PRESS RELEASES

May 12, 2000

Ecolab Declares Regular Dividend

ST. PAUL, Minn., May 12, 2000: The Board of Directors of Ecolab Inc. today declared a regular quarterly cash dividend of $0.12 per common share, to be paid July 17, 2000 to shareholders of record at the close of business on June 20, 2000.

Ecolab has paid cash dividends on its common stock for 63 consecutive years. Ecolab is the leading global developer and marketer of premium cleaning, sanitizing, pest elimination, maintenance and repair products and services for the hospitality, institutional, food and beverage, and industrial markets. For the year ended December 31, 1999, Ecolab reported sales of $2.1 billion; including European joint venture sales of $0.9 billion, Ecolab's global sales coverage was $3 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 www.ecolab.com and by telephone at 1-800-FACT-ECL.

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