

Ayers Jeffrey David  
 Form 4  
 February 10, 2006

**FORM 4**

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

OMB APPROVAL

OMB Number: 3235-0287  
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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).

**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 \*  
 Ayers Jeffrey David

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol  
 NOVASTAR FINANCIAL INC  
 [NFI]

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer  
 (Check all applicable)

(Last) (First) (Middle)  
 8140 WARD PARKWAY  
 (Street)

3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)  
 02/08/2006

\_\_\_\_ Director \_\_\_\_\_ 10% Owner  
 Officer (give title below) \_\_\_\_\_ Other (specify below)  
 SVP, Gen. Counsel & Secretary

KANSAS CITY, MO 64114  
 (City) (State) (Zip)

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

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 Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4)
NovaStar Financial Inc. Common Stock <u>(1)</u> <u>(2)</u>	02/08/2006		A	2,000 A \$ 0	2,000	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)

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 Securities (Instr. 3 and 4)	8. Amount or Number of Shares
Stock Option	\$ 31.21	02/08/2006		A	1,139	02/08/2007 02/08/2016	NovaStar Financial Inc. Common Stock	1,139
Stock Option	\$ 31.21	02/08/2006		A	1,139	02/08/2008 02/08/2016	NovaStar Financial Inc. Common Stock	1,139
Stock Option	\$ 31.21	02/08/2006		A	1,139	02/08/2009 02/08/2016	NovaStar Financial Inc. Common Stock	1,139
Stock Option	\$ 31.21	02/08/2006		A	1,139	02/08/2010 02/08/2016	NovaStar Financial Inc. Common Stock	1,139

## Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships			
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other
Ayers Jeffrey David 8140 WARD PARKWAY KANSAS CITY, MO 64114			SVP, Gen. Counsel & Secretary	

## Signatures

Jeffrey D. Ayers

02/08/2006

\*\*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).
- (1) This is a grant of restricted stock subject to a 5 year Cliff vesting period.
  - (2) Restricted stock has voting rights and rights to receive dividends at transaction date, but is subject to forfeiture.

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, *see* Instruction 6 for procedure.

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