

ECOLAB INC  
 Form 3  
 February 29, 2008

**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  |  |
| Meyer Michael L                           |         | (Month/Day/Year)                     | ECOLAB INC [ECL]   |  |
| (Last)                                    | (First) | (Middle)                             | 02/22/2008   |  |
| ECOLAB INC., 370 WABASHA STREET N         |         |                                      |  | 4. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer                       |
| (Street)                                  |         |                                      |  | 5. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year)                   |
| SAINT PAUL, MN 55102                      |         |                                      |  | (Check all applicable)   |
| (City)                                    | (State) | (Zip)                                | <input type="checkbox"/> Director <input type="checkbox"/> 10% Owner<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Officer <input type="checkbox"/> Other<br>(give title below)    (specify below)<br>Senior VP - Human Resources |  |
|   |         |                                      |  | 6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line)             |
|   |         |                                      |  | <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                    | 5,650   | D  |   |

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) | 6. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 5) |
|--|--|---|--|--|---|
|  | Date Exercisable   | Title   |  |  |   |

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|                                      | Expiration Date                      | Amount or Number of Shares    | or Indirect (I) (Instr. 5) |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Employee Stock Option (Right to Buy) | 02/20/2009 <sup>(1)</sup> 02/20/2018 | Common Stock 12,350 \$ 46.955 | D Â                        |

## Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address   | Relationships |           |                               |       |
|--|---------------|-----------|-------------------------------|-------|
|  | Director      | 10% Owner | Officer                       | Other |
| Meyer Michael L<br>ECOLAB INC.<br>370 WABASHA STREET N<br>SAINT PAUL, MN 55102 | Â             | Â         | Â Senior VP - Human Resources | Â     |

## Signatures

/s/David F. Duvick, as Attorney-in-Fact for Michael L. Meyer 02/29/2008

\_\_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).
- Option granted under the Ecolab Inc. 2005 Stock Incentive Plan on February 20, 2008. 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 (1) anniversaries of the date of grant and as to the remaining shares on the third anniversary of the date of grant; provided, however, that if a Change in Control (as that term is defined in the 2005 Plan) will occur, then the option, if it has been outstanding for at least six months from the date of grant, will become immediately exercisable in full.

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.