
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

FORM 8-K

CURRENT REPORT

Pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the
Securities Exchange Act of 1934

Date of Report (Date of Earliest Event Reported): **May 14, 2004**

AMERICAN EQUITY INVESTMENT LIFE HOLDING COMPANY

(Exact Name of Registrant as Specified in Charter)

IOWA
(State or Other Jurisdiction of
Incorporation)

001-31911
(Commission File Number)

42-1447959
(IRS Employer Identification No.)

5000 Westown Parkway, Suite 440, West Des Moines, Iowa 50266
(Address of Principal Executive Offices) (Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: **(515) 221-0002**

NOT APPLICABLE
(Former Name or Former Address, if Changed Since Last Report)

Item 5. Other Events.

On May 14, 2004, American Equity Investment Life Holding Company (the "Company") issued a press release announcing that the Company is postponing its previously announced registered offering of \$150 million of senior notes. A copy of the press release is attached hereto as Exhibit 99.1.

Item 7. Financial Statements, Pro Forma Financial Information and Exhibits.

(c) Exhibits:

Exhibit Number	Description
99.1	Press Release issued by American Equity Investment Life Holding Company on May 14, 2004

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned hereunto duly authorized.

Date: May 14, 2004

**AMERICAN EQUITY
INVESTMENT LIFE HOLDING COMPANY**

By: /s/ Wendy L. Carlson
Wendy L. Carlson
Chief Financial Officer and
General Counsel



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 14, 2004

CONTACT:

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John M. Matovina, Vice Chairman

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D. J. Noble, Chairman

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American Equity Investment Life Holding Company
Postpones Senior Notes Offering

WEST DES MOINES, Iowa (May 14, 2004) – American Equity Investment Life Holding Company (NYSE:AEL) announced today that it is postponing its previously announced registered offering of \$150 million of senior notes due to market conditions.

American Equity Investment Life Holding Company, through its wholly-owned operating subsidiaries, is a full service underwriter of a broad line of annuity and insurance products, with a primary emphasis on the sale of fixed rate and index annuities. The company's headquarters are located at 5000 Westown Parkway, Suite 440, West Des Moines, Iowa, 50266. The mailing address of the company is: P.O. Box 71216, Des Moines, Iowa, 50325.
