

Corkrean John J  
Form 4  
December 21, 2012

**FORM 4**

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

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

## OMB APPROVAL

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(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person \*  
Corkrean John J

(Last) (First) (Middle)

370 WABASHA STREET N

(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)  
12/20/2012

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

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to  
Issuer

(Check all applicable)

\_\_\_\_ Director \_\_\_\_ 10% Owner  
\_X\_ Officer (give title below) \_\_\_\_ Other (specify below)

Sr.VP and Corporate Controller

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check  
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**

| 1.Title of<br>Security<br>(Instr. 3) | 2. Transaction Date<br>(Month/Day/Year) | 2A. Deemed<br>Execution Date, if<br>any<br>(Month/Day/Year) | 3.<br>Transaction<br>Code<br>(Instr. 8) | 4. Securities Acquired<br>(A) or Disposed of (D)<br>(Instr. 3, 4 and 5) | 5. Amount of<br>Securities<br>Beneficially<br>Owned<br>Following<br>Reported<br>Transaction(s)<br>(Instr. 3 and 4) | 6. Ownership<br>Form: Direct<br>(D) or<br>Indirect (I)<br>(Instr. 4) | 7. Nature of<br>Ownership<br>(Instr. 4) |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| Common<br>Stock                      | 12/20/2012                              |                                                             | M                                       | Amount (A)<br>4,000<br>Price (D)<br>\$ 27.39                            | 13,785                                                                                                             | D                                                                    |                                         |
| Common<br>Stock                      | 12/21/2012                              |                                                             | F <sup>(1)</sup>                        | 2,332<br>\$ 71.95                                                       | 11,453                                                                                                             | D                                                                    |                                         |
| Common<br>Stock                      |                                         |                                                             |                                         |                                                                         | 1,598.512 <sup>(2)</sup>                                                                                           | I                                                                    | By Ecolab<br>Savings<br>Plan            |

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

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SEC 1474  
(9-02)

**displays a currently valid OMB control number.**

**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 (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 Securities (Instr. 3 and 4) |
|--------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| Employee Stock Option (Right to Buy)       | \$ 27.39                                               | 12/20/2012                           |                                                    | M                              | 4,000                                                                          | 12/11/2004 <sup>(3)</sup> 12/11/2013                     | Common Stock 4,000                                            |

## Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address                                  | Relationships                    |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
|                                                                 | Director 10% Owner Officer Other |
| Corkrean John J<br>370 WABASHA STREET N<br>SAINT PAUL, MN 55102 | Sr.VP and Corporate Controller   |

## Signatures

David F. Duvick, as Attorney-In-Fact for John J. Corkrean 12/21/2012

\_\_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.
- (2) Number of UNITS in the Ecolab Stock Fund of the Ecolab Savings Plan (401(k) Plan) as of November 30, 2012. (The 1,598,512 UNITS are the equivalent of approximately 2,969 shares of the issuer's Common Stock.)
- (3) Option granted under the Ecolab Inc. 2002 Stock Incentive Plan. The option became 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.

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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