

GERLACH JAMES M  
Form 5  
February 14, 2012

**FORM 5**

**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).  
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

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person *			2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol		5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer	
GERLACH JAMES M			AMERICAN EQUITY INVESTMENT LIFE HOLDING CO [AEL]		(Check all applicable)	
(Last)	(First)	(Middle)	3. Statement for Issuer's Fiscal Year Ended (Month/Day/Year)		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Director <input type="checkbox"/> Officer (give title below)	
			12/31/2011		<input type="checkbox"/> 10% Owner <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify below)	
	(Street)		4. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year)		6. Individual or Joint/Group Reporting (check applicable line)	

Form Filed by One Reporting Person  
 Form Filed by More than One Reporting Person

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				(A) or (D) Price	191,783	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)**

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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 of Underlying Security (Instr. 3 and 4)		
					(A)	(D)	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of
Options - Right to Buy	\$ 9.27	Â	Â	Â	Â	Â	06/11/2013	06/11/2020	Common Stock	2
Options - Right to Buy	\$ 10.24	Â	Â	Â	Â	Â	03/15/2013	03/15/2016 <sup>(1)</sup>	Common Stock	4
Options - Right to Buy	\$ 7	Â	Â	Â	Â	Â	05/08/2012	05/08/2019	Common Stock	20
Options - Right to Buy	\$ 10.85	Â	Â	Â	Â	Â	06/11/2011	06/11/2018	Common Stock	40
Options - Right to Buy	\$ 10.77	Â	Â	Â	Â	Â	06/30/2005	12/31/2014	Common Stock	1
Options - Right to Buy	\$ 11	Â	Â	Â	Â	Â	06/10/2004	06/10/2014	Common Stock	15
Options - Right to Buy	\$ 9	Â	Â	Â	Â	Â	12/04/2003	12/04/2013	Common Stock	15
American Equity Capital Trust I 8% Conv TP	\$ 8.1	Â	Â	Â	Â	Â	09/30/2002	09/30/2029	Common Stock	3
Deferred Compensation	Â	Â	Â	Â	Â	Â	Â <sup>(3)</sup>	Â <sup>(3)</sup>	Common Stock	2

## Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships			
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other
GERLACH JAMES M	Â	X	Â	Â
Â	Â		Â	Â

## Signatures

Debra J. Richardson, by Power of  
Attorney

02/14/2012

\_\_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) Corrected expiration date of this derivative security from what was filed as of December 31, 2010, to actual expiration date.
  - (2) Each share deemed to be held by the Deferred Compensation Plan represents the right to receive one share of AEL common stock or the cash value thereof.  
  
Deferred Compensation payment is exercisable on the 10th business day after the occurrence on any of the following events: (i) action of
  - (3) the Board of Directors; (ii) written notification of employee's resignation; (iii) employee's termination of employment; (iv) employee's disability; (v) employee's death.

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.