

AMERICAN EXPRESS CO

Form 4

April 29, 2009

**FORM 4****UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
Washington, D.C. 20549**

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

OMB APPROVAL

OMB  
Number: 3235-0287  
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response... 0.5

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person \*  
AKERSON DANIEL F

(Last) (First) (Middle)

THE CARLYLE GROUP, 1001  
PENNSYLVANIA AVE, NW

(Street)

WASHINGTON, DC 20004

(City) (State) (Zip)

2. Issuer Name **and** Ticker or Trading  
Symbol

AMERICAN EXPRESS CO [AXP]

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

04/27/2009

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<br>Security<br>(Instr. 3) | 2. Transaction Date<br>(Month/Day/Year) | 2A. Deemed<br>Execution Date, if<br>any<br>(Month/Day/Year) | 3. Transaction<br>Code<br>(Instr. 8) | 4. Securities<br>Acquired (A) or<br>Disposed of (D)<br>(Instr. 3, 4 and 5) | 5. Amount of<br>Securities<br>Beneficially<br>Owned<br>Following<br>Reported<br>Transaction(s)<br>(Instr. 3 and 4) | 6. Ownership<br>Form: Direct<br>(D) or Indirect<br>(I)<br>(Instr. 4) | 7. Nature of<br>Indirect<br>Beneficial<br>Ownership<br>(Instr. 4) |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                       |                                         |                                                             |                                      | (A)<br>or<br>(D)                                                           |                                                                                                                    |                                                                      |                                                                   |
|                                       |                                         |                                                             | Code                                 | V                                                                          | Amount                                                                                                             | (D)                                                                  | Price                                                             |

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

**Persons who respond to the collection of  
information contained in this form are not  
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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<br>Derivative<br>Security | 2. Conversion<br>or Exercise | 3. Transaction Date<br>(Month/Day/Year) | 3A. Deemed<br>Execution Date, if<br>any | 4. Transaction<br>Code | 5. Number<br>of Derivative<br>Securities | 6. Date Exercisable and<br>Expiration Date<br>(Month/Day/Year) | 7. Title and Amount of<br>Underlying Securities<br>(Instr. 3 and 4) | 8. P<br>Deri<br>Sec |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|
|                                       |                              |                                         |                                         |                        |                                          |                                                                |                                                                     |                     |

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| (Instr. 3)                   | Price of<br>Derivative<br>Security | (Month/Day/Year) | (Instr. 8) | Acquired<br>(A) or<br>Disposed of<br>(D)<br>(Instr. 3, 4,<br>and 5) | (Instr. 3, 4,<br>and 5) |     |                     |                    |                 |  |                                        |  |  |
|------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------|------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|-----|---------------------|--------------------|-----------------|--|----------------------------------------|--|--|
|                              |                                    |                  | Code       | V                                                                   | (A)                     | (D) | Date<br>Exercisable | Expiration<br>Date | Title           |  | Amount<br>or<br>Number<br>of<br>Shares |  |  |
| Share<br>Equivalent<br>Units | <u>(1)</u>                         | 04/27/2009       | A          |                                                                     | 3,400<br><u>(2)</u>     |     | <u>(3)</u>          | <u>(3)</u>         | Common<br>Stock |  | 3,400                                  |  |  |

## Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address                                                             | Relationships |           |         |       |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|-----------|---------|-------|
|                                                                                            | Director      | 10% Owner | Officer | Other |
| AKERSON DANIEL F<br>THE CARLYLE GROUP<br>1001 PENNSYLVANIA AVE, NW<br>WASHINGTON, DC 20004 | X             |           |         |       |

## Signatures

/s/ Stephen P. Norman,  
attorney-in-fact

04/29/2009

\_\_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 acquired 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.  
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