FORM 4

UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

| washington, D.C. 20549 | OMB APPROVAL | | | |
|----------------------------------------------|--------------|---------|--|--|
| STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP | OMB Number: | 3235-02 | | |

3235-0287 OMB Number: Estimated average burden hours per response: 0.5

Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5 obligations may continue. See Instruction 1(b).

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* HOCHSCHILD ROGER C (Last) (First) (Middle) 711 HIGH STREET | | | | | | Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol PRINCIPAL FINANCIAL GROUP INC [PFG] Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year) 09/30/2016 | | | | | | | | | | | ip of Rep plicable) ctor cer (give w) | · | Person(s) to Is 10% C Other below) | wner (specify |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|------------|---------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|--------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------------------|-------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|--------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|------------------|
| (Street) DES MC (City) | | State) | 50392 (Zip) | - | | 4. If Amendment, Date of Original Filed (Month/Day/Year) | | | | | | | | Lin | X Form filed by One Reporting Person Form filed by More than One Reporting Person | | | | | |
| Table I - Non-Deriva 1. Title of Security (Instr. 3) 2. Transa Date (Month/D | | | | action | ar) | 2A. Deer Execution | A. Deemed xecution Date, | | 3. 4. Secu | | of, or Benefic rrities Acquired (A) ed Of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 | | | 5. An Secu Bene | ount of rities ficially d Followi | Fo (D) | Ownership orm: Direct) or Indirect (Instr. 4) | 7. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4) | | |
| Common Stock | | | | 09/30 | 0/2010 | /2016 | | | • | Code A | V | Amount 48 | 10 (A) or (D) (D) | | Price | Trans (Insti | saction(s) r. 3 and 4) 6,061 | | D | (1130.4) |
| Table II - D | | | Derivat (e.g., p | vative Sec , puts, call 4. Transaction Code (Instr | | of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5) | | 6. Da Expi (Mor | ed, Disptions ate Exeristation Enth/Day/ | sed of onverti | of, or Beneritible secu 7. Title and Amount of Securities Underlying Derivative (Instr. 3 an | | ficially ities) | | 9. Nui deriva Secur Bener Owne Follov Repor | rities ficially d wing rted action(s | 10. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4) | Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4) | | |
| Phantom Stock Units | (2) | 09/30/2016 | | | A | v | 33.4 | (0) | | (3) | Da | (3) | Com | mon | 33.4 | \$51.51 | 4, | 295.6 | D | |

Explanation of Responses:

- 1 Grant of restricted stock units
- 2. The units convert to common stock on a one-for-one basis.
- 3. The reported phantom stock units were acquired pursuant to the Principal Deferred Compensation Plan for Non-Employee Directors and will be settled on the reporting person's retirement.

Remarks:

Patrick A. Kirchner, by Power 10/04/2016 of Attorney

** 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 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.

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.