ECOLAB INC Form 4 July 31, 2009

FORM 4

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

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF

SECURITIES

OMB APPROVAL OMB

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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

See Instruction 1(b).

(Print or Type Responses)

| 1. Name and Address of Reporting Person * BELL LAWRENCE T | | | 2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol ECOLAB INC [ECL] | 5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer | | |
|---|--|----------|---|---|--|--|
| (Last) (First) (Middle) | | (Middle) | 3. Date of Earliest Transaction | (Check all applicable) | | |
| | | | (Month/Day/Year) | Director 10% Owner | | |
| ECOLAB INC., 370 WABASHA STREET N. | | | 07/30/2009 | X Officer (give title Other (specify below) | | |
| | | | | General Counsel and Secretary | | |
| (Street) | | | 4. If Amendment, Date Original | 6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check | | |
| | | | Filed(Month/Day/Year) | Applicable Line) | | |
| ST. PAUL, MN 55102 | | | | _X_ Form filed by One Reporting Person Form filed by More than One Reporting Person | | |

(City) (State) (Zip) Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned 1.Title of 2. Transaction Date 2A. Deemed 3. 4. Securities Acquired (A) 5. Amount of 7. Nature of Security (Month/Day/Year) Execution Date, if Transaction Disposed of (D) Securities Ownership Indirect (Instr. 3) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5) Code Beneficially Form: Beneficial (Month/Day/Year) (Instr. 8) Owned Direct (D) Ownership Following or Indirect (Instr. 4) Reported (A) Transaction(s) (Instr. 4) (Instr. 3 and 4) Code V Amount (D) Price Common 07/30/2009 M 20,000 A \$ 18.96 124,058 D Stock Common $F_{\underline{(1)}}$ 07/30/2009 13,781 D \$41.45 110,277 D Stock Common 07/30/2009 M 40,000 150,277 D 22.3675 Stock Common $F^{(1)}_{-}$ 07/30/2009 29,448 D \$ 41.45 120,829 D Stock Common 07/30/2009 M 77,000 A \$ 41.45 197,829 D Stock

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| Common Stock | 07/30/2009 | F(1) | 58,787 | D | \$ 41.45 | 139,042 | D | |
|-----------------|------------|------|--------|---|----------|---------------|---|---------------------------------|
| Common Stock | 07/30/2009 | S | 19,100 | D | \$ 41.5 | 119,942 | D | |
| Common Stock | 07/31/2009 | S | 15,884 | D | \$ 41.5 | 104,058 | D | |
| Common Stock | | | | | | 3,856 | I | By daughter |
| Common Stock | | | | | | 3,748 | I | By daughter |
| Common Stock | | | | | | 8,709.481 (2) | I | By Ecolab Savings Plan |

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

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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 orDerivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5) | | 6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year) | | 7. Title and A Underlying So (Instr. 3 and 4 |
|---|---|--------------------------------------|---|---|---|-----------------------|--|--------------------|--|
| | | | | Code V | (A) | (D) | Date Exercisable | Expiration Date | Title |
| Common Stock | \$ 18.96 (3) | 07/30/2009 | | M | | 20,000 (3) | 12/06/2002(3) | 12/06/2011 | Common Stock |
| Employee Stock Option (Right to Buy) | \$ 41.45 | 07/30/2009 | | A | 13,781 | | 07/30/2009 | 12/06/2011 | Common Stock |
| Employee Stock Option (Right to Buy) | \$ 22.3675 (4) | 07/30/2009 | | M | | 40,000 (<u>4)</u> | 02/22/2003(4) | 02/22/2012 | Common Stock |
| | \$ 41.45 | 07/30/2009 | | A | 29,448 | | 07/30/2009 | 02/22/2012 | |

(9-02)

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| Employee Stock Option (Right to Buy) | | | | | | | | Common Stock |
|--|-----------------|------------|---|--------|---------------|---------------|------------|-----------------|
| Common Stock | \$ 24.34 (5) | 07/30/2009 | M | | 77,000 (5) | 12/05/2003(5) | 12/05/2012 | Common Stock |
| Employee Stock Option (Right to Buy) | \$ 41.45 | 07/30/2009 | A | 58,787 | | 07/30/2009 | 12/05/2012 | Common Stock |

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address Relationships

Director 10% Owner Officer Other

BELL LAWRENCE T ECOLAB INC. 370 WABASHA STREET N. ST. PAUL, MN 55102

General Counsel and Secretary

Signatures

/s/ David F. Duvick, Attorney-in-Fact for Lawrence T. Bell

07/31/2009

**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) Reflects the reporting person's payment of the exercise price and withholding taxes for a stock option issued in accordance with Rule 16b-3 by delivering or withholding shares of Ecolab Common Stock.
- The reporting person indirectly holds 8,709.481 UNITS in the Ecolab Stock Fund of the Ecolab Savings Plan (401(k) Plan) as of June 30, (2) 2009. Includes 65.898 UNITS acquired since the reporting person's last report. (The 8,709.481 UNITS are equivalent to approximately 16,293 SHARES of Common Stock.)
- Option granted under the Ecolab Inc. 1997 Stock Incentive Plan on December 6, 2001. The option was originally reported as covering
 40,000 shares at an exercise price of \$37.92 but has been adjusted to reflect a stock split on June 6, 2003 and the subsequent exercise of
 60,000 shares. The option became exercisable, cumulatively, as to one-third of the total shares subject to the option on each of the first
 and second anniversaries of the date of grant and as to the remaining shares on the third anniversary of the date of grant.
- Option granted under the Ecolab Inc. 1997 Stock Incentive Plan on February 22, 2002. The option was originally reported as covering 20,000 shares at an exercise price of \$44.4735 but has been adjusted to reflect a stock split on June 6, 2003. The option became exercisable, cumulatively, as to one-third of the total shares subject to the option on each of the first and second anniversaries of the date of grant and as to the remaining shares on the third anniversary of the date of grant.
- Option granted under the Ecolab Inc. 2002 Stock Incentive Plan on December 5, 2002. The option was originally reported as covering 38,500 shares at an exercise price of \$48.68 but has been adjusted to reflect a stock split on June 6, 2003. The option became exercisable, cumulatively, as to one-third of the total shares subject to the option on each of the first and second anniversaries of the date of grant and as to the remaining shares on the third anniversary of the date of grant.

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, see Instruction 6 for procedure.

Reporting Owners 3

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