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PRINCIPAL FINANCIAL GROUP INC

Form 4

December 10, 2004

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

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF

SECURITIES

OMB Number:

3235-0287

0.5

January 31, Expires: 2005

OMB APPROVAL

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obligations

may continue.

See Instruction

Check this box

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).

(Last)

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person * JOHNSON CHARLES S

(First)

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading

Issuer

Symbol

PRINCIPAL FINANCIAL GROUP INC [PFG]

(Check all applicable)

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to

3. Date of Earliest Transaction

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

(Month/Day/Year) 711 HIGH STREET 12/08/2004

(Middle)

(Street) 4. If Amendment, Date Original 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

Person

below)

DES MOINES, IA 50392

(City) (State) (Zip)

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

1.Title of Security (Month/Day/Year) (Instr. 3)

2. Transaction Date 2A. Deemed Execution Date, if

(Month/Day/Year)

3. 4. Securities TransactionAcquired (A) or Code Disposed of (D) (Instr. 8) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5)

5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Following

6. Ownership 7. Nature of Form: Direct Indirect (D) or Indirect Beneficial Ownership (I) (Instr. 4) (Instr. 4)

(A) or

Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4)

Code V Amount (D) Price

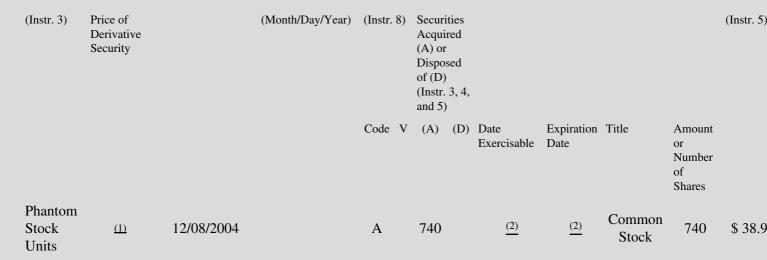
Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially owned directly or indirectly.

Persons who respond to the collection of SEC 1474 information contained in this form are not (9-02)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 3. Transaction Date 3A. Deemed 5. Number 6. Date Exercisable and 7. Title and Amount of 8. Price Derivative (Month/Day/Year) Execution Date, if **Expiration Date Underlying Securities** Derivati Conversion Transactionof Derivative (Month/Day/Year) (Instr. 3 and 4) Security or Exercise Code Security any

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Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships			
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other
JOHNSON CHARLES S 711 HIGH STREET DES MOINES, IA 50392	X			

Signatures

Joyce N. Hoffman, by Power of Attorney 12/10/2004

**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 phantom stock units were acquired pursuant to the Principal Deferred Compensation Plan for Non-Employee Directors and will be settled on the reporting person's retirement.

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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