

REIMER TERRY A

Form 5

February 12, 2010

**FORM 5****UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
Washington, D.C. 20549**

Check this box if  
no longer subject  
to Section 16.  
Form 4 or Form  
5 obligations  
may continue.  
See Instruction  
1(b).

Form 3 Holdings  
Reported  
Form 4  
Transactions  
Reported

**ANNUAL 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

## OMB APPROVAL

OMB  
Number: 3235-0362  
Expires: January 31,  
2005  
Estimated average  
burden hours per  
response... 1.0

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person \*  
REIMER TERRY A

(Last) (First) (Middle)

6000 WESTOWN PARKWAY

(Street)

WEST DES MOINES, IA 50266

(City) (State) (Zip)

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading  
Symbol

AMERICAN EQUITY  
INVESTMENT LIFE HOLDING  
CO [AEL]

3. Statement for Issuer's Fiscal Year Ended  
(Month/Day/Year)  
12/31/2009

4. If Amendment, Date Original  
Filed(Month/Day/Year)

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to  
Issuer

(Check all applicable)

\_\_\_\_ Director \_\_\_\_ 10% Owner  
\_\_\_\_X\_\_\_\_ Officer (give title below) \_\_\_\_ Other (specify below)  
Executive Vice President

6. Individual or Joint/Group Reporting

(check applicable line)

\_\_\_\_X\_\_\_\_ Form Filed by One Reporting Person  
\_\_\_\_ Form Filed by More than One Reporting  
Person

**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)	5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned at end of Issuer's Fiscal Year (Instr. 3 and 4)	6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4)	7. Nature of Ownership (Instr. 4)
Common Stock	Â	Â	Â	Â Â Â Â	172,871	D	Â
Common Stock	Â	Â	Â	Â Â Â Â	1,644	I	By ESOP (1)

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  
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SEC 2270  
(9-02)

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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 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)
					(A) (D)	Date Exercisable Expiration Date	Title Amount or Number of Shares
Options - Right to Buy	\$ 7	Â	Â	Â	Â Â	05/08/2012 05/08/2019	Common Stock 20,0
Options - Right to Buy	\$ 10.77	Â	Â	Â	Â Â	06/30/2005 12/31/2014	Common Stock 17,5
Options - Right to Buy	\$ 11	Â	Â	Â	Â Â	06/10/2004 06/10/2014	Common Stock 15,0
Options - Right to Buy	\$ 9	Â	Â	Â	Â Â	12/04/2003 12/04/2013	Common Stock 15,0
Options - Right to Buy	\$ 9.67	Â	Â	Â	Â Â	12/29/2000 12/29/2010	Common Stock 30,0
Options - Right to Buy	\$ 9.67	Â	Â	Â	Â Â	05/05/2000 05/05/2010	Common Stock 17,2
American Equity Capital Trust I 8% Conv TP	\$ 10	Â	Â	Â	Â Â	09/30/2002 09/30/2029	Common Stock 3,0
Deferred Compensation	\$ 3.33	Â	Â	Â	Â Â Â (2)	Â (2)	Common Stock 19,8

## Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships			
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other
REIMER TERRY A 6000 WESTOWN PARKWAY WEST DES MOINES, IA 50266	Â	Â	Â Executive Vice President	Â

## Signatures

Debra J. Richardson, by Power of  
Attorney

02/12/2010

\_\_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).

(1) 420 shares of the total ESOP Ownership reported represent an estimated number for the December 31, 2009 allocation.

Deferred compensation payment is exercisable on the 10th business day after the occurrence of any of the following events: (i) action of  
(2) the Board of Directors; (ii) written notification of employee's resignation; (iii) employee's termination of employment; (iv) employee's disability; (v) employee's death.

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space provided 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.