PRESS RELEASES

Oct 18, 2012

Ecolab To Close Grand Forks Office

ST. PAUL, Minn. - October 18, 2012 - Ecolab Inc. today announced that it will close its Grand Forks, N.D., office by the end of July 2013. Work performed at the company's Grand Forks office will transition to other company operations in the Midwest.

"Due to recent acquisitions, we are evaluating all of our facilities to ensure we are operating as effectively as we can, in fewer, more efficient facilities," said Tom Handley, president and chief operating officer. "The decision to close our Grand Forks office was made after extensive analysis, and is not a reflection on the quality of our employees' work or the great community of Grand Forks. Our Grand Forks team has supported the growth and success of our businesses for many years and we are grateful for their contributions."

The 144 full-time employees currently working at the Grand Forks office support accounting, customer service, human resources, information technology and other administrative functions related to Ecolab's Pest Elimination business. Many of those positions will transfer to other Ecolab locations.

Some employees at the Grand Forks office may have the opportunity to work remotely from home and some will have the opportunity to transfer to other Ecolab locations. The exact number of employees who will relocate, and specific locations, have not yet been determined.

Ecolab will provide severance benefits, including job transition support and employment assistance, to affected employees.

"We are committed to continuing to provide the high level of service in Greater Grand Forks and the Red River Valley that our customers expect from Ecolab," Handley added.

Ecolab's office in Grand Forks dates back to 1984 when the company acquired Lystads Inc.

About Ecolab

With 2011 pro forma sales of $11 billion and more than 40,000 employees, Ecolab Inc. (NYSE: ECL) is the global leader in water, hygiene and energy technologies and services that provide and protect clean water, safe food, abundant energy and healthy environments. Ecolab delivers comprehensive programs and services to the food, energy, healthcare, industrial and hospitality markets in more than 160 countries. For more Ecolab news and information, visit www.ecolab.com.

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