FORM 4

obligations may continue. See Instruction 1(b).

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

UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

| STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP |
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Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

| Name and Address of Reporting Person NOONAN PATRICK F | | | | | | | ASHLAND INC [ASH] | | | | | | | | | of Reporting icable) or | g Perso | 10% Ov | vner | |
|--|---|--|---|-------|--|---|---------------------|---|--|-------------------|------------------|---|----|----------------------|---|---|--|--|--|--|
| (Last) (First) (Middle) THE CONSERVATION FUND 1800 NORTH KENT STREET | | | | | 09/ | 3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year) 09/15/2003 | | | | | | | | | below | | | Other (s | | |
| (Street) ARLINC (City) | Street) ARLINGTON VA 22209 | | | | - 4. 11 | 4. If Amendment, Date of Original Filed (Month/Day/Year) | | | | | | | | | e) X Form Form | ividual or Joint/Group Filing (Check Applicable 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 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Date | | | | | . Transaction late Month/Day/Year) | | | 2A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year) | | Transaction Dispo | | urities Acquired (A) o sed Of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 | | | Benefic | es ially Following | 6. Own Form: (D) or I (I) (Inst | Direct Indirect tr. 4) | 7. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4) | |
| | | | | | | | | | Code | v | Amoun | nt (A) or (D) | | Price | Transac | Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4) | | | (111311.4) | |
| Restricted Stock | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 2,0 | 2,000(1) | | D | | |
| 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 I if any (Month/Day | Date, | 4. Transactic Code (Ins) 8) | | | | 6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year) | | | 7. Title and Amount of Securities Underlying Derivative Securit (Instr. 3 and 4) | | urity | 8. Price of Derivative Security (Instr. 5) | 9. Number derivative Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transactior (Instr. 4) | y O F D o (I | 10. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4) | 11. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4) | |
| | | | | | Code | v | (A) | | Date Exercisab | | xpiration ate | Title | or | ount mber ares | | | | | | |
| Common Stock | \$0 ⁽²⁾ | 09/15/2003 | | | J ⁽³⁾ | | 111 | | (3) | | (3) | Common Stock | 1 | 11 | \$33.67 | 17,602 | | D | | |

Explanation of Responses:

- 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. Converts to common stock on a one-for-one basis.
- 3. Common Stock Units acquired pursuant to Ashland's Deferred Compensation Plan for Non-Employee Directors as of 9-15-03, 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)

M. Craig Hall 09/17/2003

** Signature of Reporting Person Date

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

- * 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).

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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