

NOONAN PATRICK F

Form 4

January 30, 2006

**FORM 4**
**UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**  
**Washington, D.C. 20549**

OMB APPROVAL

OMB  
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Check this box  
if no longer  
subject to  
Section 16.  
Form 4 or  
Form 5  
obligations  
may continue.  
See Instruction  
1(b).

**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 \*  
NOONAN PATRICK F

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

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to  
Issuer

(Check all applicable)

(Last) (First) (Middle)

11901 GLEN MILL

3. Date of Earliest Transaction  
(Month/Day/Year)  
01/26/2006

☒ Director ☐ 10% Owner  
☐ Officer (give title below) ☐ Other (specify below)

(Street)

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

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check  
Applicable Line)

☒ Form filed by One Reporting Person  
☐ Form filed by More than One Reporting  
Person

POTOMAC, MD 20854

(City) (State) (Zip)

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

| 1. Title of<br>Security<br>(Instr. 3) | 2. Transaction Date<br>(Month/Day/Year) | 2A. Deemed<br>Execution Date, if<br>any<br>(Month/Day/Year) | 3. Transaction<br>Code<br>(Instr. 8) | 4. Securities<br>Acquired (A) or<br>Disposed of (D)<br>(Instr. 3, 4 and 5) | 5. Amount of<br>Securities<br>Beneficially<br>Owned<br>Following<br>Reported<br>Transaction(s)<br>(Instr. 3 and 4) | 6. Ownership<br>Form: Direct<br>(D) or Indirect<br>(I)<br>(Instr. 4) | 7. Nature of<br>Indirect<br>Beneficial<br>Ownership<br>(Instr. 4) |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                       |                                         |                                                             | Code                                 | V                                                                          | Amount                                                                                                             | (D)                                                                  | Price                                                             |

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

**Persons who respond to the collection of  
information contained in this form are not  
required to respond unless the form  
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SEC 1474  
(9-02)

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

| 1. Title of<br>Derivative<br>Security<br>(Instr. 3) | 2. Conversion<br>or Exercise<br>Price of | 3. Transaction Date<br>(Month/Day/Year) | 3A. Deemed<br>Execution Date, if<br>any<br>(Month/Day/Year) | 4. Transaction<br>Code<br>(Instr. 8) | 5. Number<br>of Derivative<br>Securities<br>Acquired | 6. Date Exercisable and<br>Expiration Date<br>(Month/Day/Year) | 7. Title and Amount of<br>Underlying Securities<br>(Instr. 3 and 4) | 8. D<br>S<br>(I |
|-----------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
|-----------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|

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| Derivative<br>Security                |          |            | (A) or<br>Disposed of<br>(D)<br>(Instr. 3, 4,<br>and 5) | Code             | V | (A)   | (D) | Date<br>Exercisable | Expiration<br>Date | Title           | Amount<br>or<br>Number<br>of<br>Shares |
|---------------------------------------|----------|------------|---------------------------------------------------------|------------------|---|-------|-----|---------------------|--------------------|-----------------|----------------------------------------|
| Stock<br>Options<br>(Right to<br>buy) | \$ 65.48 | 01/26/2006 |                                                         | J <sup>(1)</sup> |   | 2,500 |     | 07/26/2006          | 02/26/2016         | Common<br>Stock | 2,500                                  |

## Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address                           | Relationships |           |         |       |
|----------------------------------------------------------|---------------|-----------|---------|-------|
|                                                          | Director      | 10% Owner | Officer | Other |
| NOONAN PATRICK F<br>11901 GLEN MILL<br>POTOMAC, MD 20854 |               | X         |         |       |

## Signatures

Linda L. Foss,  
Attorney-in-Fact  
01/30/2006

\_\_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) Grant of stock options (represents a right to buy Ashland Common Stock) under Ashland's Amended and Restated Incentive Plan. The stock option includes a tax withholding feature pursuant to the plan.

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, *see* Instruction 6 for procedure.

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