Neugent Gerard D. Form 4 June 10, 2011

FORM 4

UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF

Washington, D.C. 20549

Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or

SECURITIES Form 5 obligations

may continue. See Instruction 1(b).

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

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person * Neugent Gerard D.

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol

AMERICAN EQUITY INVESTMENT LIFE HOLDING

CO [AEL] 3. Date of Earliest Transaction

(Last) (First) (Middle)

(Month/Day/Year)

6000 WESTOWN PARKWAY 06/09/2011

(Zip)

(Street) Filed(Month/Day/Year)

4. If Amendment, Date Original

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check

Applicable Line) _X_ Form filed by One Reporting Person Form filed by More than One Reporting Person

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to

(Check all applicable)

10% Owner

Other (specify

WEST DES MOINES, IA 50266

(State)

1.Title of 2. Transaction Date 2A. Deemed Security (Instr. 3)

(City)

(Month/Day/Year) Execution Date, if (Month/Day/Year)

4. Securities TransactionAcquired (A) or Disposed of (D) Code (Instr. 8)

Code V Amount (D) Price

(Instr. 3, 4 and 5) (A)

or

5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported

Transaction(s)

(Instr. 3 and 4)

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

Issuer

below)

X_ Director

Officer (give title

6. Ownership 7. Nature of Form: Direct Indirect (D) or Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4) (Instr. 4)

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January 31,

2005

0.5

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Number:

Expires:

response...

Estimated average

burden hours per

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

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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 3. Transaction Date 3A. Deemed Derivative Conversion (Month/Day/Year) Execution Date, if

4

5. Number of TransactionDerivative

6. Date Exercisable and **Expiration Date**

7. Title and Amount of **Underlying Securities**

(9-02)

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Security (Instr. 3)	or Exercise Price of Derivative Security		any (Month/Day/Year)	Code (Instr. 8)	Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5)			(Instr. 3 and 4)	
				Code V	(A) (D) Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of Shares
Options - Right to Buy	\$ 12.26	06/09/2011		A	15,000	06/09/2014	06/08/2021	Common Stock	15,000

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships					
1 0	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other		
Neugent Gerard D. 6000 WESTOWN PARKWAY WEST DES MOINES, IA 50266	X					

Signatures

Debra J. Richardson, by Power of Attorney 06/10/2011

**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.

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