#### ROUSE WILLIAM L JR

Form 4

December 16, 2004

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

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF

**SECURITIES** 

OMB Number:

3235-0287

Expires:

January 31, 2005

0.5

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**OMB APPROVAL** 

response...

if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5

Check this box

obligations may continue.

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

See Instruction 1(b).

(Last)

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person \* ROUSE WILLIAM L JR

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

(Check all applicable)

(Middle)

ASHLAND INC [ASH] 3. Date of Earliest Transaction

(Month/Day/Year)

12/15/2004

X\_ Director 10% Owner Other (specify Officer (give title

2201 REGENCY ROAD, SUITE

(First)

(Street)

602

4. If Amendment, Date Original

Applicable Line)

Filed(Month/Day/Year)

\_X\_ Form filed by One Reporting Person Form filed by More than One Reporting

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check

below)

LEXINGTON, KY 40503

(City) (State) (Zip)

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

1.Title of Security (Instr. 3)

2. Transaction Date 2A. Deemed (Month/Day/Year)

Execution Date, if

(Month/Day/Year)

3. 4. Securities TransactionAcquired (A) or Code Disposed of (D) (Instr. 8) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5)

5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported

6. Ownership 7. Nature of Form: Direct Indirect (D) or Beneficial Indirect (I) (Instr. 4)

Ownership (Instr. 4)

(A) or

Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4)

11,462

Common Stock

Code V Amount (D) Price

D

Restricted

 $2.000^{(1)}$ D Stock

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 displays a currently valid OMB control number.

**SEC 1474** (9-02)

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# 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. Transactic Code (Instr. 8)	5. Number on f Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5)	Expiration D (Month/Day/	ate		Title and Amount of derlying Securities str. 3 and 4)	
				Code V	(A) (D)	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of Shares	
Common Stock Units	\$ 0 (2)	12/15/2004		J <u>(3)</u>	103	(3)	(3)	Common Stock	103	\$ 58.2

## **Reporting Owners**

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships					
• 0	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other		
ROUSE WILLIAM L JR 2201 REGENCY ROAD SUITE 602 LEXINGTON, KY 40503	X					

# **Signatures**

M. Craig Hall 12/16/2004

\*\*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) Represents shares of Restricted Common Stock acquired pursuant to Ashland's stock incentive plans as approved by the shareholders and exempt pursuant to Rule 16b-3.
- (**2**) 1-for-1

Common Stock Units acquired pursuant to Ashland's Deferred Compensation Plan for Non-Employee Directors as of 12-15-04, payable in cash or stock upon termination of service and exempt under Rule 16b-3. (One (1) Common Stock Unit in the Deferred Compensation Plan for Non-Employee Directors is the equivalent of one (1) share of Ashland Common Stock)

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.

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