#### NEILSEN CRAIGH

Form 4

December 19, 2005

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

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF

**SECURITIES** 

**OMB APPROVAL OMB** 

3235-0287 Number:

Expires:

January 31,

0.5

2005 Estimated average

X 10% Owner

burden hours per response...

if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5

obligations

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

may continue. 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940 See Instruction

1(b).

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person \*

**NEILSEN CRAIG H** 

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading

Symbol

AMERISTAR CASINOS INC

[ASCA]

(Last) (First) (Middle)

(Street)

(State)

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

12/15/2005

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to

Issuer

\_X\_\_ Director

Applicable Line)

(Check all applicable)

3773 HOWARD HUGHES

PKWY, SUITE 490S

Filed(Month/Day/Year)

X\_ Officer (give title Other (specify below)

CEO/President

4. If Amendment, Date Original 6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check

\_X\_ Form filed by One Reporting Person Form filed by More than One Reporting

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

LAS VEGAS, NV 89109

(City)

Security

(Instr. 3)

1. Title of 2. Transaction Date 2A. Deemed

3. (Month/Day/Year) Execution Date, if

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

5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Following

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

Reported (A) Transaction(s) or (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.

(Month/Day/Year)

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 Derivative Conversion 3. Transaction Date 3A. Deemed (Month/Day/Year) Execution Date, if

(Zip)

5. Number of TransactionDerivative

6. Date Exercisable and **Expiration Date** 

7. Title and Amount of **Underlying Securities** 

#### Edgar Filing: NEILSEN CRAIG H - Form 4

Security (Instr. 3)	or Exercise Price of Derivative Security		any (Month/Day/Year)	Code (Instr.	8)	Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5)		(Month/Day/Year)		(Instr. 3 and 4)	
				Code	V	(A)	(D)	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount of Number of Shares
Stock Options (Right to buy)	\$ 22.87	12/15/2005		A		210,000		12/15/2005	12/15/2012	Common Stock	210,000

# **Reporting Owners**

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships						
• 0	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other			
NEILSEN CRAIG H							
3773 HOWARD HUGHES PKWY	X	X	CEO/President				
SUITE 490S		Λ	CEO/Flesidelit				
LAS VEGAS, NV 89109							

## **Signatures**

Peter C. Walsh, Attorney-in-Fact

\*\*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).

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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