Grensteiner Ronald James

Form 4 June 15, 2010

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)

(City)

(Print or Type Responses)

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

(First)

(Street)

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading

Symbol

AMERICAN EQUITY

INVESTMENT LIFE HOLDING CO [AEL]

(Middle)

3. Date of Earliest Transaction

4. If Amendment, Date Original

(Month/Day/Year) 06/11/2010

Filed(Month/Day/Year)

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to

(Check all applicable)

Vice President

10% Owner Other (specify

Applicable Line)

Director

X_ Officer (give title

Issuer

below)

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

WEST DES MOINES, IA 50265

6000 WESTOWN PARKWAY

(State) (Zip)

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

1.Title of 2. Transaction Date 2A. Deemed 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 Reported

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

(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.

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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 Conversion 3. Transaction Date 3A. Deemed

(Month/Day/Year) Execution Date, if

4 5. Number of TransactionDerivative

6. Date Exercisable and **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)	Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5)	(Month/Day/Year)		(Instr. 3 and 4)	
				Code V	(A) (D)	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of Shares
Options - Right	\$ 9.27	06/11/2010		A	27,750	06/11/2013	06/10/2020	Common Stock	27,750

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships					
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other		
Grensteiner Ronald James 6000 WESTOWN PARKWAY			Vice President			

WEST DES MOINES, IA 50265

Signatures

Debra J. Richardson, By Power of Attorney 06/15/2010

**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).

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.

Reporting Owners 2