

WILLIAMS RONALD A  
 Form 4  
 May 11, 2012

**FORM 4**

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

OMB APPROVAL

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**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

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person \*  
**WILLIAMS RONALD A**

(Last) (First) (Middle)

**C/O AMERICAN EXPRESS  
 COMPANY, 200 VESEY STREET**

(Street)

**NEW YORK, NY 10285-5001**

(City) (State) (Zip)

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol  
**AMERICAN EXPRESS CO [AXP]**

3. Date of Earliest Transaction  
 (Month/Day/Year)  
**05/10/2012**

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

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

(Check all applicable)

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

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line)  
 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 Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4)	6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4)	7. Nature of Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4)
				(A) or (D)	Code V Amount (D) Price		

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

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SEC 1474 (9-02)

**Table II - Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned (e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)**

1. Title of Derivative Security	2. Conversion or Exercise	3. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	3A. Deemed Execution Date, if any	4. Transaction Code	5. Number of Derivative Securities Acquired	6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year)	7. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities (Instr. 3 and 4)
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(Instr. 3)	Price of Derivative Security	(Month/Day/Year)	(Instr. 8)	(A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5)	Code	V	(A)	(D)	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount Number Shares
Share Equivalent Units	<u>(1)</u>	05/10/2012	A	2,593.8991 <u>(2)</u>					<u>(3)</u>	<u>(3)</u>	Common Stock	2,593.

## Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships			
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other
WILLIAMS RONALD A C/O AMERICAN EXPRESS COMPANY 200 VESEY STREET NEW YORK, NY 10285-5001	X			

## Signatures

/s/ Michael G. Kuchs,  
attorney-in-fact

05/11/2012

  \*\*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) The Share Equivalent Units convert into common stock on a one-for-one basis.
- (2) The reported Share Equivalent Units were awarded pursuant to the Company's 2003 Share Equivalent Unit Plan for Directors and will be settled in cash following termination of service as a Director.
- (3) The Share Equivalent Units are convertible immediately and have no expiration date.
- (4) Includes Share Equivalent Units acquired pursuant to a dividend reinvestment feature of the Directors' Deferred Compensation Plan and/or the 2003 Share Equivalent Unit Plan for Directors.

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.