

ECOLAB INC  
Form 4  
May 15, 2012

**FORM 4**

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

OMB APPROVAL

OMB Number: 3235-0287  
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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

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person \*  
LUMPKINS ROBERT L

(Last) (First) (Middle)

ECOLAB INC., 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)  
05/14/2012

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)

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 Ownership (Instr. 4) |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|---|--|-----------------------------------|
|                                 |                                      |  |                                | (A) or (D)<br>Code V Amount Price                                 |   |  |                                   |
| Common Stock                    | 05/14/2012                           |  | M                              | 5,546 A \$ 24.035   | 46,827.38   | D  |                                   |
| Common Stock                    | 05/14/2012                           |  | F <sup>(1)</sup>               | 2,075 D \$ 64.235   | 44,752.38   | D  |                                   |
| Common Stock                    |                                      |  |                                |   | 4,684   | I  | By grantor retained annuity trust |

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

Persons who respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not

SEC 1474 (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 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) | 8. Amount or Number of Shares |
|--|--|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|--|---|-------------------------------|
| Stock Option (Right to Buy)                | \$ 24.035<br>(2)                                       | 05/14/2012                           |  | M                              | 5,546<br>(2)  | 11/01/2002 11/01/2012                                    | Common Stock  | 5,546<br>(2)                  |

## Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address   | Relationships |           |         |       |
|--|---------------|-----------|---------|-------|
|  | Director      | 10% Owner | Officer | Other |
| LUMPKINS ROBERT L<br>ECOLAB INC.<br>370 WABASHA STREET N<br>SAINT PAUL, MN 55102 |               | X         |         |       |

## Signatures

/s/ David F. Duvick, as Attorney-in-Fact for Robert L. Lumpkins

05/15/2012

\*\*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) Option granted under the Ecolab Inc. 2001 Non-Employee Director Stock Option Plan. The option was originally reported as a grant of 2,773 shares at a price of \$48.07 per share, and was adjusted following the company's two-for-one stock split paid June 6, 2003.
- (3) The option was granted in lieu of \$33,321.09 of non-employee director compensation earned by the reporting person over the period from May 11, 2002 to November 1, 2002.

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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