Hickey Michael A Form 4 December 09, 2005

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

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF

SECURITIES

OMB APPROVAL

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may continue.

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if no longer

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 * Hickey Michael A

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

ECOLAB INC [ECL]

(Check all applicable)

(Last) (First) (Middle) 370 WABASHA STREET NORTH

(Street)

(State)

(Month/Day/Year)

3. Date of Earliest Transaction

Director 10% Owner X_ Officer (give title Other (specify

12/07/2005 below)

SVP - Global / Corp. Accounts 6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check

4. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year)

Applicable Line)

X 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

SAINT PAUL, MN 55102

(City)

Common

Stock

1.Title of 2. Transaction Date 2A. Deemed Security (Month/Day/Year) Execution Date, if (Instr. 3)

(Zip)

3. 4. Securities TransactionAcquired (A) or Code Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5) (Instr. 8)

5. Amount of Securities Beneficially (D) or Indirect (I) Owned Following (Instr. 4) Reported

6. Ownership 7. Nature of Form: Direct Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4)

(A) or

Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4)

Code V Amount (D) Price

Common 10,085.722 D

Stock

(Month/Day/Year)

Savings $2,890.373 \stackrel{(1)}{=}$

Plan

By Ecolab

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

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(9-02)

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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 or 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 A Underlying S (Instr. 3 and	Securition
				Code V	(A) (D)	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amou or Numb of Sha
Employee Stock Option (Right to Buy)	\$ 34.075	12/07/2005		A	30,300	12/07/2006(2)	12/07/2015	Common Stock	30,3

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address Relationships

Director 10% Owner Officer Other

Hickey Michael A 370 WABASHA STREET NORTH SAINT PAUL, MN 55102

SVP - Global / Corp. Accounts

Signatures

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

12/09/2005

**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).
- Number of UNITS in the Ecolab Stock Fund of the Ecolab Savings Plan (401(k) Plan) as of October 31, 2005. Includes .168 UNITS (1) acquired since the reporting person's last report. (The 2,890.373 UNITS are the equivalent of approximately 5,223.413 shares of the issuer's Common Stock.)
- The option will be exercisable, on a cumulative basis, as to one-third of the option shares (excluding any fractional 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; provided, however, that if a Change in Control (as that term is defined in the 2005 Ecolab Inc. Stock Incentive Plan) will occur, then the option, if it has been outstanding for at least six months from the date of grant, will become immediately exercisable in full.

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, *see* Instruction 6 for procedure. Potential persons who are to respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB number.

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