FIRST MERCHANTS CORP

Form 4

September 02, 2005

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

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF

SECURITIES

OMB Number:

3235-0287

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January 31, 2005

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response...

if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or

Check this box

Form 5 obligations

may continue.

See Instruction

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

1(b).

(Last)

POST OFFICE 792

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person * CONNORS ROBERT R

(First)

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

FIRST MERCHANTS CORP

[FRME]

(Middle) 3. Date of Earliest Transaction

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

(Month/Day/Year) below) 09/01/2005

Senior Vice President / Chief Information

(Check all applicable)

Officer

below)

(Street) 4. If Amendment, Date Original

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

MUNCIE, IN 47308-0792

(City) (State) (Zip) 2. Transaction Date 2A. Deemed

Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned

1.Title of Security (Instr. 3)

(Month/Day/Year) Execution Date, if (Month/Day/Year)

4. Securities TransactionAcquired (A) or Disposed of (D) Code (Instr. 8) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5) 5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Following

6. Ownership 7. Nature of Form: Direct Indirect (D) or Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4) (Instr. 4)

Reported (A) Transaction(s) or (Instr. 3 and 4) Code V Amount (D) Price

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.

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

Conversion

3. Transaction Date 3A. Deemed (Month/Day/Year) Execution Date, if

4. 5. Number

6. Date Exercisable and Transaction of Derivative Expiration Date

7. Title and Amount of **Underlying Securities**

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Security (Instr. 3)	or Exercise Price of Derivative Security		any (Month/Day/Year)	Code (Instr. 8	8)	`		(Month/Day/Y	onth/Day/Year)		(Instr. 3 and 4)	
				Code	V	(A)	(D)	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of Shares	
Employee Stock Option (Right to Buy) (1) (2)	\$ 26.7	09/01/2005		A		8,000		11/30/2005	08/31/2015	Common	8,000	

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships							
1 0	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other				
CONNORS ROBERT R				Chief				
POST OFFICE 792			Senior Vice President	Information				
MUNCIE, IN 47308-0792				Officer				

Signatures

Larry R. Helms (Confirming Statement on File) 09/02/2005

**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) Non-Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned Direct: 458
- (2) Deferred Stock Units Owned Direct: 428.92

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.

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