

Panichella John E
 Form 4
 December 15, 2010

FORM 4

**UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
 Washington, D.C. 20549**

OMB APPROVAL

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STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN 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 *
 Panichella John E

(Last) (First) (Middle)

HERCULES PLAZA, 1313 N
 MARKET STREET

(Street)

WILMINGTON, DE 19894

(City) (State) (Zip)

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol
 ASHLAND INC. [ASH]

3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)
 12/13/2010

4. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year)

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

(Check all applicable)

____ Director _____ 10% Owner
 Officer (give title below) _____ Other (specify below)
 Vice President

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line)
 Form filed by One Reporting Person
 ____ Form filed by More than One Reporting Person

Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned

1. Title of Security (Instr. 3)	2. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	2A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year)	3. Transaction Code (Instr. 8)	4. Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5)	5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4)	6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4)	7. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4)
			Code	V Amount (A) or (D) Price			
Common Stock	12/13/2010		M	12,500 A \$ 10.72	12,505	D	
Common Stock	12/13/2010		D ⁽¹⁾	7,008 D \$ 52.02	5,497	D	
Common Stock					1,015 ⁽²⁾	I	401(k)

Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially owned directly or indirectly.

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number.

Table II - Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned
(e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)

1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 3)	2. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security	3. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	3A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year)	4. Transaction Code (Instr. 8)	5. Number of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5)	6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year)	7. Title and Amount of Underlying Security (Instr. 3 and 4)	8. Amount or Number of Shares
Stock Appreciation Right	\$ 10.72	12/13/2010		M ⁽³⁾	12,500	11/20/2009 12/20/2018	Common Stock	12,500

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships			
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other
Panichella John E HERCULES PLAZA 1313 N MARKET STREET WILMINGTON, DE 19894			Vice President	

Signatures

/s/ David A. Rines,
Attorney-in-Fact
12/15/2010

**Signature of Reporting Person Date

Explanation of Responses:

- * If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, see Instruction 4(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).
- (1) The disposition of the 7,008 shares reflects the cost of exercising the 12,500 Stock Appreciation Rights at the exercise price and includes taxes withheld for the transaction.
- (2) Based on Employee Savings Plan information as of 12-13-10, the latest date for which such information is reasonably available.
- (3) Stock Appreciation Right granted pursuant to the 2006 Ashland Inc. Incentive Plan which vests in three annual installments: 50% after the 1st year, the next 25% the 2nd year and the remaining 25% the 3rd year.

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.