PRESS RELEASES

Feb 20, 1998

Ecolab Declares Regular Dividend

ST. PAUL, Minn., February 20, 1998: The Board of Directors of Ecolab Inc. today declared a regular quarterly cash dividend of $0.095 per common share, to be paid April 15, 1998 to shareholders of record at the close of business on March 17, 1998.

Ecolab has paid cash dividends on its common stock for 61 consecutive years.

Ecolab is the leading global developer and marketer of premium cleaning, sanitizing, maintenance and pest elimination products and services for the hospitality, institutional and industrial markets. Ecolab shares are traded on the New York Stock Exchange and the Pacific Exchange under the symbol ECL.

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