WHITFIELD HARLEY A
Form 5
February 09, 2006

FORM 5

OMB APPROVAL

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

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

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

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person *
WHITFIELD HARLEY A

(Last) (First) (Middle)

5000 WESTOWN PARKWAY, SUITE 440

(Street)

WEST DES MOINES,Â IAÂ 50266

(City) (State) (Zip)

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)
12/31/2005

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

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

(Check all applicable)

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

6. Individual or Joint/Group Reporting

(check applicable line)

_X_ 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 at end of Issuer's Fiscal Year (Instr. 3 and 4)	6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4)	7. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4)
				Amount	(A) or (D)	Price			
Common Stock	Â	Â	Â	Â	Â	Â	36,000	D	Â

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 Amoun Underlying Securiti (Instr. 3 and 4)	
					(A)	(D)	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amou or Numb of Share
Options-Right to Buy	$ 10.77	Â	Â	Â	Â	Â	06/30/2005	12/31/2014	Common	1,00
Options-Right to Buy	$ 11	Â	Â	Â	Â	Â	06/10/2004	06/10/2014	Common	1,00
Options-Right to Buy	$ 9	Â	Â	Â	Â	Â	12/04/2003	12/04/2013	Common	1,00

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships			
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other
WHITFIELD HARLEY A 5000 WESTOWN PARKWAY, SUITE 440 WEST DES MOINES,Â IAÂ 50266	Â X	Â	Â	Â

Signatures

Debra J. Richardson, by Power of Attorney	02/09/2006
**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 provided is insufficient, *see* Instruction 6 for procedure.
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