

AMERUS GROUP CO/IA
Form 4
March 01, 2005

FORM 4

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

OMB APPROVAL

OMB Number: 3235-0287
Expires: January 31, 2005
Estimated average burden hours per response... 0.5

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

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person *
CUSHING BRENDA J

(Last) (First) (Middle)
699 WALNUT STREET, SUITE 2000
(Street)

DES MOINES, IA 50309

(City) (State) (Zip)

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol
AMERUS GROUP CO/IA [AMH]

3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)
02/25/2005

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)
SVP & Controller

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 Security (Instr. 3) | 2. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year) | 2A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year) | 3. Transaction Code (Instr. 8) | 4. Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5) | 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 Ownership (Instr. 4) | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|---|
| | | | Code | V | Amount or Price | | | |
| Common Stock | 02/25/2005 | 02/25/2005 | M | | 785.71 (1) | A | \$ 21 3,444.71 | D |
| Common Stock | 02/25/2005 | 02/25/2005 | M | | 371.03 (1) | A | \$ 39.08 3,815.74 | D |
| Common Stock | 02/25/2005 | 02/25/2005 | M | | 1,791.2 (1) | A | \$ 39.08 5,606.94 | D |
| Common Stock | 02/25/2005 | 02/25/2005 | D | | 89.83 (1) (2) | D | \$ 47.2 5,517.11 | D |
| Common Stock | 02/25/2005 | 02/25/2005 | F | | 894.79 (1) (3) | D | \$ 47.2 4,622.32 | D |

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 Company's Management Incentive Plan (MIP), an employee plan exempt under Section 16b-3, provides that employees participating in the plan are eligible to defer a portion of their annual bonus to purchase phantom stock units at a price per unit equal to the fair market value (FMV) of the Company's common stock on the date of purchase. The company will match a specified percentage of the phantom stock units purchased pursuant to the deferral program. Upon vesting, the Company will issue the underlying common stock.

(2) Units retained by the Company to satisfy cash deferral directly into the Company's 401 (K) Plan on the behalf of the reportee.

(3) Units retained by the Company to satisfy tax payment due to the IRS on behalf of the reportee.

(4) Cash-in-lieu of fractional share in connection with the conversion of units to underlying stock.

(5) On the third anniversary of the employee's deferral, the Company will issue the underlying common stock. Alternatively, on the third anniversary of the employee's deferral, the employee may elect to redefer the bonus units for another three year period and every three years thereafter, until the earlier of normal retirement or termination. The entire Company match is forfeited if the employee's employment terminates prior to the third anniversary of the employee's deferral.

(6) These units have vested and have been converted under the terms of the plan.

(7) Price not applicable.

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.