

REIMER TERRY A

Form 4

May 25, 2011

**FORM 4****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).

**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

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(Print or Type Responses)

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

2. Issuer Name **and** Ticker or Trading  
Symbol  
AMERICAN EQUITY  
INVESTMENT LIFE HOLDING  
CO [AEL]

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

(Last)      (First)      (Middle)  
  
6000 WESTOWN PARKWAY  
  
(Street)

3. Date of Earliest Transaction  
(Month/Day/Year)  
05/24/2011

4. If Amendment, Date 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

WEST DES MOINES, IA 50266

(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 Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4)	6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4)	7. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4)
			Code	V	Amount	(A) or (D)	Price
Common Stock	05/24/2011		M		15,000	A	\$ 9
							186,543
Common Stock	05/24/2011		F		6,240	D	\$ 12.5945
							180,303

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

**Persons who respond to the collection of  
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SEC 1474  
(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 Securities (Instr. 3 and 4)			
				Code	V	(A)	(D)	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of Shares
Options - Right to Buy	\$ 9	05/24/2011		M		15,000		12/04/2003	12/04/2013	Common Stock	15,000

## Reporting Owners

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

## Signatures

Debra J. Richardson, by Power of Attorney  
05/25/2011

\*\*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.