

Johnson Ted Morris
 Form 5
 February 15, 2011

FORM 5

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

OMB APPROVAL

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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

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
 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

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)	(A) or (D)	Price	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)
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.

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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)			
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.