

Whitt Richard R III  
 Form 4  
 May 12, 2010

**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 \*  
 Whitt Richard R III

(Last) (First) (Middle)

C/O MARKEL CORPORATION, 4521 HIGHWOODS PARKWAY

(Street)

GLEN ALLEN, VA 23060

(City) (State) (Zip)

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol  
 MARKEL CORP [MKL]

3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)  
 05/10/2010

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)  
 President & Co-COO

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 Ownership (Instr. 4)
			Code	V Amount (A) or (D) Price			
Common Stock	03/30/2010		G	V 45 D \$ 0	5,726.7496	D	
Common Stock	05/10/2010		A <sup>(1)</sup>	2,780 A \$ 0	8,506.7496 <sup>(2)</sup>	D	
Common Stock					1,833.788	I	401(K) Plan <sup>(3)</sup>

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

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SEC 1474 (9-02)

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 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 Securities (Instr. 3 and 4)	8. Price of Derivative Security (Instr. 5)	9. Number of Derivative Securities Owned Beneficially (Instr. 5)
						Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of Shares
						Code	V	(A)	(D)

## Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships			
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other
Whitt Richard R III C/O MARKEL CORPORATION 4521 HIGHWOODS PARKWAY GLEN ALLEN, VA 23060			President & Co-COO	

## Signatures

Linda S. Rotz, Attorney-in-fact for Richard R. Whitt, III 05/12/2010

\_\_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) Restricted stock units awarded pursuant to the Markel Corporation Omnibus Incentive Plan. Subject to certain conditions, twenty percent of the restricted stock units will vest on May 10, 2011, and the balance will vest on May 10, 2015.

(2) In addition to the grant of 2,780 restricted stock units reported herein, the total also includes 2,933 other restricted stock units granted pursuant to the Markel Corporation Omnibus Incentive Plan, of which 365 units will vest on December 31, 2010, 1,204 units will vest on December 31, 2011, and 1,364 units will vest on December 31, 2012.

(3) Holdings under the Markel Corporation 401(K) Plan are reported in units. The information reported herein is based on a plan statement dated as of March 31, 2010 and utilizes the closing stock price on that date of \$374.66. As of 3/31/2010, a unit under the Plan represented one share of Common Stock.

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.