/06/2011 | F | 2,100 | D | \$ 13.27 | 23,461 | D |
| Common Stock | 04/06/2011 | F | 700 | D | \$ 13.275 | 22,761 | D |
| Common Stock | 04/06/2011 | F | 1,500 | D | \$ 13.28 | 21,261 | D |
| Common Stock | 04/06/2011 | F | 2,800 | D | \$ 13.285 | 18,461 | D |
| Common Stock | 04/06/2011 | F | 3,000 | D | \$ 13.29 | 15,461 | D |
| Common Stock | 04/06/2011 | F | 200 | D | \$ 13.295 | 15,261 | D |
| Common Stock | 04/06/2011 | F | 1,600 | D | \$ 13.3 | 13,661 | D |
| Common Stock | 04/06/2011 | F | 200 | D | \$ 13.301 | 13,461 | D |
| Common Stock | 04/06/2011 | F | 100 | D | \$ 13.305 | 13,361 | D |
| Common Stock | 04/06/2011 | F | 3,200 | D | \$ 13.31 | 10,161 | D |

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

| | | | | | | Date Exercisable | Expiration Date | | Am or Nur of S |
|----------------------|---------|------------|---|--------|------------|------------------|-----------------|----|----------------|
| Options-Right to Buy | \$ 9.67 | 04/06/2011 | M | 30,000 | 06/30/2002 | 12/31/2011 | Common Stock | 30 | |

Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address | Relationships | | | |
|---|---------------|-----------|------------------------------|-------|
| | Director | 10% Owner | Officer | Other |
| Johnson Ted Morris 6000 WESTOWN PARKWAY WEST DES MOINES, IA 50266 | | | Vice President-Controller | |

Signatures

Ted M. Johnson 04/08/2011
 **Signature of Date
 Reporting Person

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. 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.