GERLACH JAMES M Form 4 July 02, 2009

FORM 4

OMB APPROVAL

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

OMB 3235-0287 Number:

Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16.

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF **SECURITIES**

January 31, Expires: 2005 Estimated average

0.5

Form 4 or Form 5 obligations may continue.

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934,

burden hours per response...

10% Owner

See Instruction

Section 17(a) of the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935 or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

1(b).

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person *

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

GERLACH JAMES M

AMERICAN EQUITY INVESTMENT LIFE HOLDING

(Check all applicable)

CO [AEL]

Symbol

(Last) (First) (Middle)

(Street)

3. Date of Earliest Transaction

_X__ Director X_ Officer (give title Other (specify below)

(Month/Day/Year)

5000 WESTOWN PARKWAY,

07/02/2009

Executive Vice President

SUITE 440

Common

Stock

4. If Amendment, Date Original

Applicable Line)

Filed(Month/Day/Year)

X Form filed by One Reporting Person Form filed by More than One Reporting

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check

WEST DES MOINES, IA 50266

(City) (State) (Zip)

07/02/2009

Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned

1.Title of 2. Transaction Date 2A. Deemed Security (Month/Day/Year) Execution Date, if (Instr. 3) (Month/Day/Year)

3. Transaction(A) or Disposed of Code (D) (Instr. 8) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5)

4. Securities Acquired 5. Amount of 6. Ownership 7. Nature of Securities Form: Direct Indirect Beneficially (D) or Beneficial Owned Indirect (I) Ownership Following (Instr. 4) (Instr. 4) Reported

(A) Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4) Code V Amount (D) Price

P 2,000 174,000 D

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

Persons who respond to the collection of SEC 1474 information contained in this form are not (9-02)required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB control number.

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

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	2.	3. Transaction Date		4.	5.	6. Date Exerc		7. Titl		8. Price of	9. Nu
Derivative Security (Instr. 3)	Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security	(Month/Day/Year)	Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year)	Transact Code (Instr. 8)	orNumber of Derivativ Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5)	:		Amou Under Securi (Instr.	lying	Derivative Security (Instr. 5)	Deriv Secur Bene Own Follo Repo Trans (Instr
				Code V	(A) (D)	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of Shares		

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships						
. 9	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other			
GERLACH JAMES M			Executive				
5000 WESTOWN PARKWAY, SUITE 440	X		Vice				
WEST DES MOINES LA 50266			President				

Signatures

Debra J. Richardson, by Power of Attorney 07/02/2009

**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).

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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