Johnson Ted Morris Form 4 April 02, 2013

Check this box

if no longer

Section 16.

Form 4 or

subject to

FORM 4

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

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF

OMB Number:

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January 31, 2005

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SECURITIES

Form 5 Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, obligations Section 17(a) of the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935 or Section may continue. 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940 See Instruction

1(b).

(Last)

(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]

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

04/01/2013

(Check all applicable)

Director 10% Owner _X__ Officer (give title Other (specify

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to

CFO & Treasurer

6000 WESTOWN PARKWAY

(First)

(Street) 4. If Amendment, Date Original

(Middle)

Filed(Month/Day/Year)

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check

Applicable Line)

X Form filed by One Reporting Person Form filed by More than One Reporting

Person

Issuer

below)

WEST DES MOINES, IA 50266

(City)	(State)	(Zip) Tabl	le I - Non-I	Derivative :	Securi	ities Acqu	uired, Disposed of	f, or Beneficial	ly Owned
1.Title of Security (Instr. 3)	2. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	2A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year)	3. Transactio Code (Instr. 8)	(A)			5. Amount of Securities Ownership Beneficially Form: Direct Owned (D) or Following Indirect (I) Reported (Instr. 4) Transaction(s)		7. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4)
			Code V	Amount	or (D)	Price	(Instr. 3 and 4)		
Common Stock	04/01/2013		M	11,000	A	\$9	34,290	D	
Common Stock	04/01/2013		F	145	D	\$ 14.73	34,145	D	
Common Stock	04/01/2013		F	2	D	\$ 14.74	34,143	D	
Common Stock	04/01/2013		F	100	D	\$ 14.76	34,043	D	
Common Stock	04/01/2013		F	1,659	D	\$ 14.77	32,384	D	

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Common Stock	04/01/2013	F	1,670	D	\$ 14.85	30,714	D
Common Stock	04/01/2013	F	3,171	D	\$ 14.87	27,543	D
Common Stock	04/01/2013	F	300	D	\$ 14.88	27,243	D
Common Stock	04/01/2013	F	1,100	D	\$ 14.89	26,143	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. Transactic Code (Instr. 8)	5. Number of iorDerivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5)		Derivative Expiration Date Securities (Month/Day/Year) Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) Instr. 3, 4,		7. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities (Instr. 3 and 4)	
				Code V	(A)	(D)	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of Shares
Options - Right to Buy	\$ 9	04/01/2013		M		11,000	06/30/2004	12/04/2013	Common Stock	11,000

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships						
•	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other			
Johnson Ted Morris 6000 WESTOWN PARKWAY WEST DES MOINES, IA 50266			CFO & Treasurer				
Signatures							

Debra J. Richardson, by Power of 04/02/2013 Attorney

> **Signature of Reporting Person Date

Reporting Owners 2

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.