SEC Form 5

Form 3 Holdings Reported.

Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5 obligations may continue. See Instruction 1(b). UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION Washington, D.C. 20549

OMB APPROVAL

ANNUAL STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL
OWNERSHIP

OMB Number: 3235-0362 Estimated average burden hours per response: 1.0

Form 4 Tra	ansactions Rep	oorted.	File	d pursuant to or Section								-							
1. Name and Address of Reporting Person* Grensteiner Ronald James				2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol <u>AMERICAN EQUITY INVESTMENT</u> <u>LIFE HOLDING CO</u> [AEL]									5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable) Director 10% Owner						
(Last) (First) (Middle) 6000 WESTOWN PARKWAY				3. Statement for Issuer's Fiscal Year Ended (Month/Day/Year) 12/31/2009									X Officer (give title Other (specify below) below) Vice President						
(Street) WEST DES MOINES IA 50265 (City) (State) (Zip)				4. If Amendment, Date of Original Filed (Month/Day/Year)									6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing (Check Applicable Line) X Form filed by One Reporting Person Form filed by More than One Reporting Person						
		Table	e I - Non-Deriv	ative Secu	ritie	s Ac	quire	d, Dis	sposed	of, or	Ben	eficiall	y 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)				5))))))))))))))))))))		f 5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned at end of Issuer's Fiscal		6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4)		7. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4)		
								Amoun	t	(A) or (D)	Price		Year (Instr. 4)	. 3 and					
Common St	ock												49,5	89	D	,			
Common St	ock												1,47		'9 I		By ESOP ⁽¹⁾		
		Та	ble II - Derivat			Acqu	uired						Owned						
			(e.g., p	uts, calls,	warr	rants	, opti	ions,	convert	ible s	ecur	ities)							
1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 3)	2. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security	3. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	(e.g., p 3A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year)	4. Transaction Code (Instr. 8)	5. Nu of Deriv Secu Acqu (A) o Disp of (D	umber vative urities uired or oosed >) (r. 3, 4	6. Dat Expira		isable and ite	7. Tit Amo Secu Unde Deriv	le and unt of rities erlying	Security	8. Price of Derivative Security (Instr. 5)	9. Numl derivati Securiti Benefic Owned Followi Reporte Transac (Instr. 4	ive ies cially ng ed ction(s)	10. Owners Form: Direct (or Indir (I) (Instr	ship ([D) (rect (11. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4)	
Derivative Security	Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative	Date	3A. Deemed Execution Date, if any	4. Transaction Code (Instr.	5. Nu of Deriv Secu Acqu (A) o Disp of (D (Inst	umber vative urities uired or oosed >) (r. 3, 4	6. Dat Expira (Mont	te Exerc ation Da	isable and ite	7. Tit Amo Secu Unde Deriv (Instr	le and unt of rities erlying rative : r. 3 and	Security	Derivative Security	derivati Securiti Benefic Owned Followi Reporte Transac	ive ies cially ng ed ction(s)	Owners Form: Direct (or Indir	ship ([D) (rect (of Indirect Beneficial Ownership	
Derivative Security	Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative	Date	3A. Deemed Execution Date, if any	4. Transaction Code (Instr.	5. Nu of Deriv Secu Acqu (A) o Disp of (D (Inst and	umber vative urities uired or oosed)) rr. 3, 4 5)	6. Dat Expira (Mont	te Exerc ation Da th/Day/Y	isable and tte ear) Expiration	7. Tit Amo Secu Unde Deriv (Instr Title	le and unt of rities erlying rative s rative s rative s	Security I 4) Amount or Number of	Derivative Security	derivati Securiti Benefic Owned Followi Reporte Transac	ive ies ially ng ed ction(s))	Owners Form: Direct (or Indir	ship ([D) (rect (of Indirect Beneficial Ownership	
Options -	Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security	Date	3A. Deemed Execution Date, if any	4. Transaction Code (Instr.	5. Nu of Deriv Secu Acqu (A) o Disp of (D (Inst and	umber vative urities uired or oosed)) rr. 3, 4 5)	6. Dat Expir (Mont Date Exerc 05/08	te Exerci ation Da th/Day/Y	isable and te 'ear) Expiration Date	7. Titl Amo Secu Unde Derivi (Instr 1 Title 9 Com Sto	non ck mon	Security i 4) Amount or Number of Shares	Derivative Security	derivati Securiti Benefic Owned Followi Reporte Transac (Instr. 4	ive ies cially ng ed ction(s)))	Owners Form: Direct (or Indir (I) (Inst	ship ([D) (rect (of Indirect Beneficial Ownership	
Derivative Security (Instr. 3) Options - Right to Buy Options -	Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security \$7	Date	3A. Deemed Execution Date, if any	4. Transaction Code (Instr.	5. Nu of Deriv Secu Acqu (A) o Disp of (D (Inst and	umber vative urities uired or oosed)) rr. 3, 4 5)	6. Dat Expira (Mont Date Exerc 05/08	te Exerci ation Da th/Day/Y	isable and tte ear) Expiration Date 05/08/201	7. Tit Amo Secu Unde Deriv (Instr 1 Title 9 Com 8 Com Sto	mon ck mon mon	Security 1 4) Amount or Number of Shares 20,000	Derivative Security	derivati Securiti Benefic Owned Followi Reporte Transac (Instr. 4	ive ies cially ed ction(s)))	Owners Form: Direct (or Indir (I) (Inst	ship ([D) (rect (of Indirect Beneficial Ownership	
Options - Right to Buy Options - Right to Buy	Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security \$7 \$10.85	Date	3A. Deemed Execution Date, if any	4. Transaction Code (Instr.	5. Nu of Deriv Secu Acqu (A) o Disp of (D (Inst and	umber vative urities uired or oosed)) rr. 3, 4 5)	6. Date Expir. Mont Date Exerc 05/08 06/11	te Exercitation Dation	isable and te ear) Expiration Date 05/08/201 06/11/201	7. Tit Amo Secu Deriv (Instr 9 Com 8 Com 5to 4 Com	mon ck mon ck mon	Amount or Number of Shares 20,000 10,000	Derivative Security	derivati Securiti Benefic Owned Followi Reporte Transac (Instr. 4	ive ies cially ed ction(s)))	Owners Form: Direct (or Indir (I) (Instr D	ship ([D) (rect (of Indirect Beneficial Ownership	
Derivative Security (Instr. 3) Options - Right to Buy Options - Right to Buy Options - Right to Buy Options - Right to Buy	Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security \$7 \$10.85 \$10.77	Date	3A. Deemed Execution Date, if any	4. Transaction Code (Instr.	5. Nu of Deriv Secu Acqu (A) o Disp of (D (Inst and	umber vative urities uired or oosed)) rr. 3, 4 5)	6. Date Expir. Mont Date Exerc 05/08 06/11 06/30	te Exercitation Dation	isable and tte ear) Expiration Date 05/08/201 06/11/201 12/31/201	7. Tit Amo Secu Unde Deriv (Instr 1 Title 9 Com Sto 8 Com Sto 4 Com Sto 4 Com Sto	mon ck mon ck mon ck mon ck mon ck mon ck	Amount or Number of Shares 20,000 10,000 7,500	Derivative Security	derivati Securiti Benefic Owned Followi Reporte Transac (Instr. 4	vice ies cially ing ed	Owners Form: Direct (or Indir (I) (Instr D D D	ship ([D) (rect (of Indirect Beneficial Ownership	
Derivative Security (Instr. 3) Options - Right to Buy Options - Right to Buy Options - Right to Buy Options - Right to Buy Options - Right to Buy	Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security \$7 \$10.85 \$10.77 \$11	Date	3A. Deemed Execution Date, if any	4. Transaction Code (Instr.	5. Nu of Deriv Secu Acqu (A) o Disp of (D (Inst and	umber vative urities uired or oosed)) rr. 3, 4 5)	6. Date Expir. Mont Date Exerc 05/08 06/11 06/30 06/10	te Exercite ation Dation Datio	isable and te ear) Expiration Date 05/08/201 06/11/201 12/31/201 06/10/201	7. Tit Amo Secu Unde Deriv (Instr 1 Title 9 Com Sto 8 Com Sto 4 Com Sto 4 Com Sto 3 Com Sto	mon ck mon ck mon ck mon ck mon ck mon ck mon ck mon ck	Security i 4) Amount or Number of Shares 20,000 10,000 7,500 15,000	Derivative Security	derivati Securiti Benefic Owned Followi Reporte Transac (Instr. 4	ive ies cially ng ed ction(s)))	Owners Form: Direct (or Indir (I) (Inst D D D D D	ship ([D) (rect (of Indirect Beneficial Ownership	
Derivative Security (Instr. 3) Options - Right to Buy Options - Right to Buy	Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security \$7 \$10.85 \$10.77 \$11 \$9	Date	3A. Deemed Execution Date, if any	4. Transaction Code (Instr.	5. Nu of Deriv Secu Acqu (A) o Disp of (D (Inst and	umber vative urities uired or oosed)) rr. 3, 4 5)	6. Date Expir. Mont Date Exerc 05/08 06/11 06/30 06/10 12/04	te Exercise ation Data th/Day/Y Sisable 3/2012 1/2011 0/2005 0/2004 4/2003	isable and te ear) Expiration Date 05/08/201 06/11/201 12/31/201 06/10/201 12/04/201	7. Tit Amo Secu Unde Deriv (Instri- 9 Com Sto 9 Com Sto 4 Com Sto 4 Com Sto 3 Com Sto 0 Com Sto	mon ck mon ck mon ck mon ck mon ck mon ck mon ck mon ck mon ck mon ck	Security i 4) Amount or Number of Shares 20,000 10,000 7,500 15,000	Derivative Security	derivati Securiti Benefic Owned Followi Reporte Transac (Instr. 4	ive ies cially ng ed ction(s)))	Owners Form: Direct (or Indir (I) (Instr D D D D D D D D	ship ([D) (rect (of Indirect Beneficial Ownership	

Explanation of Responses:

1. 472 shares of the total ESOP Ownership reported represent an estimated number for the December 31, 2009 allocation.

2. Deferred compensation payment is exercisable within 60 days after the cccurrence of the earliest of the following events: (i) employee's termination of employment; (ii) a change of control of company; (iii) action of the Board of Directors; (iv) employee's death.

Debra J. Richardson, By Power of Attorney 02/12/2010

** Signature of Reporting Person Date

Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially owned directly or indirectly.

* 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.

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 Number.