

JOHNSON JOEL W  
Form 4  
December 12, 2007

**FORM 4** UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
Washington, D.C. 20549

OMB APPROVAL

OMB Number: 3235-0287  
Expires: January 31, 2005  
Estimated average burden hours per response... 0.5

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 \*  
JOHNSON JOEL W

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol  
ECOLAB INC [ECL]

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

(Check all applicable)

(Last) (First) (Middle)

THE HORMEL  
FOUNDATION, 301 N. MAIN  
STREET

3. Date of Earliest Transaction  
(Month/Day/Year)  
12/10/2007

Director  10% Owner  
 Officer (give title below)  Other (specify below)

(Street)

4. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year)

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line)

AUSTIN, MN 55912

Form filed by One Reporting Person  
 Form filed by More than One Reporting Person

(City) (State) (Zip)

**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 Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4) |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|---|--|---|
|                                 |                                      |  |                                | (A) or (D)  | Price   |  |   |
|                                 |                                      |  | Code                           | V   | Amount  |  |   |
| Common Stock                    | 12/10/2007                           |  | M                              |   | 24,000  | A  | \$ 16.156 85,203.74 D                                 |
| Common Stock                    | 12/10/2007                           |  | F(1)                           |   | 7,614   | D  | \$ 50.925 77,673.22 (2) D                             |

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.**

SEC 1474  
(9-02)

Edgar Filing: JOHNSON JOEL W - Form 4

**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) |
|--|--|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|--|---|
| Common Stock                               | \$ 16.156<br>(3)                                       | 12/10/2007                           |  | M                              | 24,000<br>(3)   | 05/08/1999(3) 05/08/2008                                 | Common Stock 24,000   |

## Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address  | Relationships |           |         |       |
|---|---------------|-----------|---------|-------|
|   | Director      | 10% Owner | Officer | Other |
| JOHNSON JOEL W<br>THE HORMEL FOUNDATION<br>301 N. MAIN STREET<br>AUSTIN, MN 55912 |               | X         |         |       |

## Signatures

/s/ David F. Duvick, Attorney-in-Fact for Joel W. Johnson  
 12/12/2007

\_\_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 for a stock option issued in accordance with Rule 16b-3 by delivering shares of Ecolab Common Stock.
- (2) Includes 83.48 shares acquired by reporting person on October 18, 2007 by dividend reinvestment under the Dividend Reinvestment Plan for shareholders of Ecolab sponsored by Computershare Trust Company, Inc.
- (3) Option granted under the Ecolab Inc. 1995 Non-Employee Director Stock Option Plan on May 8, 1998. The option was originally reported as covering 12,000 shares at an exercise price of \$32.3125 but has been adjusted to reflect a stock split on June 6, 2003. The option became exercisable, cumulatively, as to one-third of the total shares subject to the option on each of the three subsequent dates of the annual meeting of stockholders following 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.