

GERLACH JAMES M  
Form 4  
December 03, 2010

**FORM 4** UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
Washington, D.C. 20549

OMB APPROVAL  
OMB Number: 3235-0287  
Expires: January 31, 2005  
Estimated average burden hours per response... 0.5

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 \*  
GERLACH JAMES M

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)  
Executive Vice President

(Last) (First) (Middle)  
6000 WESTOWN PARKWAY  
(Street)

3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)  
12/02/2010

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

WEST DES MOINES, IA 50266  
(City) (State) (Zip)

**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)	(A) or (D)	Price	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 Ownership (Instr. 4)
Common Stock	12/02/2010		M	30,000	A	\$ 9.67	209,640	D	
Common Stock	12/02/2010		F	32	D	\$ 11.24	209,608	D	
Common Stock	12/02/2010		F	354	D	\$ 11.25	209,254	D	
Common Stock	12/03/2010		F	80	D	\$ 11.26	209,174	D	
Common Stock	12/02/2010		F	322	D	\$ 11.27	208,852	D	

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Common Stock	12/02/2010	F	1,082	D	\$ 11.28	207,770	D
Common Stock	12/02/2010	F	1,292	D	\$ 11.29	206,478	D
Common Stock	12/02/2010	F	2,222	D	\$ 11.3	204,256	D
Common Stock	12/02/2010	F	2,162	D	\$ 11.31	202,094	D
Common Stock	12/02/2010	F	2,939	D	\$ 11.32	199,155	D
Common Stock	12/02/2010	F	7,362	D	\$ 11.33	191,793	D
Common Stock	12/02/2010	F	2,163	D	\$ 11.34	189,630	D
Common Stock	12/02/2010	F	1,861	D	\$ 11.35	187,769	D
Common Stock	12/02/2010	F	2,766	D	\$ 11.36	185,003	D
Common Stock	12/02/2010	F	444	D	\$ 11.37	184,559	D
Common Stock	12/02/2010	F	900	D	\$ 11.38	183,659	D
Common Stock	12/02/2010	F	1,057	D	\$ 11.39	182,602	D
Common Stock	12/02/2010	F	192	D	\$ 11.4	182,410	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.**

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 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 Nun of S	
Options-Right to Buy	\$ 9.67	12/02/2010		M	30,000	12/29/2000	12/29/2010	Common Stock	30

## Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships			
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other
GERLACH JAMES M 6000 WESTOWN PARKWAY WEST DES MOINES, IA 50266	X		Executive Vice President	

## Signatures

Debra J. Richardson, by Power of Attorney  
 12/03/2010  
 \_\_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.  
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