Buckminster Douglas E. Form 3

December 02, 2009

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

OMB APPROVAL

OMB Number:

3235-0104

Expires:

response...

January 31, 2005

Estimated average burden hours per

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

INITIAL STATEMENT OF BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF

SECURITIES

30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

0.5

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person *

Buckminster Douglas E.

(Last)

(First)

(Middle)

Statement

(Month/Day/Year)

11/23/2009

2. Date of Event Requiring 3. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol

AMERICAN EXPRESS CO [AXP]

4. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

(Check all applicable)

5. If Amendment, Date Original

Filed(Month/Day/Year)

BELGRAVE HOUSE, 76 **BUCKINGHAM PALACE** ROAD

(Street)

Director _X__ Officer

10% Owner

Other (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

Person

Form filed by More than One Reporting Person

LONDONÂ

(City) (State) (Zip)

Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned

1. Title of Security

(Instr. 4)

2. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned

(Instr. 4)

3. Ownership

4. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership

Form: (Instr. 5)

Direct (D) or Indirect (I)

(Instr. 5)

Common Stock 90.512

D

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Common Stock 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 Security (Instr. 4)

2. Date Exercisable and **Expiration Date** (Month/Day/Year)

3. Title and Amount of Securities Underlying **Derivative Security**

4.

5.

6. Nature of Indirect

Ownership Beneficial Conversion Ownership or Exercise Form of

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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(2)	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(3)	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(3)	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 (6)	D	Â

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships				
1	Director	10% Owner	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			

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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 Êxhibit 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.