

Item 8.01. Other Events.

On March 3, 2010, American Equity Investment Life Holding Company (the “Company”) issued a news release announcing that the Company, its Executive Chairman, and its Chief Executive Officer entered into civil settlements with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission that concludes the previously disclosed inquiry into historical disclosures in a Company proxy statement. A copy of the Company’s press release regarding the settlement is filed as Exhibit 99.1 hereto and incorporated herein by reference.

Item 9.01. Financial Statements and Exhibits.

(d) Exhibits

Exhibit 99.1 Press release, dated March 3, 2010

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned hereunto duly authorized.

**AMERICAN EQUITY INVESTMENT LIFE
HOLDING COMPANY**

Date: March 3, 2010 /s/ John M. Matovina
John M. Matovina
Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer