WHITFIELD HARLEY A

Form 4 June 11, 2012

FORM 4

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

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF

SECURITIES

OMB APPROVAL OMB 3235-0287

Number:

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if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5

Check this box

obligations may continue. See Instruction

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

1(b).

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person * WHITFIELD HARLEY A

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading

Issuer

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to

Symbol AMERICAN EQUITY

INVESTMENT LIFE HOLDING

CO [AEL]

(Check all applicable)

(Last) (First) (Middle) 3. Date of Earliest Transaction

Officer (give title below)

X_ Director

10% Owner Other (specify

(Month/Day/Year) 06/07/2012

(Street)

4. If Amendment, Date Original

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check

Applicable Line)

Filed(Month/Day/Year)

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

Person

WEST DES MOINES, IA 50266

6000 WESTOWN PARKWAY

(State) (City) (Zip) Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned

1.Title of Security (Instr. 3)

2. Transaction Date 2A. Deemed (Month/Day/Year) Execution Date, if

(Month/Day/Year)

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

5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Following

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

Reported Transaction(s)

or (Instr. 3 and 4) Code V Amount (D) Price

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

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 control number.

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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 Conversion 3. Transaction Date 3A. Deemed

(Month/Day/Year) Execution Date, if

4 5. Number of TransactionDerivative

(A)

6. Date Exercisable and **Expiration Date**

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

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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)	(Month/Day/Year)		(Instr. 3 and 4)	
				Code V	(A) (D)	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of Shares
Options - Right	\$ 10.52	06/07/2012		A	14,000	06/07/2015	06/07/2022	Common Stock	14,000

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships					
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other		
WHITFIELD HARLEY A 6000 WESTOWN PARKWAY WEST DES MOINES, IA 50266	X					

Signatures

Debra J. Richardson, by Power of Attorney 06/11/2012

**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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