Lorenzen Jeffrey D Form 3 July 06, 2012

FORM 3 UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION Washington, D.C. 20549

OMB APPROVAL

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INITIAL STATEMENT OF 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 2. Date of Event Requiring 3. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol Person * Statement AMERICAN EQUITY INVESTMENT LIFE HOLDING À Lorenzen Jeffrey D (Month/Day/Year) CO [AEL] 06/27/2012 (Last) (First) (Middle) 4. Relationship of Reporting 5. If Amendment, Date Original Person(s) to Issuer Filed(Month/Day/Year) 6000 WESTOWN PARKWAY (Check all applicable) (Street) 6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line) _ Director 10% Owner _X_ Form filed by One Reporting X_ Officer Other Person (give title below) (specify below) WEST DES _ Form filed by More than One Sr. Vice President-Investments MOINES, IAÂ 50266 Reporting Person (City) (State) (Zip) Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned 1. Title of Security 2. Amount of Securities 3. 4. Nature of Indirect Beneficial (Instr. 4) Beneficially Owned Ownership Ownership (Instr. 4) Form: (Instr. 5) Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 5) Common Stock D Â 7,800 Common Stock **By ESOP** 3,001 Ι Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially SEC 1473 (7-02) owned directly or indirectly.

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Table II - Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned (e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)

| 2. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year) | 3. Title and Amount of Securities Underlying Derivative Security (Instr. 4) | or Exercise Price of | 5. Ownership Form of Derivative | 6. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 5) |
|--|--|-------------------------|---------------------------------|--|
| | | Derivative | Security: | |

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| | Date Exercisable | Expiration Date | Title | Amount or Number of Shares | Security | Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 5) | |
|------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|-----------------|----------------------------------|----------|--|---|
| Options - Right to Buy | 06/11/2013 | 06/11/2020 | Common Stock | 10,000 | \$ 9.27 | D | Â |
| Options - Right to Buy | 01/27/2012 | 01/27/2019 | Common Stock | 15,000 | \$ 6.55 | D | Â |

Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address | Relationships | | | | |
|---|---------------|-----------|--------------------------------|-------|--|
| | Director | 10% Owner | Officer | Other | |
| Lorenzen Jeffrey D 6000 WESTOWN PARKWAY WEST DES MOINES, IA 50266 | Â | Â | Sr. Vice President-Investments | Â | |

Signatures

Debra J. Richardson, by Power of Attorney 07/06/2012

**Signature of Reporting Person Date

Explanation of Responses:

- * If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, see Instruction 5(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.

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