Grensteiner Ronald James
Form 5
February 14, 2012

FORM 5

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

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

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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).
Form 3 Holdings Reported
Form 4 Transactions Reported

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person *
Grensteiner Ronald James

(Last) (First) (Middle)

5000 WESTOWN PARKWAY

(Street)

WEST DES MOINES,Â IAÂ 50266

(City) (State) (Zip)

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

3. Statement for Issuer's Fiscal Year Ended (Month/Day/Year)
12/31/2011

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

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

(Check all applicable)

_____ Director _____ 10% Owner
__X__ Officer (give title below) _____ Other (specify below)
Vice President

6. Individual or Joint/Group Reporting

(check applicable line)

_X_ 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 Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4)
				Amount	(A) or (D)	Price			
Common Stock	Â	Â	Â	Â	Â	Â	54,962	D	Â
Common Stock	Â	Â	Â	Â	Â	Â	3,590	I	By ESOP

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 (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 Amo Underlying Secu (Instr. 3 and 4)	
					(A)	(D)	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Ar or Nu of
Options - Right to Buy	$ 9.27	Â	Â	Â	Â	Â	06/11/2013	06/11/2020[(1)]	Common Stock	2
Options - Right to Buy	$ 10.24	Â	Â	Â	Â	Â	03/15/2013	03/15/2016[(1)]	Common Stock	4
Options - Right to Buy	$ 7	Â	Â	Â	Â	Â	05/08/2012	05/08/2019	Common Stock	2
Options - Right to Buy	$ 10.85	Â	Â	Â	Â	Â	06/11/2011	06/11/2018	Common Stock	1
Options - Right to Buy	$ 10.77	Â	Â	Â	Â	Â	06/30/2005	12/31/2014	Common Stock	7
Options - Right to Buy	$ 11	Â	Â	Â	Â	Â	06/10/2004	06/10/2014	Common Stock	1
Options - Right to Buy	$ 9	Â	Â	Â	Â	Â	12/04/2003	12/04/2013	Common Stock	1
Deferred Compensation	Â	Â	Â	Â	Â	Â	Â [(3)]	Â [(3)]	Common Stock	4

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships			
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other
Grensteiner Ronald James 5000 WESTOWN PARKWAY WEST DES MOINES,Â IAÂ 50266	Â	Â	Â Vice President	Â

Signatures

Debra J. Richardson, by Power of Attorney	02/14/2012
**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) Corrected expiration date of this derivative security from what was filed as of December 31, 2010, to actual expiration date.

(2) Each share deemed to be held by the Deferred Compensation Plan represents the right to receive one share of AEL common stock or the cash value thereof.

(3) Deferred compensation payment is exercisable within 60 days after the occurrence of the earliest of the following events: (i) employee's termination of employment; (ii) a change of control of company; (iii) action of the Board of Directors; (iv) employee's death.

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