

AYER WILLIAM S  
Form 4  
December 11, 2009

**FORM 4** UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
Washington, D.C. 20549

OMB APPROVAL

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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 \*  
AYER WILLIAM S

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol  
ALASKA AIR GROUP INC [ALK]

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer  
(Check all applicable)

(Last) (First) (Middle)  
C/O ALASKA AIR GROUP  
INC, 19300 INTERNATIONAL  
BLVD

3. Date of Earliest Transaction  
(Month/Day/Year)  
12/10/2009

Director  10% Owner  
 Officer (give title below)  Other (specify below)  
CHAIRMAN, PRESIDENT & CEO

(Street)  
SEATTLE, WA 98188

4. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year)

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line)  
 Form filed by One Reporting Person  
 Form filed by More than One Reporting Person

(City) (State) (Zip)

**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 Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4)
				(A) or (D)	Price		
COMMON STOCK	12/10/2009		M	V	17,090 A \$ 30.5	17,090	D
COMMON STOCK	12/10/2009		S		17,090 D \$ 32.85	0	D
COMMON STOCK	12/11/2009		M	V	20,100 A \$ 30.5	20,100	D
COMMON STOCK	12/11/2009		S		20,100 D \$ 32.95	0	D
COMMON STOCK						56,058	D

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COMMON STOCK <u>(1)</u>	73,058	D	
COMMON STOCK <u>(2)</u>	3,865	I	ESOP TRUST

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

**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.** SEC 1474 (9-02)

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

1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 3)	2. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security	3. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	3A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year)	4. Transaction Code (Instr. 8)	5. Number of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5)	6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year)	7. Title and Amount of Underlying Security (Instr. 3 and 4)	
						Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title
						Code	V (A) (D)	
EMPLOYEE STOCK OPTION (RT TO BUY)	\$ 30.5	12/10/2009		M	17,090	01/25/2004 <sup>(3)</sup> 01/25/2010	COMMON	
EMPLOYEE STOCK OPTION (RT TO BUY)	\$ 30.5	12/11/2009		M	20,100	01/25/2004 <sup>(3)</sup> 01/25/2010	COMMON	

## Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships			
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other
AYER WILLIAM S C/O ALASKA AIR GROUP INC 19300 INTERNATIONAL BLVD SEATTLE, WA 98188	X		CHAIRMAN, PRESIDENT & CEO	

## Signatures

KAREN A. GRUEN, ATTORNEY IN FACT FOR WILLIAM S. AYER 12/11/2009

\*\*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) STOCK UNITS GRANTED UNDER THE 2004 LONG-TERM INCENTIVE EQUITY AND 2008 PERFORMANCE INCENTIVE PLANS; NO LONGER SUBJECT FORFEITURE BUT NOT VESTED.
- (2) SHARES HELD IN AN ALASKA AIR GROUP, INC. EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN TRUST AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2008.
- (3) OPTIONS VESTED IN EQUAL INSTALLMENTS ON JANUARY 25, 2001, 2002, 2003 AND 2004.

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, *see* Instruction 6 for procedure.

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