

Flitman David E
 Form 3
 May 10, 2012

FORM 3 UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549

OMB APPROVAL

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INITIAL STATEMENT OF 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 * | | 2. Date of Event Requiring Statement | 3. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol | |
| Â Flitman David E | | (Month/Day/Year) | ECOLAB INC [ECL] | |
| (Last) | (First) | (Middle) | 4. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer | 5. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year) |
| 1601 WEST DIEHL ROAD | | | (Check all applicable) | |
| (Street) | | | <input type="checkbox"/> Director <input type="checkbox"/> 10% Owner <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Officer <input type="checkbox"/> Other (give title below) (specify below) EVP and Pres. - Global Water | |
| NAPERVILLE,Â ILÂ 60563 | | | 6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line) | |
| (City) | (State) | (Zip) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Form filed by One Reporting Person <input type="checkbox"/> Form filed by More than One Reporting Person | |

Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned

| 1. Title of Security (Instr. 4) | 2. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned (Instr. 4) | 3. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 5) | 4. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 5) |
|------------------------------------|--|---|--|
| Common Stock | 28,591 | D | Â |

Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially owned directly or indirectly. SEC 1473 (7-02)

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 Beneficially Owned (e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)

| 1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 4) | 2. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year) | 3. Title and Amount of Securities Underlying Derivative Security (Instr. 4) | 4. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security | 5. Ownership Form of Derivative Security: Direct (D) or Indirect | 6. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 5) |
|---|---|--|--|--|--|
| | Date Exercisable | Expiration Date | Title | Amount or Number of | |

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| | | | | Shares | | (I) (Instr. 5) | |
|--------------------------------------|---------------|------------|--------------|--------|-----------|-------------------|---|
| Restricted Stock Units | Â (1) | Â (1) | Common Stock | 15,271 | \$ (1) | D | Â |
| Restricted Stock Units | Â (2) | Â (2) | Common Stock | 10,647 | \$ (2) | D | Â |
| Employee Stock Option (Right to Buy) | 12/01/2012(3) | 12/01/2021 | Common Stock | 28,800 | \$ 55.595 | D | Â |
| Employee Stock Option (Right to Buy) | 12/01/2014 | 12/01/2021 | Common Stock | 38,400 | \$ 55.595 | D | Â |
| Restricted Stock Units | 12/01/2014(4) | Â (4) | Common Stock | 9,220 | \$ (4) | D | Â |

Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address | Relationships | | | |
|---|---------------|-----------|--------------------------------|-------|
| | Director | 10% Owner | Officer | Other |
| Flitman David E 1601 WEST DIEHL ROAD NAPERVILLE, IL 60563 | Â | Â | Â EVP and Pres. - Global Water | Â |

Signatures

David F. Duwick, as Attorney-in-Fact for David E. Flitman 05/10/2012

__Signature of Reporting Person Date

Explanation of Responses:

- * If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, see Instruction 5(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) The units will vest on February 28, 2013, subject to continued employment at the vesting date. Each restricted stock unit represents a contingent right to receive one share of Ecolab Inc. common stock.
- (2) The units will vest on February 28, 2014, subject to continued employment at the vesting date. Each restricted stock unit represents a contingent right to receive one share of Ecolab Inc. common stock.
- (3) The option will be 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 shares on the third anniversary of the date of grant.
- (4) The units will vest on December 1, 2014, subject to continued employment at the vesting date. Each restricted stock unit represents a contingent right to receive one share of Ecolab Inc. common stock.

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.