

Hickey Michael A  
 Form 4  
 December 10, 2010

**FORM 4** UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
 Washington, D.C. 20549

OMB APPROVAL

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

**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 \*  
 Hickey Michael A

(Last) (First) (Middle)

370 WABASHA STREET NORTH

(Street)

SAINT PAUL, MN 55102

(City) (State) (Zip)

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol  
 ECOLAB INC [ECL]

3. Date of Earliest Transaction  
 (Month/Day/Year)  
 12/10/2010

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)  
 Exec. VP, QSR & Service Sector

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 or Price   |  |                                   |
| Common Stock                    | 12/10/2010                           |  | M                              |   | 14,000 A \$ 20.86   | 25,269.213   | D                                 |
| Common Stock                    | 12/10/2010                           |  | M                              |   | 20,000 A \$ 18.96   | 45,269.213   | D                                 |
| Common Stock                    | 12/10/2010                           |  | S                              |   | 28,000 D \$ 48.49   | 17,269.213   | D                                 |
| Common Stock                    | 12/10/2010                           |  | S                              |   | 700 D \$ 47.992   | 16,569.213   | D                                 |
| Common Stock                    |                                      |  |                                |   |   | 3,573.332 <sup>(1)</sup>                                 | I                                 |

By Ecolab Savings Plan

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

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SEC 1474  
(9-02)

**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 Security (Instr. 3 and 4) | Amount or Number of Shares |
|--|--|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|--|---|----------------------------|
| Employee Stock Option (Right to Buy)       | \$ 20.06   | 12/10/2010                           |  | M                              | 14,000  | 08/16/2002 <sup>(2)</sup> 08/16/2011                     | Common Stock  | 14,000                     |
| Employee Stock Option (Right to Buy)       | \$ 18.96   | 12/10/2010                           |  | M                              | 20,000  | 12/06/2002 <sup>(2)</sup> 12/06/2011                     | Common Stock  | 20,000                     |

## Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address                                       | Relationships |           |                                |       |
|--|---------------|-----------|--------------------------------|-------|
|  | Director      | 10% Owner | Officer                        | Other |
| Hickey Michael A<br>370 WABASHA STREET NORTH<br>SAINT PAUL, MN 55102 |               |           | Exec. VP, QSR & Service Sector |       |

## Signatures

/s/ David F. Duvick, as Attorney-in-fact for Michael A. Hickey  
12/10/2010

\_\_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).

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- (1) Number of UNITS in the Ecolab Stock Fund of the Ecolab Savings Plan (401(k) Plan) as of November 30, 2010. (The 3,573.332 UNITS are the equivalent of approximately 6,670 shares of the issuer's Common Stock.)

- Options granted under the Ecolab Inc. 1997 Stock Incentive Plan. Each option became exercisable, on a cumulative basis, as to one-third
- (2) of the option shares (excluding any fraction portion less than one share) 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.

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