

Williams Anre D  
Form 3  
November 14, 2011

**FORM 3 UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**  
**Washington, D.C. 20549**

OMB APPROVAL

OMB Number: 3235-0104  
Expires: January 31, 2005  
Estimated average burden hours per response... 0.5

**INITIAL STATEMENT OF 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 *                              |   | 2. Date of Event Requiring Statement | 3. Issuer Name <b>and</b> Ticker or Trading Symbol                    |  |
| Â Williams Anre D  |   | (Month/Day/Year)                     | AMERICAN EXPRESS CO [AXP]   |  |
| (Last)   | (First)                                     | (Middle)                             | 11/03/2011  |  |
| AMERICAN EXPRESS<br>TOWER, 200 VESEY ST.,Â 3<br>WORLD FINANCIAL CENTER |   |                                      | 4. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer                      | 5. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year) |
| (Street)   | (Check all applicable)                      |                                      |   |  |
|  | <input type="checkbox"/> Director           | <input type="checkbox"/> 10% Owner   |   |  |
|  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Officer | <input type="checkbox"/> Other       | 6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line)            |  |
|  | (give title below) (specify below)          |                                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Form filed by One Reporting Person           |  |
|  | Pres. Global Merchant Services              |                                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Form filed by More than One Reporting Person |  |
| NEW YORK,Â NYÂ 10285   |   |                                      |   |  |
| (City)   | (State)                                     | (Zip)                                |   |  |

**Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned**

| 1. Title of Security<br>(Instr. 4) | 2. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned<br>(Instr. 4) | 3. Ownership Form:<br>Direct (D)<br>or Indirect (I)<br>(Instr. 5) | 4. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership<br>(Instr. 5) |
|------------------------------------|--|---|--|
| Common Stock                       | 63,616   | D   | Â  |
| Common Stock                       | 9.08 <sup>(1)</sup>                                      | I   | by 401(k) Trust  |

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

SEC 1473 (7-02)

**Persons who respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB control number.**

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

| 1. Title of Derivative Security<br>(Instr. 4) | 2. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date<br>(Month/Day/Year) | 3. Title and Amount of Securities Underlying Derivative Security | 4. Conversion or Exercise | 5. Ownership Form of | 6. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership |
|---|---|--|---------------------------|----------------------|--|
|---|---|--|---------------------------|----------------------|--|

Edgar Filing: Williams Anre D - Form 3

|                                      | Date Exercisable          | Expiration Date  | (Instr. 4)<br>Title | Amount or Number of Shares | Price of Derivative Security | Derivative Security: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 5) | (Instr. 5) |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------|---------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|--|------------|
| Employee Stock Option (Right to Buy) | 01/26/2005 <sup>(2)</sup> | 01/26/2014       | Common Stock        | 22,848                     | \$ 43.977                    | D  | Â          |
| Employee Stock Option (Right to Buy) | 01/24/2006 <sup>(2)</sup> | 01/24/2015       | Common Stock        | 30,845                     | \$ 45.768                    | D  | Â          |
| Employee Stock Option (Right to Buy) | 01/23/2007 <sup>(2)</sup> | 01/23/2016       | Common Stock        | 29,700                     | \$ 51.865                    | D  | Â          |
| Employee Stock Option (Right to Buy) | 01/25/2008 <sup>(2)</sup> | 01/25/2017       | Common Stock        | 30,000                     | \$ 57.77                     | D  | Â          |
| Employee Stock Option (Right to Buy) | 07/31/2008 <sup>(2)</sup> | 07/31/2017       | Common Stock        | 20,000                     | \$ 58.54                     | D  | Â          |
| Employee Stock Option (Right to Buy) | 01/31/2009 <sup>(3)</sup> | 01/31/2018       | Common Stock        | 50,000                     | \$ 49.13                     | D  | Â          |
| Employee Stock Option (Right to Buy) | 01/29/2010 <sup>(3)</sup> | 01/29/2019       | Common Stock        | 61,999                     | \$ 16.71                     | D  | Â          |
| Employee Stock Option (Right to Buy) | 10/30/2013                | 10/30/2019       | Common Stock        | 86,108                     | \$ 34.84                     | D  | Â          |
| Employee Stock Option (Right to Buy) | 01/26/2011 <sup>(3)</sup> | 01/26/2020       | Common Stock        | 27,560                     | \$ 38.1                      | D  | Â          |
| Employee Stock Option (Right to Buy) | 01/27/2012 <sup>(3)</sup> | 01/27/2021       | Common Stock        | 29,188                     | \$ 44.54                     | D  | Â          |
| Phantom Stock Units                  | Â <sup>(4)</sup>          | Â <sup>(4)</sup> | Common Stock        | 59.85                      | \$ <sup>(5)</sup>            | D  | Â          |

## Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address   | Relationships |           |                                  |       |
|--|---------------|-----------|----------------------------------|-------|
|  | Director      | 10% Owner | Officer                          | Other |
| Williams Anre D<br>AMERICAN EXPRESS TOWER, 200 VESEY ST.<br>3 WORLD FINANCIAL CENTER<br>NEW YORK, NY 10285 | Â             | Â         | Â Pres. Global Merchant Services | Â     |

## Signatures

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

11/14/2011

\_\_Signature of Reporting Person

Date

## Explanation of Responses:

- \* If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, *see* Instruction 5(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) Shares held in reporting person's account under the Company's Retirement Savings Plan. This plan uses unit accounting, and the number of shares that a participant is deemed to hold varies with the unit price of the Company pooled stock fund.
- (2) These options became exercisable in four equal annual installments beginning on date shown as "Date Exercisable."
- (3) These options become exercisable in four equal annual installments beginning on date shown as "Date Exercisable."
- (4) The units are to be settled following the reporting person's retirement or other termination of service.
- (5) The phantom stock converts into common stock on a one-for-one basis.

Â

### Remarks:

ExhibitÂ List:Â ExhibitÂ 24Â -Â PowerÂ ofÂ Attorney

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.