

| OMB APPROVAL | |
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STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

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

Check this box to indicate that a transaction was made pursuant to a contract, instruction or written plan for the purchase or sale of equity securities of the issuer that is intended to satisfy the affirmative defense conditions of Rule 10b5-1(c). See Instruction 10.

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---------|----------|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| 1. Name and Address of Reporting Person* <u>WILLIS J KEVIN</u> | | | 2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol <u>ASHLAND INC. [ASH]</u> | | | 5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable) Director <input type="checkbox"/> 10% Owner <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Officer (give title below) <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify below) SVP and CFO | | |
| (Last) | (First) | (Middle) | 3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year) <u>11/19/2024</u> | | | | | |
| 8145 BLAZER DRIVE | | | 4. If Amendment, Date of Original Filed (Month/Day/Year) | | | 6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing (Check Applicable Line) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Form filed by One Reporting Person <input type="checkbox"/> Form filed by More than One Reporting Person | | |
| (Street) <u>WILMINGTON DE 19808</u> | | | | | | | | |
| (City) | (State) | (Zip) | | | | | | |

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 | 11/19/2024 | | M | | 3,486 | A | \$76.39 | 234,324 | D | |
| Common Stock | 11/19/2024 | | F ⁽¹⁾ | | 1,608 | D | \$76.39 | 232,716 | D | |
| Common Stock | | | | | | | | 36,242 ⁽²⁾ | I | By 401(k) Plan |

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 Securities Underlying Derivative Security (Instr. 3 and 4) | 8. Price of Derivative Security (Instr. 5) | 9. Number of derivative Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 4) | 10. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4) | 11. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4) |
|--|--|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|--|-----|--|-----------------|---|--|--|---|--|
| | | | | Code | V | (A) | (D) | Date Exercisable | Expiration Date | | | | | |

Explanation of Responses:

- Payment of tax liability by withholding securities incident to the vesting of Performance Share Units, acquired pursuant to Ashland's incentive plan as approved by the shareholders and exempt pursuant to Rule 16b-3.
- Based on Employee Savings Plan information as of November 18, 2024.

/s/ Serena S. Kenost,
Attorney-in-fact for Kevin J. Willis 11/20/2024

** 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.

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 Number.