OKEEFE MARY A Form 4

December 09, 2008

Check this box

if no longer

subject to

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

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF

SECURITIES

OMB Number:

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OMB APPROVAL

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Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5 obligations

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(b).

(Print or Type Responses)

711 HIGH STREET

may continue.

See Instruction

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person * OKEEFE MARY A

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading

Issuer

below)

Symbol PRINCIPAL FINANCIAL GROUP

(Check all applicable)

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to

INC [PFG]

(Last) (First) (Middle)

(Street)

3. Date of Earliest Transaction

Director 10% Owner X_ Officer (give title Other (specify

(Month/Day/Year)

12/05/2008

below) Sr. VP & Chief Mktg. Off.

4. If Amendment, Date Original

(Instr. 8)

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line)

Filed(Month/Day/Year)

X Form filed by One Reporting Person Form filed by More than One Reporting

(Instr. 4)

Person

DES MOINES, IA 50392

(City) (State) (Zip)

Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned

1.Title of Security (Instr. 3)

2. Transaction Date 2A. Deemed (Month/Day/Year)

Execution Date, if

(Month/Day/Year)

3. 4. Securities TransactionAcquired (A) or Code Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5) 5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned

6. Ownership 7. Nature of Form: Direct Indirect (D) or Indirect Beneficial Ownership (I)

(Instr. 4)

(9-02)

(A)

Following Reported Transaction(s)

(Instr. 3 and 4)

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 SEC 1474 information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB control number.

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

1. Title of Derivative Security

Conversion or Exercise

3. Transaction Date 3A. Deemed (Month/Day/Year) Execution Date, if

any

5. Number 4. Transactionof Code

Derivative

6. Date Exercisable and **Expiration Date** (Month/Day/Year)

7. Title and Amount of 8. l Underlying Securities De (Instr. 3 and 4) Sec

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(Instr. 3)	Price of Derivative Security		(Month/Day/Year)	(Instr.	8)	Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5)						(In
				Code	V	(A)	(D)	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of Shares	
Performance Units	<u>(1)</u>	12/05/2008		A		217		(2)	(2)	Common Stock	217	
Phantom Stock Units	(1)	12/05/2008		A		41.9		(3)	(3)	Common Stock	41.9	\$

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address Relationships

Director 10% Owner Officer Other

OKEEFE MARY A 711 HIGH STREET DES MOINES, IA 50392

Sr. VP & Chief Mktg. Off.

Signatures

Joyce N. Hoffman, by Power of Attorney 12/09/2008

**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) Security converts to common stock on a one-for-one basis.
- (2) The reported performance units were acquired pursuant to the Principal Financial Group Long-Term Performance Plan. Units under the Plan will be settled in cash or stock within a five-year period from the date of vesting.
- The reported phantom stock units were acquired pursuant to the Principal Select Savings Excess Plan and may be transferred at any time into another investment alternative under the Plan. Interests under the Plan will be settled upon the reporting person's retirement or other termination of service.

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.

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