ECOLAB INC

| Form 5 | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---------------------------|----------------------|--|--|
| February 01, 2010 | | | | | | | |
| FORM 5 | | | | - | PPROVAL | | |
| | UNITED STATES | S SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE (| COMMISSION | OMB Number: | 3235-0362 | | |
| Check this box if no longer subject | | Washington, D.C. 20549 | Expires: | January 31, | | | |
| to Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5 obligations may continue. | ANNUAL ST | TATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BEN OWNERSHIP OF SECURITIES | Estimated a burden hour response | | | | |
| 1(b). | <i>See</i> Instruction 1(b). Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, Form 3 Holdings Section 17(a) of the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935 or Section Reported Form 4 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940 Transactions | | | | | | |
| 1. Name and Address of Reporting Person <u>*</u> BELL LAWRENCE T | | 2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol ECOLAB INC [ECL] | 5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer | | | | |
| (Last) (Fin | rst) (Middle) | 3. Statement for Issuer's Fiscal Year Ended (Month/Day/Year) 12/31/2009 | (Check Director X Officer (give | title Othe | Owner er (specify | | |
| ECOLAB INC.,Â STREET N. | 370 WABASHA | | below) General Co | below) ounsel and Secr | etary | | |
| (Str | eet) | 4. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year) | 6. Individual or Joi | int/Group Repo | orting | | |
| | | | (check | applicable line) | | | |
| ST. PAUL, MNÂ | À 55102 | | _X_ Form Filed by C Form Filed by M Person | 1 0 | | | |

| (City) | (State) (| Zip) Tabl | e I - Non-Deri | vative Se | curitie | es Acqu | ired, Disposed o | f, or Beneficial | lly 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. Secur Acquired Disposed (Instr. 3, Amount | d (A) d d of (I , 4 and (A) or | D) 5) | 5. Amount of 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 | 12/11/2009 | Â | G | 415 | D | \$0 | 103,343 | D | Â |
| Common Stock | 12/11/2009 | Â | G | 575 | D | \$0 | 102,768 | D | Â |
| Common Stock | 12/11/2009 | Â | G | 575 | D | \$0 | 102,193 | D | Â |
| Common Stock | 12/11/2009 | Â | G <u>(1)</u> | 575 | А | \$0 | 4,323 | Ι | By daughter |

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| Common Stock | 12/11/2009 | Â | $G^{(2)}$ | 575 | А | \$0 | 4,431 | Ι | By daughter |
|-----------------|------------|---|-----------|-----|---|-----|--------------------------|---|------------------------------|
| Common Stock | Â | Â | Â | Â | Â | Â | 8,767.396 (<u>3)</u> | Ι | By Ecolab Savings Plan |

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 required to respond unless the form 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) | 4. Transaction Code (Instr. 8) | 5. Number of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5) | | ate | Secur | ınt of rlying | 8. Price of Derivative Security (Instr. 5) | 9. O B B O E I S F I S (I |
|---|---|---|---|---|---------------------|--------------------|-------|--|---|--|
| | | | | (A) (D) | Date Exercisable | Expiration Date | Title | Amount or Number of Shares | | |

Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address | Relationships | | | | | |
|---|---------------|-----------|-------------------------------|-------|--|--|
| 1 | Director | 10% Owner | Officer | Other | | |
| BELL LAWRENCE T ECOLAB INC. 370 WABASHA STREET N. ST. PAUL, MN 55102 | Â | Â | General Counsel and Secretary | Â | | |

Signatures

/s/ David F. Duvick, Attorney-in-Fact for Lawrence T. Bell **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) Transfer by reporting person to one of his daughters.

(2) Transfer by reporting person to a second daughter.

SEC 2270

(9-02)

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(3) The reporting person indirectly holds 8,767.396 UNITS in the Ecolab Stock Fund of the Ecolab Savings Plan (401(k) Plan) as of December 31, 2009. (The 8,767.396 UNITS are equivalent to approximately 16,384 SHARES of Common Stock.)

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.