

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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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 ⁽¹⁾	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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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 ⁽²⁾ 08/16/2011	Common Stock	14,000
Employee Stock Option (Right to Buy)	\$ 18.96	12/10/2010		M	20,000	12/06/2002 ⁽²⁾ 12/06/2011	Common Stock	20,000

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships			
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other
Hickey Michael A 370 WABASHA STREET NORTH 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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