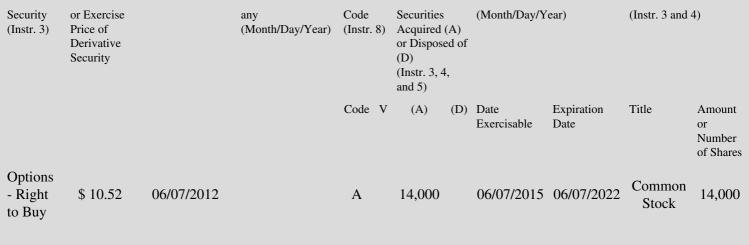
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| Neugent Gerard Form 4 | d D. | | | | | | | | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|---------------|---|---------------|---------------------------|---|---|--|---|--|
| June 11, 2012 | | | | | | | | | | |
| FORM 4 UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION | | | | | | | т | PPROVAL | | |
| Check this b | UNITED | SIAILS | | shington, | | | | Number: | 3235-0287 | |
| if no longer | | | ГСЦАВ | NCES IN | DENIEE | | WNEDSHID OF | Expires: | January 31, 2005 | |
| subject to Section 16. Form 4 or | | | | | ICIAL O | WNERSHIF OF | Estimated burden hou response | urs per | | |
| Form 5 obligations may continu <i>See</i> Instructi 1(b). | e. Section 17(| a) of the | Public U | Jtility Hol | ding Cor | | nge Act of 1934, of 1935 or Sectio 940 | on | | |
| (Print or Type Res | sponses) | | | | | | | | | |
| 1. Name and Address of Reporting Person <u>*</u> Neugent Gerard D. | | | 2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol | | | 5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer | | | | |
| | | | AMERICAN EQUITY INVESTMENT LIFE HOLDING CO [AEL] | | | | (Check all applicable) | | | |
| | | | | | | | _X_ Director10% Owner Officer (give title Other (specify | | | |
| (Last) (First) (Middle) 6000 WESTOWN PARKWAY | | | 3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year) 06/07/2012 | | | below) | below) | | | |
| (Street) | | | 4. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year) | | | 6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line) | | | | |
| WEST DES M | IOINES, IA 50 |)266 | | | | | _X_ Form filed by Form filed by Person | | | |
| (City) (State) (Zip) | | | Table I - Non-Derivative Securities | | | Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned | | | | |
| | Transaction Date Ionth/Day/Year) | Execution any | Date, if | (Instr. 8) | Disposed (Instr. 3, 4 | (A) or of (D) 4 and 5) (A) or | Securities Beneficially Owned | 6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4) | 7. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4) | |
| | | | 2 | Code V | | | | | | |
| Reminder: Report | on a separate line | or each cl | ass of sec | urities benef | Perso inforn requir | ns who res nation cont red to resp ays a curre | or indirectly. spond to the colle ained in this form ond unless the for ntly valid OMB co | n are not rm | SEC 1474 (9-02) | |
| | Tab | | | | | posed of, or convertible | Beneficially Owned securities) | I | | |

| 1. Title of | 2. | 3. Transaction Date | 3A. Deemed | 4. | 5. Number of | 6. Date Exercisable and | 7. Title and Amount of |
|-------------|------------|---------------------|--------------------|-----------|--------------|-------------------------|------------------------|
| Derivative | Conversion | (Month/Day/Year) | Execution Date, if | Transacti | orDerivative | Expiration Date | Underlying Securities |

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Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address | | | | |
|--|----------|-----------|---------|-------|
| L O | Director | 10% Owner | Officer | Other |
| Neugent Gerard D. 6000 WESTOWN PARKWAY WEST DES MOINES, IA 50266 | Х | | | |
| Signatures | | | | |
| Debra J. Richardson, by Power of Attorney | | 06/11/ | 2012 | |
| **Signature of Reporting Person | | Date | e | |

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. 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.