

CLOROX CO /DE/
Form DEFA14A
August 31, 2011

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

SCHEDULE 14A

Proxy Statement Pursuant to Section 14(a) of the Securities
Exchange Act of 1934
(Amendment No.)

Filed by the Registrant ☒ x
Filed by a Party other than the Registrant ☐ "

Check the appropriate box:

☐ Preliminary Proxy Statement
☐ Confidential, for Use of the Commission Only (as permitted by Rule 14a-6(e)(2))
☐ Definitive Proxy Statement
☐ Definitive Additional Materials
☒ Soliciting Material Pursuant to §240.14a-12

The Clorox Company
(Name of Registrant as Specified In Its Charter)

(Name of Person(s) Filing Proxy Statement, if Other Than the Registrant)

Payment of Filing Fee (Check the appropriate box):

☒ No fee required.
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(1) Title of each class of securities to which transaction applies:

(2) Aggregate number of securities to which transaction applies:

(3) Per unit price or other underlying value of transaction computed pursuant to Exchange Act Rule 0-11 (set forth the amount on which the filing fee is calculated and state how it was determined):

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☐ Fee paid previously with preliminary materials.

☐ Check box if any part of the fee is offset as provided by Exchange Act Rule 0-11(a)(2) and identify the filing for which the offsetting fee was paid previously. Identify the previous filing by registration statement number, or the Form or Schedule and the date of its filing.

(1) Amount Previously Paid:

(2) Form, Schedule or Registration Statement No.:

(3) Filing Party:

(4) Date Filed: August 30, 2011

PRESS RELEASE

CLOROX ISSUES STATEMENT

OAKLAND, Calif., Aug. 30, 2011 –The Clorox Company (NYSE:CLX) today issued the following statement in response to a press release issued by Carl Icahn.

The Clorox board of directors remains open to any credible proposal, and believes that Mr. Icahn's latest proposal is highly conditional, substantially undervalues the company and is not credible. Among other things, Mr. Icahn is now looking to fund up to half of the purchase price of his inadequate, highly conditional proposal by borrowing from Clorox stockholders.

The board continues to believe that a credible proposal must deliver compelling value and certainty. A credible proposal includes, among other things, a fully underwritten debt commitment and clearly identified and adequate equity capital that, in the aggregate, would be sufficient to complete a transaction. In addition, a credible proposal should contain sufficient detail to demonstrate that it provides market-standard provisions that assure certainty of completion. The highly conditional revised Icahn proposal does not satisfy any of these conditions.

The board has concluded that the best path to creating significant value for stockholders is the continued execution of the Centennial Strategy. Under this strategy, Clorox has achieved a three-year total stockholder return of 43 percent versus 10 percent for the S&P 500 and 34 percent for our comprehensive consumer packaged goods peer group¹. In addition, Clorox has returned more than \$2.7 billion in cash to stockholders in the form of dividends and share repurchases since fiscal year 2006², and the company has doubled the dividend from \$1.20 to \$2.40 per diluted share in the past five years.

Goldman, Sachs & Co. and J.P. Morgan Securities LLC are serving as financial advisers, and Wachtell, Lipton, Rosen & Katz is legal adviser.

The Clorox Company

The Clorox Company is a leading manufacturer and marketer of consumer products with 8,100 employees and fiscal year 2011 revenues of \$5.2 billion. Clorox markets some of consumers' most trusted and recognized brand names, including its namesake bleach and cleaning products, Green Works® naturally derived home care products, Pine-Sol® cleaners, Poett® home care products, Fresh Step® cat litter, Kingsford® charcoal, Hidden Valley® and K C Masterpiece® dressings and sauces, Brita® water-filtration products, Glad® bags, wraps and containers, and Burt's Bees® natural personal care products. Nearly 90 percent of Clorox Company brands hold the No. 1 or No. 2 market share positions in their categories. The company's products are manufactured in more than two dozen countries and sold in more than 100 countries. Clorox is committed to making a positive difference in the communities where its employees work and live. Founded in 1980, The Clorox Company Foundation has awarded cash grants totaling more than \$84 million to nonprofit organizations, schools and colleges. In fiscal year 2011 alone, the foundation awarded \$4 million in cash grants, and Clorox made product donations valued at \$13 million. For more information about Clorox, visit www.TheCloroxCompany.com.

¹ Stock price appreciation plus dividends July 1, 2008, through June 30, 2011. Peer companies: An average of 18 consumer packaged goods companies, including Clorox, used for financial benchmarking purposes.

² July 1, 2006, through June 30, 2011.

Forward-Looking Statements

This press release contains “forward-looking statements” within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the Securities Act), and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the Exchange Act), and such forward-looking statements involve risks and uncertainties. Except for historical information, matters discussed in this press release, including any statements about future results, stockholder value, volume, sales, costs, cost savings, earnings, cash flows, plans, objectives, expectations, growth, or profitability, are forward-looking statements based on management’s estimates, assumptions and projections. Words such as “will,” “could,” “may,” “expects,” “anticipates,” “targets,” “goals,” “projects,” “intends,” “plans,” “believes,” “seeks,” “estimates,” “path,” “continue” and variations on such words, and similar expressions intended to identify such forward-looking statements. These forward-looking statements are only predictions, subject to risks and uncertainties, and actual results could differ materially from those discussed in this press release. Important factors that could affect performance and cause results to differ materially from management’s expectations are described in the sections entitled “Risk Factors” and “Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations” in the Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2011, as updated from time to time in the company’s SEC filings. These factors include, but are not limited to: the company’s costs, including volatility and increases in commodity costs such as resin, diesel, chlor-alkali, sodium hypochlorite, agricultural commodities and other raw materials; the ability of the company to implement and generate expected savings from its programs to reduce costs; the success of the company’s strategies; risks relating to acquisitions, mergers, divestitures and joint ventures; the ability of the company to successfully manage risks inherent in litigation; the success of new products and the ability of the company to develop products that delight the consumer; consumer and customer reaction to price increases; competitive actions; unfavorable worldwide general economic and marketplace conditions and events; unfavorable political conditions in international markets and risks relating to international operations; risks relating to changes in the company’s capital structure, including risks related to the company’s ability to execute on share repurchase plans and the impact thereof on the company’s capital structure and earnings per share; risks arising from decreases in cash flow, whether resulting from declining sales, higher cost levels, tax payments, debt payments, share repurchases, interest cost increases greater than management’s expectations, or increases in debt or changes in credit ratings, or otherwise; business disruptions, costs and future events related to an unsolicited, conditional proposal made by Icahn and the pending proxy contest; and the company’s ability to maintain its business reputation and the reputation of its brands.

The company’s forward-looking statements in this press release are based on management’s current views and assumptions regarding future events and speak only as of their dates. The company undertakes no obligation to publicly update or revise any forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise, except as required by the federal securities laws.

Important Additional Information

The Clorox Company (“Clorox”), its directors and certain of its executive officers may be deemed to be participants in the solicitation of proxies from Clorox stockholders in connection with the matters to be considered at Clorox’s 2011 Annual Meeting. Clorox intends to file a proxy statement with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (the “SEC”) in connection with any such solicitation of proxies from Clorox stockholders. **CLOROX STOCKHOLDERS ARE STRONGLY ENCOURAGED TO READ ANY SUCH PROXY STATEMENT AND ACCOMPANYING PROXY CARD WHEN THEY BECOME AVAILABLE AS THEY WILL CONTAIN IMPORTANT INFORMATION.** Information regarding the identity of potential participants, and their direct or indirect interests, by security holdings or otherwise, will be set forth in the proxy statement and other materials to be filed with the SEC in connection with Clorox’s 2011 Annual Meeting. This information can also be found in Clorox’s Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended June 30, 2011, filed with the SEC on Aug. 25, 2011, and in Clorox’s proxy statement for the 2010 Annual Meeting, filed with the SEC on Oct. 1, 2010. To the extent holdings of Clorox securities have changed since the amounts printed in the proxy statement for the 2010 Annual Meeting, such changes have been or will be reflected on Statements of Change in Ownership on Form 4 filed with the SEC. Stockholders will be able to obtain any proxy statement, any amendments or supplements to the proxy statement and other documents filed by Clorox with the SEC for no charge at the SEC’s website at www.sec.gov. Copies will also be available at no charge at Clorox’s website at www.TheCloroxCompany.com or by writing to Clorox at 1221 Broadway, Oakland, CA 94612.

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Corporate Communications

Aug. 30, 2011, Employee Voicemail Script

Hello everyone, this is Don Knauss.

As you may have seen, Carl Icahn issued a press release today. In response, we've issued a statement reaffirming our board of directors' belief that the best path to creating significant value for stockholders is the continued execution of our Centennial Strategy. The Clorox board of directors remains open to any credible proposal, and believes that Mr. Icahn's latest proposal is highly conditional, substantially undervalues the company and is not credible. Among other things, rather than secure committed financing, Mr. Icahn is now looking to fund up to half of the purchase price of his inadequate, highly conditional proposal by borrowing from Clorox stockholders.

When you can, I encourage you to read our statement, which you can access from CloroxWeb. Importantly, I want to again assure you it continues to remain business as usual here at Clorox. Thanks everyone for all you do every day. It is certainly making a difference for the company, and let's remain committed to executing our strategy.

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