

MULCAHY DAVID S
 Form 3
 January 31, 2011

FORM 3 UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549

OMB APPROVAL
 OMB Number: 3235-0104
 Expires: January 31, 2005
 Estimated average burden hours per response... 0.5

INITIAL STATEMENT OF 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 * Â MULCAHY DAVID S (Last) (First) (Middle) 6000 WESTOWN PARKWAY (Street) WEST DES MOINES, IA 50266 (City) (State) (Zip) | 2. Date of Event Requiring Statement (Month/Day/Year) 01/24/2011 | 3. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol AMERICAN EQUITY INVESTMENT LIFE HOLDING CO [AEL] | 4. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Director <input type="checkbox"/> 10% Owner <input type="checkbox"/> Officer <input type="checkbox"/> Other (give title below) (specify below) | 5. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year) | 6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Form filed by One Reporting Person <input type="checkbox"/> Form filed by More than One Reporting Person |
|--|--|---|--|--|---|

Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned

| | | | |
|------------------------------------|--|---|--|
| 1. Title of Security (Instr. 4) | 2. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned (Instr. 4) | 3. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 5) | 4. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 5) |
|------------------------------------|--|---|--|

Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially owned directly or indirectly. SEC 1473 (7-02)

Persons who respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Table II - Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned (e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)

| | | | | | |
|---|--|---|--|--|--|
| 1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 4) | 2. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year) Date Exercisable Expiration Date | 3. Title and Amount of Securities Underlying Derivative Security (Instr. 4) Title Amount or Number of Shares | 4. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security | 5. Ownership Form of Derivative Security: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) | 6. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 5) |
|---|--|---|--|--|--|

(Instr. 5)

| | | | | | | | |
|--|------------|------------|--------------|--------|---------|---|---|
| American Equity Capital Trust I 8% Conv TP | 09/30/2002 | 09/30/2029 | Common Stock | 14,814 | \$ 8.1 | D | Â |
| Deferred Compensation | Â (1) | Â (1) | Common Stock | 28,125 | \$ 5.33 | D | Â |

Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address | Relationships | | | |
|--|---------------|-----------|---------|-------|
| | Director | 10% Owner | Officer | Other |
| MULCAHY DAVID S 6000 WESTOWN PARKWAY WEST DES MOINES, IA 50266 | Â X | Â | Â | Â |

Signatures

David S.
Mulcahy

01/31/2011

**Signature of
Reporting Person

Date

Explanation of Responses:

- * If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, *see* Instruction 5(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) Deferred Compensation Payment is exercisable on the 10th business day after the occurrence of any of the following events: (a) action by the Board of Directors; (b) filer's death; (c) filer's disability; (d) filer reaches the age of 65; (e) a "change of control" of the company.

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space 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.