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| ECOLAB IN | NC | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|---------------------|------------|--|------|---------------|----------|-----------------------|--|---|------------------------------|--|
| Form 4 | 0 2012 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| November 0 | | | | | | | | | | | PROVAL | |
| FORM 4 UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION Washington, D.C. 20549 | | | | | | | | OMB OMB Number: | 3235-0287 | | | |
| Check this box | | | | | | | | | Expires: | January 31, | | |
| if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5 Filed pursuant to Sec | | | | SEC | CUR | RITIES | | | | Estimated a burden hour response | | |
| obligatio may con <i>See</i> Instr 1(b). | tinue. Section 1 | 7(a) of the | Public U | tility 1 | Hol | | npany | Act of 1 | 1935 or Section | I | | |
| (Print or Type | Responses) | | | | | | | | | | | |
| FRITZE STEVEN L Symbo | | | | | | | | | 5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer | | | |
| (Last) | (First) | (Middle) | | | - | - | | | (Check all applicable) | | | |
| (Month | | | | Date of Earliest Transaction Ionth/Day/Year) /07/2012 | | | | | Director 10% Owner X Officer (give title Other (specify below) below) Former Chief Financial Officer | | | |
| | | | | (Month/Day/Year) | | | | 1 | 6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line) _X_ Form filed by One Reporting Person Form filed by More than One Reporting | | | |
| | | | | | | | | I | Person | | | |
| (City) | (State) | (Zip) | Tab | le I - N | on-I | Derivative | Secur | ities Acqui | ired, Disposed of, | or Beneficial | y Owned | |
| 1.Title of Security (Instr. 3) | 2. Transaction Da (Month/Day/Year | r) Executior any | n Date, if | 3. 4. Securities Acquired (A Transactionor Disposed of (D) Code (Instr. 3, 4 and 5) (Instr. 8) (A) or | | | | (D) 5) | 5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4) | 6.7. Nature ofOwnershipIndirectForm:BeneficialDirect (D)Ownershipor Indirect(Instr. 4)(I)(Instr. 4) | | |
| Common Stock | 11/07/2012 | | | Code M | V | Amount 44,100 | (D) A | Price \$ 34.5 | 173,982 | D | | |
| Common Stock | 11/07/2012 | | | F <u>(1)</u> | | 31,173 | D | \$ 70.625 | 142,809 | D | | |
| Common Stock | 11/07/2012 | | | G | V | 2,410 | D | \$ 0 | 140,399 | D | | |
| Common Stock | | | | | | | | | 12,742.703 (2) | I | 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) | 3A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year) | 4. Transactio Code (Instr. 8) | 5. Number of orDerivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5) | rivative Expiration Date curities (Month/Day/Year) quired (A) Disposed of str. 3, 4, | | 7. Title and Amount Underlying Securitie (Instr. 3 and 4) | |
|---|---|---|---|--|--|--|--------------------|---|------------------------------|
| | | | | Code V | (A) (D) | Date Exercisable | Expiration Date | Title | Amou or Numb of Sha |
| Employee Stock Option (Right to Buy) | \$ 34.5 | 11/07/2012 | | М | 44,100 | 12/09/2005 <u>(3)</u> | 12/09/2014 | Common Stock | 44,1 |

Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address | Relationships | | | | | | |
|---|---------------|------------|--------------------------------|-------|--|--|--|
| | Director | 10% Owner | Officer | Other | | | |
| FRITZE STEVEN L ECOLAB INC. 370 WABASHA STREET N. ST. PAUL, MN 55102 | | | Former Chief Financial Officer | | | | |
| Signatures | | | | | | | |
| /s/David F. Duvick, Attorney-in Fritze | n-Fact for | 11/09/2012 | | | | | |
| **Signature of Reportin | g 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 witholding taxes for a stock option issued in accordance with Rule 16b-3 by delivering or withholding shares of Ecolab common stock.

Number of UNITS in the Ecolab Stock Fund of the Ecolab Savings Plan (401(k) Plan) as of October 31, 2012. Includes 36.855 UNITS
(2) acquired since the reporting person's last report. (The 12,742.703 UNITS are the equivalent of approximately 23,680 SHARES of the issuer's Common Stock.)

(3)

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Option granted under the Ecolab Inc. 2002 Stock Incentive Plan on December 9, 2004. The option became exercisable, on a cumulative basis, as to one-third of the option shares (excluding any fractional portion less than one share), on each of the first and second anniversaries of the date of grant and as to the remaining option shares on the third anniversary of the date of grant.

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.