

AMERICAN EQUITY INVESTMENT LIFE HOLDING CO

Form 5

February 11, 2008

FORM 5**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).
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

OMB APPROVAL

OMB
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1. Name and Address of Reporting Person *
RICHARDSON DEBRA J

(Last) (First) (Middle)

5000 WESTOWN PARKWAY,
SUITE 440

(Street)

2. Issuer Name **and** Ticker or Trading
Symbol
AMERICAN EQUITY
INVESTMENT LIFE HOLDING
CO [AEL]

3. Statement for Issuer's Fiscal Year Ended
(Month/Day/Year)
12/31/2007

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to
Issuer

(Check all applicable)

____ Director ____ 10% Owner
__X__ Officer (give title below) ____ Other (specify below)
Senior VP & Secretary

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

6. Individual or Joint/Group Reporting
(check applicable line)

WEST DES MOINES, IA 50266

__X__ 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)	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	101,424	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)

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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 Underlying Security (Instr. 3 and 4)	
					(A)	(D)	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of Shares
Options-Right to Buy	\$ 10.77	Â	Â	Â	Â	Â	06/30/2005	12/31/2014	Common Stock	20,000
Options-Right to Buy	\$ 11	Â	Â	Â	Â	Â	06/10/2004	06/10/2014	Common Stock	20,000
Options-Right to Buy	\$ 9	Â	Â	Â	Â	Â	12/04/2003	12/04/2013	Common Stock	20,000
Options-Right to Buy	\$ 9.67	Â	Â	Â	Â	Â	12/29/2000	12/29/2010	Common Stock	30,000
Options-Right to Buy	\$ 9.67	Â	Â	Â	Â	Â	05/05/2000	05/05/2010	Common Stock	17,200
Options-Right to Buy	\$ 7.33	Â	Â	Â	Â	Â	04/14/1999	04/14/2009	Common Stock	33,000
American Equity Capital Trust I 8% Conv TP	\$ 10	Â	Â	Â	Â	Â	09/30/2002	09/30/2029	Common Stock	3,000

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships			
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other
RICHARDSON DEBRA J 5000 WESTOWN PARKWAY, SUITE 440 WEST DES MOINES, IA 50266	Â	Â	Â Senior VP & Secretary	Â

Signatures

Debra J.
Richardson 02/11/2008

**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 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.