

AMERICAN EQUITY INVESTMENT LIFE HOLDING CO
 Form 4
 January 12, 2006

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 *
 MORRIS BENJAMIN T

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)

(Last) (First) (Middle)
 600 TRAVIS, SUITE 3100
 (Street)

3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)
 01/06/2006

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

HOUSTON, TX 77002
 (City) (State) (Zip)

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

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)	
				(A) or (D)	Price			
				Code	V	Amount		
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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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 Date
 Reporting Person

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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