

Johnson Ted Morris  
 Form 4  
 April 08, 2011

**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 \*  
 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.

**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.**

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

						Date Exercisable	Expiration Date		Am or Num 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.

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