ECOLAB INC Form 4 April 03, 2012

FORM 4

OMB APPROVAL UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION **OMB**

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Number:

January 31,

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2005

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Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16.

Form 4 or

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF **SECURITIES**

Washington, D.C. 20549

Form 5 obligations may continue. See Instruction

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(b).

(Last)

(City)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person * HIGGINS ARTHUR J

(First)

(Street)

(State)

(Middle)

(Zip)

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to

Issuer

ECOLAB INC [ECL]

(Check all applicable)

C/O ECOLAB INC., 370

3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)

_X__ Director Officer (give title

10% Owner Other (specify

WABASHA ST. N

4. If Amendment, Date Original

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check

Applicable Line) _X_ Form filed by One Reporting Person

Filed(Month/Day/Year)

03/31/2012

Form filed by More than One Reporting

below)

ST. PAUL, MN 55102

(City)	(State)	(Zip) Tabl	e I - Non-I	Derivative (Securi	ities Acqu	iired, Disposed of	, or Beneficiall	y Owned
1.Title of Security (Instr. 3)	2. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	2A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year)	3. Transactic Code (Instr. 8)	4. Securition(A) or Dis (Instr. 3, 4)	sposed	of (D)	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)
Common Stock	03/31/2012		A	202.13	A	\$ 0	9,572.26	D	
Common Stock	03/31/2012		A	444.7	A	\$ 61.84	10,029.62 (1)	D	

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

Persons who respond to the collection of **SEC 1474** information contained in this form are not (9-02)required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB control number.

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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	2.	3. Transaction Date		4.	5.	6. Date Exer		7. Title a		8. Price of	9. Nu
Derivative	Conversion	(Month/Day/Year)	Execution Date, if		onNumber	Expiration D		Amount		Derivative	Deriv
Security	or Exercise		any	Code	of	(Month/Day/	Year)	Underly	_	Security	Secui
(Instr. 3)	Price of		(Month/Day/Year)	(Instr. 8)	Derivative	e		Securitie	es	(Instr. 5)	Bene
	Derivative				Securities	S		(Instr. 3	and 4)		Own
	Security				Acquired						Follo
	,				(A) or						Repo
					Disposed						Trans
					of (D)						(Instr
					(Instr. 3,						(IIISti
					4, and 5)						
					4, and 3)						
								A	mount		
						D.	E	01	r		
						Date	Expiration	Title N	umber		
						Exercisable Date	Date	01			
				Code V	(A) (D)				hares		

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships						
Topolong of the Fund of Fundament	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other			
HIGGINS ARTHUR J C/O ECOLAB INC. 370 WABASHA ST. N ST. PAUL, MN 55102	X						

Signatures

David F. Duvick, as Attorney-in-Fact for Arthur J. 04/03/2012 Higgins

> **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).
- Includes 12.66 shares acquired pursuant to a dividend reinvestment feature of the Ecolab Inc. 2001 Non-Employee Director Stock Option and Deferred Compensation Plan.

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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