Form 5	ic											
January 24,	2005											
FORM									OMB A	PPROVAL		
		STATES	SECUR	ITIES ANI	D EXCH	IAN(GE CO	OMMISSION	OMB Number:	3235-0362		
Check thi no longer			Washington, D.C. 20549						Expires:	January 31,		
to Sectior Form 4 or 5 obligati may conti <i>See</i> Instru 1(b).	n 16. r Form ANN ons inue. action Filed purs foldings Section 17(a	C suant to Se a) of the P	WNER ection 10 ublic Ut		SECURI Securities g Compa	TIES S Excl any A	S hange Act of	Act of 1934, 1935 or Sectio	Estimated a burden hou response	irs per		
	Address of Reporting I OUGLAS M JR	;	2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol ECOLAB INC [ECL]					5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer				
(Last) ECOLAB I	(First) (MNC., 370 WABA		3. Statement for Issuer's Fiscal Year Ended (Month/Day/Year) 12/31/2004					(Check all applicable) X Director 10% Owner X Officer (give title Other (specify below) below) CEO & President				
STREET N	•							CE	0 & President			
	(Street)		4. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year)					6. Individual or Joint/Group Reporting (check applicable line)				
								(cliec	k applicable line)		
ST. PAUL,	MN 55102							_X_ Form Filed by Form Filed by I Person	One Reporting P More than One R			
(City)	(State)	(Zip)	Tabl	e I - Non-Deri	vative Sec	curitie	s Acqu	iired, Disposed of	, or Beneficial	lly Owned		
1.Title of Security (Instr. 3)	2. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)			Date, if Transaction Code		4. Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5) (A) or		Securities Beneficially Owned at end of Issuer's Fiscal Year (Instr. 3 and 4)	6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4)	7. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4)		
Common Stock	12/14/2004	Â		G	Amount 1,450	(D) D	Price \$ 0	30,719.39	D	Â		
Common Stock	Â	Â		Â	Â	Â	Â	4,265.513 (1)	I	By Ecolab Savings		

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

ECOLAB INC

Persons who respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB control number.

SEC 2270 (9-02)

Plan

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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)	Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year)		7. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities (Instr. 3 and 4)	int of rlying ities	8. Price of Derivative Security (Instr. 5)	
					(A) (D)	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of Shares		

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships								
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other					
BAKER DOUGLAS M JR ECOLAB INC. 370 WABASHA STREET N. ST. PAUL, MN 55102	ÂX	Â	CEO & Presider	ıt Â					
Signatures									
/s/ David F. Duvick, Attorney-in-Fact for Douglas M. 01/24/200 Baker, Jr.									

**Signature of Reporting Person

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) Number of UNITS in the Ecolab Stock Fund of the Ecolab Savings Plan (401(k) Plan) as of December 31, 2005. (The 4,265.513 UNITS are the equivalent of approximately 8,368.094 shares of the Issuer's Common Stock.)

Date

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space provided 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.