

Corkrean John J  
Form 4  
August 28, 2012

**FORM 4**

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

OMB APPROVAL

OMB Number: 3235-0287  
Expires: January 31, 2015  
Estimated average burden hours per response... 0.5

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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 \*  
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)  
08/24/2012

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)  
Sr. VP and Corporate Controller

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 Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4) |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|
|                                 |                                      |                                                    | Code                           | V                                                                 | Amount                                                                                        | (A) or (D)                                               | Price                                                 |
| Common Stock                    | 08/24/2012                           |                                                    | M                              |                                                                   | 4,450                                                                                         | A                                                        | \$ 24.34 12,540                                       |
| Common Stock                    | 08/24/2012                           |                                                    | F(1)                           |                                                                   | 2,549                                                                                         | D                                                        | \$ 66.575 9,991                                       |
| Common Stock                    | 08/24/2012                           |                                                    | M                              |                                                                   | 2,000                                                                                         | A                                                        | \$ 27.39 11,991                                       |
| Common Stock                    | 08/24/2012                           |                                                    | F(1)                           |                                                                   | 1,206                                                                                         | D                                                        | \$ 66.575 10,785                                      |
| Common Stock                    | 08/27/2012                           |                                                    | S                              |                                                                   | 1,000                                                                                         | D                                                        | \$ 66.231 9,785                                       |

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Common Stock 1,593.075 <sup>(2)</sup> 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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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 Securities (Instr. 3 and 4) | Amount or Number of Shares |
|--------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Employee Stock Option (Right to Buy)       | \$ 24.34                                               | 08/24/2012                           |                                                    | M                              | 4,450                                                                                   | 12/05/2003 <sup>(3)</sup> 12/05/2012                     | Common Stock                                                  | 4,450                      |
| Employee Stock Option (Right to Buy)       | \$ 27.39                                               | 08/24/2012                           |                                                    | M                              | 2,000                                                                                   | 12/11/2004 <sup>(3)</sup> 12/11/2013                     | Common Stock                                                  | 2,000                      |

## 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

08/28/2012

\_\_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.  
Number of UNITS in the Ecolab Stock Fund of the Ecolab Savings Plan (401(k) Plan) as of July 31, 2012. Includes 37.924 UNITS
  - (2) acquired since the reporting person's last report. (The 1,593.075 UNITS are the equivalent of approximately 2,961 shares of the issuer's Common Stock.)  
Option granted under the Ecolab Inc. 2002 Stock Incentive Plan. The option became exercisable, on a cumulative basis, as to one-third of
  - (3) 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. 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.