

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

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

OMB APPROVAL

OMB Number: 3235-0362
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1. Name and Address of Reporting Person* <u>MORRIS BENJAMIN T</u>			2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol <u>AMERICAN EQUITY INVESTMENT LIFE HOLDING CO [AEL]</u>			5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable) Director 10% Owner Officer (give title below) X Other (specify below) Former Director		
(Last) (First) (Middle) <u>600 TRAVIS, SUITE 3100</u>			3. Statement for Issuer's Fiscal Year Ended (Month/Day/Year) <u>12/31/2005</u>			6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing (Check Applicable Line) X Form filed by One Reporting Person Form filed by More than One Reporting Person		
(Street) <u>HOUSTON TX 77002</u>			4. If Amendment, Date of Original Filed (Month/Day/Year)					
(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)			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 Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4)
				Amount	(A) or (D)	Price			
Common Stock	01/06/2006		M	1,000	A	\$10.77	69,019	D	
Common Stock	01/06/2006		M	1,000	A	\$11	70,019	D	
Common Stock	01/06/2006		M	1,000	A	\$9	71,019	D	

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 Securities Underlying Derivative Security (Instr. 3 and 4)		8. Price of Derivative Security (Instr. 5)	9. Number of derivative Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 4)	10. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4)	11. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4)
					(A)	(D)	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of Shares				
Options-Right to Buy	\$10.77	01/06/2006		M		1,000	06/30/2005	12/31/2014	Common Stock	1,000	\$0	0	D	
Options-Right to Buy	\$11	01/06/2006		M		1,000	06/10/2004	06/10/2014	Common Stock	1,000	\$0	0	D	
Options-Right to Buy	\$9	01/06/2006		M		1,000	12/04/2003	12/04/2013	Common Stock	1,000	\$0	0	D	

Explanation of Responses:

Remarks:

On January 3, 2006, Mr. Ben T. Morris resigned his position as a Director of American Equity Investment Life Holding Company.

Debra J. Richardson, by Power of Attorney. 02/13/2006

** 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.