

Johnson Ted Morris  
Form 5  
February 15, 2011

**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 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

OMB  
Number: 3235-0362  
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2005  
Estimated average  
burden hours per  
response... 1.0

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person \*  
Johnson Ted Morris

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)

Vice President-Controller

(Last) (First) (Middle)

3. Statement for Issuer's Fiscal Year Ended  
(Month/Day/Year)  
12/31/2010

6000 WESTOWN PARKWAY

(Street)

4. If Amendment, Date Original  
Filed(Month/Day/Year)

6. Individual or Joint/Group Reporting

(check applicable line)

WEST DES MOINES, IA 50266

\_\_\_\_X\_\_\_\_ Form Filed by One Reporting Person  
\_\_\_\_ Form Filed by More than One Reporting  
Person

(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 Ownership (Instr. 4)
				(A) or Amount (D) Price			
Common Stock	Â	Â	Â	Â Â Â	8,500	D	Â
Common Stock	Â	Â	Â	Â Â Â	2,938	I	By ESOP (1)

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

**Persons who respond to the collection of information  
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SEC 2270  
(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)	8. Amount or Number of Shares
					(A) (D)	Date Exercisable Expiration Date	Title	
Options - Right to Buy	\$ 9.27	Â	Â	Â	Â Â	06/11/2013 06/10/2020	Common Stock	10,000
Options - Right to Buy	\$ 7	Â	Â	Â	Â Â	05/08/2012 05/08/2019	Common Stock	20,000
Options - Right to Buy	\$ 10.85	Â	Â	Â	Â Â	06/11/2011 06/11/2018	Common Stock	10,000
Options - Right to Buy	\$ 10.77	Â	Â	Â	Â Â	12/31/2004 12/31/2014	Common Stock	15,000
Options - Right to Buy	\$ 11	Â	Â	Â	Â Â	06/10/2004 06/10/2014	Common Stock	15,000
Options - Right to Buy	\$ 9	Â	Â	Â	Â Â	12/04/2003 12/04/2013	Common Stock	15,000
Options - Right to Buy	\$ 9.67	Â	Â	Â	Â Â	12/31/2001 12/31/2011	Common Stock	30,000

## Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships			
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other
Johnson Ted Morris 6000 WESTOWN PARKWAY WEST DES MOINES, IA 50266	Â	Â	Â Vice President-Controller	Â

## Signatures

Ted M. Johnson

02/14/2011

\_\_\_\_\_  
\*\*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).

(1) 689 shares of the total ESOP Ownership reported represent an estimated number for the December 31,2010 allocation.

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space provided 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.