

Howell Keith J  
Form 4  
January 20, 2012

**FORM 4**

**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).

**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

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person \*  
Howell Keith J

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol  
AK STEEL HOLDING CORP  
[AKS]

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

(Check all applicable)

(Last) (First) (Middle)  
9227 CENTRE POINTE DRIVE  
(Street)

3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)  
01/18/2012

\_\_\_\_ Director \_\_\_\_\_ 10% Owner  
 Officer (give title below) \_\_\_\_\_ Other (specify below)  
V.P. Carbon Steel Operations

WEST CHESTER, OH 45069

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

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line)  
 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 Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4)	6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4)	7. Nature of Ownership (Instr. 4)
				(A) or (D)	Price		
Common Stock	01/18/2012		A	10,600	\$ 0	D	
Common Stock	01/19/2012		F	972	\$ 9.405	D	

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

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SEC 1474  
(9-02)

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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 Security (Instr. 3 and 4)
Employee Stock Option (Right to Buy)	\$ 9.11	01/18/2012		A	14,100	01/18/2013 <sup>(1)</sup> 01/18/2022	Common Stock 14
Performance Shares	<sup>(2)</sup>	01/18/2012		A	8,200 <sup>(3)</sup>	12/31/2014 12/31/2014	Common Stock 8

## Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships			
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other
Howell Keith J 9227 CENTRE POINTE DRIVE WEST CHESTER, OH 45069			V.P. Carbon Steel Operations	

## Signatures

/s/ Keith J.  
Howell

01/20/2012

\*\*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) Options vest in three equal annual installments beginning one year after grant date.

(2) Each Performance Share represents a contingent right to receive 0 to 1.5 shares of Common Stock. The conversion rate (0, .5, 1 or 1.5) ultimately applied to these Performance Shares will be determined based on the compounded annual growth rate ("CAGR") of the Common Stock between January 1, 2012 and December 31, 2014 (the "Performance Period").

(3) This represents one half of the Performance Shares which were awarded on January 18, 2012 and are required to be reported at this time because they constitute derivative securities. The other half do not constitute derivative securities and therefore are not required to be reported at this time.

(4) The number of shares of Common Stock underlying this grant of the Performance Shares will be 0 to 1.5 times the number of Performance Shares granted depending on the CAGR achieved during the Performance Period.

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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