PRESS RELEASES

Feb 19, 1999

Ecolab Declares Regular Dividend

ST. PAUL, Minn., February 19, 1999: The Board of Directors of Ecolab Inc. today declared a regular quarterly cash dividend of $0.105 per common share, to be paid April 15, 1999 to shareholders of record at the close of business on March 16, 1999.

Ecolab has paid cash dividends on its common stock for 62 consecutive years.

Ecolab is the leading global developer and marketer of premium cleaning, sanitizing, maintenance and pest elimination products and services for the hospitality, healthcare and light industrial markets. For the year ended December 31, 1997 Ecolab reported sales of $1.6 billion; including European joint venture sales of $0.9 billion, Ecolab=s global sales coverage was $2.5 billion. Ecolab shares are traded on the New York Stock Exchange and the Pacific Exchange under the symbol ECL.

Ecolab news releases and other investor information are available on the Internet at http://www.ecolab.com; and by telephone at 1-800-FACT-ECL.

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