Lillis Terrance J. Form 4 December 08, 2009

FORM 4

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

OMB and

Number: 3235-0287

Expires: January 31, 2005

OMB APPROVAL

Estimated average burden hours per response... 0.5

Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF SECURITIES

Form 5 obligations may continue. See Instruction 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)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person *Lillis Terrance J.			2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol PRINCIPAL FINANCIAL GROUP INC [PFG]					5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable)			
(Last) 711 HIGH S	(First) (I	3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year) 12/04/2009					Director 10% Owner _X_ Officer (give title Other (specify below) Senior Vice President & CFO				
DEC MOIN	(Street)		4. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year)					6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line) _X_ Form filed by One Reporting PersonForm filed by More than One Reporting			
DES MOINI	ES, IA 50392							Person		778	
(City)	(State) (Zip) Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned										
1.Title of Security (Instr. 3)	2. Transaction Dat (Month/Day/Year)	Executi any		3. Transaction Code (Instr. 8)	4. SecurionAcquirec Disposec (Instr. 3,	d (A) of d of (D) 4 and (A) or))	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)	
Common Stock	12/04/2009			A	181	A	\$ 0 (1)	18,157 <u>(2)</u>	D		
Common Stock								36	I	By 401(k) Plan	
Common Stock								303	I	By Spouse	

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

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number.

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

1. Title of Derivative	2. Conversion	3. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	3A. Deemed Execution Date, if	4. Transaction	5. orNumber	6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date		7. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities		8. Pr Deri
Security (Instr. 3)	or Exercise Price of Derivative Security		any (Month/Day/Year)	Code (Instr. 8)	of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5)	(Month/Day		(Instr. 3 and		Secu (Inst
				Code V	(A) (D)	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of Shares	
Performance Units	(3)	12/04/2009		A	11	<u>(4)</u>	<u>(4)</u>	Common Stock	11	
Phantom Stock Units	(3)	12/04/2009		A	2.8	(5)	<u>(5)</u>	Common Stock	2.8	\$ 2

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address Relationships

Director 10% Owner Officer Other

Lillis Terrance J. 711 HIGH STREET DES MOINES, IA 50392

Senior Vice President & CFO

Signatures

Joyce N. Hoffman, by Power of Attorney 12/08/2009

**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) Grant of restricted stock units.
- (2) Includes 4,907 shares acquired pursuant to the Principal Financial Group, Inc. Employee Stock Purchase Plan.
- (3) Security converts to common stock on a one-for-one basis.
- (4) The performance units were acquired pursuant to the Principal Financial Group Long-Term Performance Plan. Units will be settled in cash or stock within a five-year period from the date of vesting.
- (5) The 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 termination of service.

Reporting Owners 2

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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.