SEC Form 3

FORM 3

UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

OMB APPROVAL	
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INITIAL STATEMENT OF BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF SECURITIES

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934
or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person*	2. Date of Event Requiring Statement (Month/Day/Year)	3. Issuer Name **and** Ticker or Trading Symbol
ENGLE JERRY R (Last) (First) (Middle) 200 EAST JACKSON STREET (Street) MUNCIE IN 47305 (City) (State) (Zip)	05/06/2009	FIRST MERCHANTS CORP [FRME]

4. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable)	5. If Amendment, Date of Original Filed (Month/Day/Year)
X Director — 10% Owner Officer (give title below) — Other (specify below)	6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing (Check Applicable Line) X Form filed by One Reporting Person Form filed by More than One Reporting Person

Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned

1. Title of Security (Instr. 4)	2. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned (Instr. 4)	3. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 5)	4. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 5)
Common Stock	42,467	D	

Table II - Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned (e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)

1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 4)	2. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year)		3. Title and Amount of Securities Underlying Derivative Security (Instr. 4)		4. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security	5. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 5)	6. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 5)
	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of Shares			
Employee stock option right to buy	01/01/2011	12/31/2019	Common Stock	17,991	22.21	D	

Explanation of Responses:

Remarks:

Exhibit 24 Confirming Statement This statement confirms that the undersigned, Jerry R. Engle, has authorized and designated Larry R. Helms to execute and file on the undersigned's behalf all Forms 3, 4, and 5 (including any amendments thereto) that the undersigned may be required to file with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission as a result of the undersigned's ownership of or transaction in the securities of First Merchants Corporation. The authority of Larry R. Helms under this statement shall continue until the undersigned is no longer required to file Forms 3, 4, and 5 with regard to the undersigned's ownership of or transactions in securities of First Merchants Corporation, unless earlier revoked in writing. The undersigned acknowledges Larry R. Helms is not assuming any of the undersigned's responsibilities to comply with Section 16 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934.

Larry R. Helms (Confirming Statement on File) — 05/07/2009

** Signature of Reporting Person — Date

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

* If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, *see* Instruction 5 (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.

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 Number.