Buckminster Douglas E. Form 3 December 02, 2009 UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION **OMB APPROVAL** FORM 3 Washington, D.C. 20549 OMB

INITIAL STATEMENT OF 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

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(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person <u>*</u> Buckminster Douglas E.			2. Date of Event RequiringStatement(Month/Day/Year)	3. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol AMERICAN EXPRESS CO [AXP]				
(Last)	(First)	(Middle)	11/23/2009	4. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer		5. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year)		
BELGRAVE HOUSE, 76 BUCKINGHAM PALACE ROAD				(Check all applicable)				
	(Street)			Director10% Owner XOfficerOther (give title below) (specify below) Pres, Int'l Consumer & SBS			6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line) _X_ Form filed by One Reporting	
LONDONÂ							Person Form filed by More than One Reporting Person	
(City)	(State)	(Zip)	Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned					
1.Title of Secu (Instr. 4)	rity		2. Amount of Beneficially (Instr. 4)		3. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 5)	4. Na Owne (Instr	1	
Common St	ock		90,512		D	Â		
Common St	ock		11,414.73	(1)	Ι	401(k) Trust	

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

SEC 1473 (7-02)

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

1. Title of Derivative	2. Date Exercisable and	3. Title and Amount of	4.	5.	6. Nature of Indirect
Security	Expiration Date	Securities Underlying		Ownership	
(Instr. 4)	(Month/Day/Year)	Derivative Security	or Exercise	Form of	Ownership

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			(Instr. 4)		Price of	Derivative	(Instr. 5)
	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of Shares	Derivative Security	Security: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 5)	
Employee Stock Option (Right to Buy)	02/28/2002(2)	02/27/2010	Common Stock	26,732	\$ 38.224	D	Â
Employee Stock Option (Right to Buy)	04/10/2002(2)	04/09/2010	Common Stock	4,113	\$ 41.315	D	Â
Employee Stock Option (Right to Buy)	02/26/2003 <u>(2)</u>	02/25/2011	Common Stock	39,984	\$ 38.922	D	Â
Employee Stock Option (Right to Buy)	01/28/2003(2)	01/27/2012	Common Stock	39,984	\$ 31.941	D	Â
Employee Stock Option (Right to Buy)	01/27/2004(3)	01/26/2013	Common Stock	37,128	\$ 29.239	D	Â
Employee Stock Option (Right to Buy)	01/26/2005(3)	01/25/2014	Common Stock	37,128	\$ 43.977	D	Â
Employee Stock Option (Right to Buy)	01/24/2006(3)	01/23/2015	Common Stock	30,845	\$ 45.768	D	Â
Employee Stock Option (Right to Buy)	01/23/2007 <u>(3)</u>	01/22/2016	Common Stock	49,500	\$ 51.865	D	Â
Employee Stock Option (Right to Buy)	01/25/2008(3)	01/24/2017	Common Stock	50,000	\$ 57.77	D	Â
Employee Stock Option (Right to Buy)	07/31/2008 <u>(3)</u>	07/30/2017	Common Stock	50,000	\$ 58.54	D	Â
Employee Stock Option (Right to Buy)	01/31/2009(3)	01/30/2018	Common Stock	100,000	\$ 49.13	D	Â
Phantom Stock Units	(4)	(4)	Common Stock	203.14 (5)	\$ 0 <u>(6)</u>	D	Â

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships					
	Director 10% Owner Officer		Officer	Other		
Buckminster Douglas E. BELGRAVE HOUSE 76 BUCKINGHAM PALACE ROAD LONDONÂ	Â	Â	Pres, Int'l Consumer & SBS	Â		
Signatures						
/s/ Michael G. Kuchs, attorney-in-fact	12/02/2009					
**Signature of Reporting Person	Da	te				

Explanation of Responses:

- * If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, see Instruction 5(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) Shares held in reporting person's account under the Company's Retirement Savings Plan. This plan uses unit accounting, and the number of shares that a participant is deemed to hold varies with the unit price of the Company pooled stock fund.
- (2) These options vested in three equal annual installments beginning on the date shown as "Date Exercisable."
- (3) These shares become exercisable in four cumulative annual installments of 25% each beginning on date shown as "Date Exercisable."
- (4) The units are to be settled following the reporting person's retirement or other termination of service.
- (5) Includes phantom stock units acquired pursuant to a dividend reinvestment feature of the Company's Supplemental Retirement Plan.
- (6) The phantom stock converts into common stock on a one-for-one basis.

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Remarks:

Exhibit List

Â Â Â Â Ê xhibit 24 - Power of Attorney

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.