

MIZEL LARRY A
Form 4
December 31, 2009

FORM 4

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

OMB APPROVAL

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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 *
MIZEL LARRY A

(Last) (First) (Middle)

4350 S. MONACO STREET, SUITE 500

(Street)

DENVER, CO 80237

(City) (State) (Zip)

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol
MDC HOLDINGS INC [MDC]

3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)
12/31/2009

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)

Chairman of the Board and CEO

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 Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4) | 6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4) | 7. Nature of Ownership (Instr. 4) |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|---|--|-----------------------------------|
| | | | | (A) or (D) | Amount | | |
| | | | | Code | V | | Price |

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

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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 | 2. Conversion or Exercise | 3. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year) | 3A. Deemed Execution Date, if any | 4. Transaction Code | 5. Number of Derivative Securities | 6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year) | 7. Title and Amount of Underlying Security (Instr. 3 and 4) |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------|------------------------------------|--|---|
|---------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------|------------------------------------|--|---|

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| (Instr. 3) | Price of Derivative Security | (Month/Day/Year) | (Instr. 8) | Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5) | Code | V | (A) | (D) | Date Exercisable | Expiration Date | Title | Am or Nun of S |
|---|------------------------------------|------------------|------------|--|------|---|------------|------------|---------------------|--------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Non-Statutory Stock Option (right to buy) (<u>1</u>) | \$ 31.04 | 12/31/2009 | A | 90,000 | | | 12/31/2012 | 12/31/2019 | | | Common Stock \$.01 Par Value | 90 |
| Non-Statutory Stock Option (right to buy) (<u>2</u>) | \$ 34.14 | 12/31/2009 | A | 90,000 | | | 12/31/2012 | 12/31/2019 | | | Common Stock \$.01 Par Value | 90 |

Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address | Relationships | | | |
|---|---------------|-----------|-------------------------------|-------|
| | Director | 10% Owner | Officer | Other |
| MIZEL LARRY A 4350 S. MONACO STREET SUITE 500 DENVER, CO 80237 | X | X | Chairman of the Board and CEO | |

Signatures

Joseph H. Fretz,
Attorney-in-Fact

12/31/2009

Date

Signature of Reporting Person

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) Granted on December 31, 2009 under the Company's 2001 Equity Incentive Plan. This option vests as to 33-1/3% of the shares covered thereby on December 31, 2012 and cumulatively as to an additional 33-1/3% on each of December 31, 2013 and 2014. This option was granted at the December 31, 2009 market close price.
- (2) Granted on December 31, 2009 under the Company's 2001 Equity Incentive Plan. This option vests as to 33-1/3% of the shares covered thereby on December 31, 2012, and cumulatively as to an additional 33-1/3% on each of December 31, 2013 and 2014. This option was granted at 110% of the December 31, 2009 market close price.

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.