

AMERICAN EQUITY INVESTMENT LIFE HOLDING CO

Form 4

January 12, 2006

FORM 4**UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549**

Check this box
if no longer
subject to
Section 16.
Form 4 or
Form 5
obligations
may continue.
See Instruction
1(b).

**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

OMB APPROVAL

OMB
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(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person *
MORRIS BENJAMIN T

(Last) (First) (Middle)

600 TRAVIS, SUITE 3100

(Street)

HOUSTON, TX 77002

(City) (State) (Zip)

2. Issuer Name **and** Ticker or Trading
Symbol

**AMERICAN EQUITY
INVESTMENT LIFE HOLDING
CO [AEL]**

3. Date of Earliest Transaction
(Month/Day/Year)

01/06/2006

4. If Amendment, Date Original
Filed(Month/Day/Year)

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to
Issuer

(Check all applicable)

☒ Director ☐ 10% Owner
☐ Officer (give title below) ☐ Other (specify below)

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check
Applicable Line)
☒ Form filed by One Reporting Person
☐ Form filed by More than One Reporting
Person

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)			5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4)	6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4)	7. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4)
			Code	V	Amount	(A) or (D)	Price		
Common Stock	01/06/2006		M		1,000	A	\$ 9	69,019	D
Common Stock	01/06/2006		M		1,000	A	\$ 11	70,019	D
Common Stock	01/06/2006		M		1,000	A	\$ 10.77	71,019	D
Common Stock	01/11/2006		S		49,269	D	\$ 13.3409	21,750	D

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

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(9-02)

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
Option (Right to Buy)	\$ 9	01/06/2006		M	1,000	12/04/2003 12/04/2013	Common Stock	1,000
Option (Right to Buy)	\$ 11	01/06/2006		M	1,000	06/10/2004 06/10/2014	Common Stock	1,000
Option (Right to Buy)	\$ 10.77	01/06/2006		M	1,000	06/30/2005 06/30/2014	Common Stock	1,000

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships			
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other
MORRIS BENJAMIN T 600 TRAVIS, SUITE 3100 HOUSTON, TX 77002		X		

Signatures

Ben T Morris 01/12/2006
 **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.

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