

MULCAHY DAVID S  
 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 \*  
 MULCAHY DAVID S

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)  
 (Street)

3. Statement for Issuer's Fiscal Year Ended (Month/Day/Year)  
 12/31/2011

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

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

6. Individual or Joint/Group Reporting  
 (check applicable line)

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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 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	Â	Â	Â	Â Â Â Â	8,000	D	Â

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

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SEC 2270 (9-02)

**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)
Options - Right to Buy	\$ 12.26	Â	Â	Â	Â (A) Â (D)	06/09/2014 06/09/2021 <sup>(1)</sup>	Common Stock 13
American Equity Capital Trust I 8% Conv TP	\$ 8.1	Â	Â	Â	Â (A) Â (D)	09/30/2002 09/30/2029	Common Stock 14
Deferred Compensation	Â	Â	Â	Â	Â (A) Â (D) Â (3)	Â (3)	Common Stock 20

## Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships			
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other
MULCAHY DAVID S	Â	X	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 on Form 4 on June 13, 2011, 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.
- (3) Deferred Compensation Payment is exercisable on the 10th business day after the occurrence of any of the following events: (i) action by the Board of Directors, (ii) filer's death, (iii) filer's disability, (iv) filer reaches the age of 65, (v) a "change of control" of the company.

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.