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ECOLAB INC

Form 4												
January 04,	2011											
FORM 4 UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANCE COMMISSION									-	OMB APPROVAL		
UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION Washington, D.C. 20549								JIVIIVIISSIUN	OMB Number:	3235-0287		
Check th if no lon	oer.	box								January 31, 2005		
subject t Section Form 4 o	o SIATEN 16. or	STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF SECURITIES										
Form 5 obligations may continue. See Instruction 1(b). 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)											
HIGGINS ARTHUR J Syr			Symbol	-				5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer				
			ECOLAB INC [ECL]					(Check all applicable)				
(1			3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year) 12/31/2010					X_ Director 10% Owner Officer (give title Other (specify below) below)				
(Street) 4. If An			4. If Ame	Amendment, Date Original				6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check				
File				Filed(Month/Day/Year)				Applicable Line)				
ST. PAUL, MN 55102								_X_ Form filed by One Reporting Person Form filed by More than One Reporting Person				
(City)	(State)	(Zip)	Tab	le I - Non-J	Derivative	Secur	ities Acqu	ired, Disposed of,	or Beneficial	ly Owned		
1.Title of Security (Instr. 3)	2. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	2A. Deem Execution any (Month/D	n Date, if	3. 4. Securities Acquired (A Transactionor Disposed of (D) Code (Instr. 3, 4 and 5) (Instr. 8) (A) or			(D)	 A) 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	12/31/2010			Code V A	Amount 209.84	(D) A	Price \$ 0	1,341.84	D			
Stock								,				
Common Stock	12/31/2010			А	456.7	А	\$ 50.635	1,799.93 <u>(1)</u>	D			

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

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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. Transactio Code (Instr. 8)	5. onNumber of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5)		ate	Secur	unt of rlying	8. Price of Derivative Security (Instr. 5)	9. Nu Deriv Secur Bene Owne Follo Repo Trans (Instr
				Code V	(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			
HIGGINS ARTHUR J C/O ECOLAB INC. 370 WABASHA ST. N ST. PAUL, MN 55102	Х						
Signatures							
David F. Duvick, as Attorney-in-Fact for Arthur J. Higgins							

**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) Includes 1.39 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.

01/04/2011

Date