

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

FORM S-3

REGISTRATION STATEMENT

Under

the Securities Act of 1933

ASHLAND INC.

(Exact name of Registrant as specified in its charter)

Kentucky  
(State or other jurisdiction of  
incorporation or organization  
organization) 61-0122250  
(I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)

50 E. RiverCenter Boulevard  
P.O. Box 391  
Covington, KY 41012-0391  
(859) 815-3333

(Address, including zip code, and telephone number, including area  
code, of Registrant's principal executive offices)

David L. Hausrath, Esq.  
Vice President and General Counsel  
50 E. RiverCenter Boulevard  
P.O. Box 391  
Covington, KY 41012-0391  
(859) 815-3333

(Name, address, including zip code, and telephone number, including  
area code, of agent for service)

APPROXIMATE DATE OF COMMENCEMENT OF PROPOSED SALE TO PUBLIC:  
From time to time after the effective date of this Registration Statement.

If the only securities being registered on this Form are being offered  
pursuant to dividend or interest reinvestment plans, please check the  
following box:

If any of the securities being registered on this Form are to be  
offered on a delayed or continuous basis pursuant to Rule 415 under the  
Securities Act of 1933, other than securities offered only in connection  
with dividend or interest reinvestment plans, please check the following  
box:

If this Form is filed to register additional securities for an  
offering pursuant to Rule 462(b) under the Securities Act of 1933, please  
check the following box and list the Securities Act registration statement  
number of the earlier effective registration statement for the same  
offering:

If this Form is a post-effective amendment filed pursuant to Rule  
462(c) under the Securities Act of 1933, check the following box and list  
the Securities Act registration statement number of the earlier effective  
registration statement for the same offering:

If delivery of the prospectus is expected to be made pursuant to Rule  
434 under the Securities Act of 1933, please check the following box.

(continued on next page)

(continued from previous page)

CALCULATION OF REGISTRATION FEE

Title of Each Class of Securities to be Registered	Amount to be Registered	Proposed Maximum Offering Price Per Unit(1)	Proposed Maximum Aggregate Offering Price(1)	Amount of Registration Fee
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Common Stock (par value \$1.00 per share)                    149,300(2)                    \$33.0625                    \$4,936,231                    \$1,234.06  
and Rights attached thereto  
=====

- (1) Estimated solely for the purposes of calculating the registration fee in accordance with Rule 457(h)(1) of the Securities Act of 1933. Accordingly, the price per share of the common stock offered pursuant to the plan is based on the 149,300 shares of common stock reserved for issuance under the plan and at an exercise price per share of \$33.0625, which is the closing price of the New York Stock Exchange Composite Tape on September 21, 2000 per share of common stock.
- (2) Number of shares issuable upon exercise of nonqualified stock options granted to selected officers and employees of Marathon Ashland Petroleum LLC under the Ashland Inc. Stock Option Plan for Employees of Joint Ventures.

ASHLAND HEREBY AMENDS THIS REGISTRATION STATEMENT ON SUCH DATE OR DATES AS MAY BE NECESSARY TO DELAY ITS EFFECTIVE DATE UNTIL ASHLAND SHALL FILE A FURTHER AMENDMENT THAT SPECIFICALLY STATES THAT THIS REGISTRATION STATEMENT SHALL THEREAFTER BECOME EFFECTIVE IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 8(A) OF THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933 OR UNTIL THE REGISTRATION STATEMENT SHALL BECOME EFFECTIVE ON SUCH DATE AS THE COMMISSION, ACTING PURSUANT TO SAID SECTION 8(A), MAY DETERMINE.

LEGEND INFORMATION

THE INFORMATION IN THIS PROSPECTUS IS NOT COMPLETE AND MAY BE CHANGED. WE MAY NOT SELL THESE SECURITIES UNTIL THE REGISTRATION STATEMENT FILED WITH THE SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION IS EFFECTIVE. THIS PROSPECTUS IS NOT AN OFFER TO SELL THESE SECURITIES AND IT IS NOT SOLICITING AN OFFER TO BUY THESE SECURITIES IN ANY STATE WHERE THE OFFER OR SALE IS NOT PERMITTED.

SUBJECT TO COMPLETION, DATED FEBURARY 1, 2001

PROSPECTUS

ASHLAND INC.  
50 E. RiverCenter Boulevard  
Covington, Kentucky 41011  
(859) 815-3333

149,300 Shares

Common Stock

This prospectus relates to the 149,300 shares of Ashland Inc. common stock, \$1.00 par value per share, that we will issue upon exercise of the outstanding nonqualified stock options that we granted to selected employees and officers of Marathon Ashland Petroleum LLC, or "MAP". MAP is a joint venture between Ashland and USX-Marathon.

Our common stock is listed on the New York Stock Exchange and the Chicago Stock Exchange under the symbol "ASH". On January 31, 2001, the last reported sale price of our common stock as reported by the New York Stock Exchange was \$36.99 per share.

You should read this prospectus and any supplement carefully before you invest.

	Exercise Price	Proceeds to Ashland
	-----	-----
Per share of common stock	\$33.0625	\$33.0625
Total	\$4,936,231	\$4,936,231

Neither the Securities and Exchange Commission nor any state securities commission has approved or disapproved these securities or determined if this prospectus is truthful or complete. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

This prospectus is dated February \_\_, 2001.

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You should rely only on the information incorporated by reference or provided in this prospectus. We have authorized no one to provide you with different information. We are not making an offer of these securities in any state where the offer is not permitted. You should not assume that the information in this prospectus is accurate as of any date other than the date on the front of the document.

WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION ABOUT ASHLAND

We file annual, quarterly and current reports, proxy statements and other information with the SEC. You may read and copy any document we file at the SEC's public reference rooms in Washington, D.C., New York, New York and Chicago, Illinois. Please call the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330 for further information on the public reference rooms. Our SEC filings are also available to the public at the SEC's web site at [www.sec.gov](http://www.sec.gov).

The SEC allows us to "incorporate by reference" into this prospectus the information we file with it, which means that we can disclose important information to you by referring you to those documents. The information incorporated by reference is considered to be a part of this prospectus, and later information filed with the SEC will update and supersede this information. We incorporate by reference the documents listed below and any future filings made with the SEC under Section 13(a), 13(c), 14, or 14(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 until our offering is completed:

(a) Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended September 30, 2000;

(b) the description of our common stock, par value \$1.00 per share, set forth in the Registration Statement on Form 10, as amended in its entirety by the Form 8 filed with the SEC on May 1, 1983; and

(c) the description of Ashland's Rights to Purchase Series A Participating Cumulative Preferred Stock, set forth in the Registration Statement on Form 8-A dated May 16, 1996.

You may request a copy of these filings, at no cost, by writing to or telephoning us at the following address (or by visiting our website at [www.ashland.com](http://www.ashland.com)):

Office of the Secretary  
Ashland Inc.  
50 E. RiverCenter Boulevard  
P.O. Box 391  
Covington, KY 41012-0391  
859-815-3333

You should rely only on the information incorporated by reference or provided in this prospectus or the prospectus supplement. We have authorized no one to provide you with different information. We are not making an offer of these securities in any state where the offer is not permitted. You should not assume that the information in this prospectus or the prospectus supplement is accurate as of any date other than the date on the front of the document.

## ASHLAND INC.

Our businesses are grouped into five industry segments: APAC, Ashland Distribution, Ashland Specialty Chemical, Valvoline, and Refining and Marketing.

APAC performs contract construction work, including highway paving and repair, excavation and grading, and bridge construction, and produces asphaltic and ready-mix concrete, crushed stone and other aggregate in the southern and midwestern United States.

Ashland Distribution distributes industrial chemicals, solvents, plastics, fiber reinforcements and fine ingredients in North America and plastics in Europe. Ashland Specialty Chemical manufactures and sells a wide variety of performance chemicals, resins, products and services and certain petrochemicals.

Valvoline is a marketer of premium-branded, packaged motor oil and automotive chemicals, automotive appearance products, antifreeze, filters, rust preventives and coolants. In addition, Valvoline is engaged in the "fast oil change" business through outlets operating under the Valvoline Instant Oil Change(R) name.

Marathon Ashland Petroleum LLC ("MAP"), a joint venture with Marathon Oil Company, operates seven refineries with a total crude oil refining capacity of 935,000 barrels per day. Refined products are distributed through a network of independent and company-owned outlets in the Midwest, the upper Great Plains and the southeastern United States. Marathon Oil Company has a 62% interest and we have a 38% interest in MAP. Ashland accounts for its investment in MAP using the equity method.

We are a Kentucky corporation, organized on October 22, 1936, with our principal executive offices located at 50 E. RiverCenter Boulevard, Covington, Kentucky 41011 (Mailing Address: 50 E. RiverCenter Boulevard, P.O. Box 391, Covington, Kentucky 41012-0391) (Telephone: (859) 815-3333).

## USE OF PROCEEDS

We will use the net proceeds we receive from the sale of our common stock to which this prospectus relates in connection with the exercise of the options described in this prospectus for general corporate purposes. General corporate purposes may include additions to working capital, capital expenditures, stock redemption, repayment of debt or the financing of possible acquisitions.

## DESCRIPTION OF COMMON STOCK

### COMMON STOCK

As of the date of this prospectus, we are authorized to issue up to 300,000,000 shares of common stock. As of December 31, 2000, we had 69,607,160 shares of common stock issued and outstanding and had reserved 10,476,848 additional shares of common stock for issuance under our various stock and compensation incentive plans.

The following summary is not complete and is not intended to give full effect to provisions of statutory or common law. You should refer to the applicable provisions of the following documents:

- the restated articles, which are incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.2 to our Form 10-Q for the quarter ended December 31, 1997, and
- the by-laws, as amended, which are incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3 to our Form 10-Q for the quarter ended December 31, 1999.

Dividends. The holders of common stock are entitled to receive dividends when, as and if declared by our board of directors, out of funds legally available for their payment subject to the rights of holders of preferred stock.

Voting Rights. The holders of common stock are entitled to one vote per share on all matters submitted to a vote of shareholders. The holders of common stock also possess cumulative voting rights for the election of directors. Under cumulative voting, a shareholder may multiply the number of shares owned by the number of directors to be elected and either cast this total number of votes for any one nominee or distribute the total number of votes, in any proportion, among as many nominees as the shareholder desires.

Rights Upon Liquidation. In the event of our voluntary or involuntary liquidation, dissolution or winding up, the holders of common stock will be entitled to share equally in any of our assets available for distribution after the payment in full of all debts and distributions and after the holders of all series of outstanding preferred stock have received their liquidation preferences in full.

Miscellaneous. The outstanding shares of common stock are fully paid and nonassessable. The holders of common stock are not entitled to preemptive or redemption rights. Shares of common stock are not convertible into shares of any other class of capital stock. National City Bank, Cleveland, Ohio, is the transfer agent and registrar for the common stock.

#### PREFERRED STOCK PURCHASE RIGHTS

The board of directors has authorized the distribution of one right for each outstanding share of our common stock. Each right entitles its holder to buy one-one thousandth (1/1000th) of a share of Series A Participating Cumulative Preferred Stock at a price of \$140.

The rights will become exercisable upon the earlier of (a) any time we learn that a person or group has acquired, or obtained the right to acquire, beneficial ownership of more than 15% of our outstanding common stock (an "acquiring person"), unless provisions intended to prevent accidental triggering apply, and (b) any date designated by our board of directors following the commencement of, or first public disclosure of an intention to commence, a tender or exchange offer for our outstanding common stock. Each right other than those held by the acquiror will entitle its holder to purchase, at the right's exercise price, shares of our common stock having a market value of twice the right's exercise price. Additionally, if we are acquired in a merger or other business combination, each right other than those held by the surviving or acquiring company will entitle its holder to purchase, at the right's exercise price, shares of the acquiring company's common stock (or our stock if we are the surviving corporation) having a market value of twice the right's exercise price. Each one-one thousandth of a share of Series A Participating Cumulative Preferred Stock will be entitled to dividends and to vote on an equivalent basis with one share of our common stock.

Rights may be redeemed at the option of the board of directors for \$.01 per right at any time before the earlier of any time there is an acquiring person or the tenth anniversary of the date of the plan. The board of directors may amend the rights at any time without shareholder approval. The rights will expire by their terms on May 15, 2006.

#### CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF ASHLAND'S RESTATED ARTICLES

In the event of a proposed merger or tender offer, proxy contest or other attempt to gain control of us and not approved by our board of directors, it would be possible for our board of directors to authorize the issuance of one or more series of preferred stock with voting rights or other rights and preferences which would impede the success of the proposed merger, tender offer, proxy contest or other attempt to gain control of us. Applicable law, the restated articles and the applicable rules of the stock exchanges upon which the common stock is listed may limit this authority. The consent of the holders of common stock would not be required for any issuance of preferred stock like this.

The restated articles incorporate in substance certain provisions of the Kentucky Business Corporation Act to require certain approvals as a condition to mergers and certain other business combinations involving us and the 10% shareholder unless (a) the transaction is approved by a majority of our continuing directors or (b) certain minimum price and procedural requirements are met. Those approvals include the approval of the holders of at least 80% of our voting stock, plus two-thirds of the voting stock other than voting stock owned by a 10% shareholder. In addition, the Kentucky Business Corporation Act includes a standstill provision which precludes a business

combination from occurring with a 10% shareholder, notwithstanding any vote of shareholders or price paid, for a period of five years after the date that 10% shareholder becomes a 10% shareholder, unless a majority of our independent directors approves the combination before that date.

The restated articles also provide that

- our board of directors is classified into three classes,
- a director may be removed from office without cause only by the affirmative vote of the holders of at least 80% of the voting power of our then outstanding voting stock,
- our board of directors may adopt by-laws concerning the conduct of, and matters considered at, meetings of shareholders, including special meetings,
- the by-laws and certain provisions of the restated articles may be amended only by the affirmative vote of the holders of at least 80% of the voting power of our then outstanding voting stock and
- the by-laws may be adopted or amended by our board of directors. However, the by-laws adopted in this fashion may be amended or repealed by affirmative vote of the holders of at least 80% of the voting power of our then outstanding voting stock.

#### THE PLAN

##### GENERAL PLAN INFORMATION

Marathon Ashland Petroleum LLC, or MAP, is a joint venture between Marathon Oil Company and Ashland. Our management determined that it would be in our best interest that certain MAP officers and employees have an ownership interest in Ashland. On September 21, 2000 our board of directors approved the grant of 149,550 options to purchase our common stock to 254 officers and employees of MAP. Several of these employees have terminated their employment with MAP, and as a result there are currently 149,300 options outstanding to which this prospectus relates. Throughout this prospectus, we will refer to the stock options as the "MAP stock options" and our Personnel and Compensation Committee as the "Committee." We granted the MAP stock options under the terms and conditions of the notice of grant and the Ashland Inc. Stock Option Plan for Employees of Joint Ventures, a plan, approved by our board of directors on September 17, 1998, specifically designated to grant options to joint ventures in which we have an interest. The MAP stock options supplement options granted to those MAP employees by Marathon Oil Company in amounts recommended by the MAP Executive Committee.

The summary of the terms and provisions of the plan in this prospectus is not complete. You should refer to the documents relating to the plan which are incorporated by reference to as exhibits to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part. If necessary, we will in the future provide supplemental material to update the available information with respect to the plan, the MAP stock options and the underlying shares of our common stock to holders of MAP stock options.

The plan is not a qualified deferred compensation plan under Section 401(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, and is exempt from the provisions of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, as amended.

Participants under the plan may obtain additional information regarding the plan and its administration from the Office of the Secretary, Ashland Inc., 50 E. RiverCenter Boulevard, P.O. Box 391, Covington, KY 41012-0391. The Secretary's Office may also be reached by phone at (859) 815-3333.

##### PURPOSE OF THE PLAN

The principal purpose of the plan is to promote our interests and those of our shareholders by attracting and retaining management personnel whose training, experience and abilities contribute to the success of MAP or another joint venture in which we have an interest and which our board of directors designates as being governed by the plan. To achieve this purpose, we may in our discretion grant MAP stock options to selected MAP officers and



employees. A recipient of the MAP stock options will have the right to purchase our common stock at a price and on terms to be specified by the Committee or determined in some other manner under the plan.

#### ADMINISTRATION

The Committee will administer the plan. Frank C. Carlucci, James B. Farley, Mannie L. Jackson, Patrick F. Noonan, and W.L. Rouse, Jr. presently serve on the Committee.

#### ELIGIBILITY AND GRANT OF MAP STOCK OPTIONS

The MAP Executive Committee recommends to the Committee certain regular, full-time or part-time employees of MAP to participate in the plan. The Committee selects the MAP employees to receive an award of MAP stock options under the plan. The MAP stock options to which this prospectus relates were granted to MAP employees on September 21, 2000. Under the notice of grant, none of the rights and obligations of those MAP employees, including under the vesting provisions or other terms of the notice of grant or the plan, will be affected by the transfer of any of the MAP employees from MAP to Ashland or from MAP to another unit of USX. Under the notice of grant, by accepting the award of MAP stock options granted on September 21, 2000, the MAP employees agree to remain at MAP for a period of at least one year from the date of the award although this does not in any way confer from Ashland to any MAP employee any right to continue employment with MAP or affect any existing right of MAP to terminate any MAP employee.

#### EXERCISE PRICE

Under the plan, the exercise price for the underlying Ashland common stock that will be issued for each MAP stock option will be fixed by the Committee at the time the option is granted. The Committee determined that exercise price for the options granted on September 21, 2000 to be the fair market value per share of our common stock on the date of grant. The Committee further determined fair market value to be the closing price per share of our common stock on the New York Stock Exchange composite tape on the date of grant, which was \$33.0625 on September 21, 2000.

#### ACCEPTANCE OF AWARDS

By accepting any award of MAP stock options under the plan, each MAP employee will be conclusively deemed to have indicated his or her acceptance and ratification of and consent to any action that we, our board of directors or the Committee may have taken with respect to the plan, including any amendment of the plan by the board of directors or the Committee. The terms of this provision will also be deemed to apply to each personal representative or beneficiary claiming under or through the MAP employee, as those individuals are defined under the plan.

#### NOTICE OF GRANT

Each MAP stock option will, at our discretion and as directed by the Committee, be evidenced by a notice of grant between the recipient and us. The notice of grant will contain those terms and conditions that the Committee determines and that are consistent with the plan.

#### VESTING

Unless the Committee determines otherwise, each MAP stock option will provide that its recipient may not wholly or partially exercise the option for a period of one year after the date of the option's grant. Under the notice of grant of the MAP stock options to which this prospectus relates, 50% of the MAP stock options granted to a MAP employee on September 21, 2000 will vest on the first anniversary of the grant date, an additional 25% will vest on the second anniversary of the grant date and the remaining 25% will vest on the third anniversary of the grant date.

#### EXERCISE OF MAP STOCK OPTIONS AND PAYMENT

A stock option may be exercised by written notice to us. The written notice must be consistent with the terms of the notice of grant relating to the MAP stock option and must be accompanied by payment of the full exercise price

for the underlying shares of our common stock which the holder of the MAP stock option chooses to exercise. The exercise price for any shares purchased may be paid in cash, in shares of our common stock previously owned by the holder, partly in cash and partly in our common stock or in such other consideration as shall constitute lawful consideration for the issuance of common stock (including, but not limited to, a "cashless exercise"), as the Committee, in its sole discretion, may determine.

In order to assure compliance with the securities laws, during any time that the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part is not effective, the Committee may require evidence of a type and degree it considers necessary to establish that the underlying shares of common stock are being purchased for investment only and not with a view to, or for sale in connection with, a distribution. As used in this context, "distribution" is defined under the Securities Act. If this prospectus is not then part of an effective registration statement, the Committee may further require legends on the certificates representing the underlying shares.

As a condition to the transfer of a certificate representing those shares, the Committee may obtain those agreements or undertakings that it considers necessary or advisable to assure compliance with any provision of the plan or any law or regulation.

#### CANCELLATION OF MAP STOCK OPTION

The Committee has the right in its sole discretion and without the option holder's consent to cancel a MAP stock option granted under the plan, whether vested or not, at any time. If the Committee does so, it will cause us to pay the MAP employee holding the canceled option an amount determined by using the Black-Scholes or some other valuation method generally accepted and used by nationally recognized executive compensation consulting firms. The Committee will determine whether we make the buyout payments under this provision in cash, in shares of our common stock or partly in cash and partly in common stock. Buyout payments will be made net of any applicable foreign, federal (including FICA), state or local withholding taxes.

#### TRANSFERABILITY

Unless our board of directors or the Committee directs otherwise, the rights and interest of a MAP employee who has received MAP stock options under the plan may not wholly or partially be assigned or transferred directly, by operation of law or in some other manner, including but not limited to the following: execution, levy, garnishment, attachment, pledge or bankruptcy. No MAP employee's rights or interest under the plan will be assigned or transferred because of any obligation or liability of that MAP employee. The sole exception to this provision is that the MAP employee's rights and interest under the plan may pass by will or the laws of descent and distribution in the event of the MAP employee's death.

#### RESERVE OF COMMON STOCK

Shares of our common stock to be issued upon the exercise of MAP stock options will be from authorized but unissued shares. If any MAP stock option or a part of a MAP stock option expires, terminates or is canceled or surrendered for any reason without having been fully exercised, the shares relating to the unexercised portion of the MAP stock option may again be subject to the grant of MAP stock options under the plan.

#### TERM OF THE PLAN

The plan became effective on September 17, 1998, the date of the plan's approval by our board of directors. Each MAP stock option will have a fixed expiration date of not later than ten years and one month from the option's date of grant, unless the option is canceled or the plan is terminated before the fixed expiration date. Each of the MAP stock options granted on September 21, 2000 will expire on October 21, 2010, if not terminated earlier as provided below.

#### TERMINATION OF EMPLOYMENT

The plan provides that the Committee will decide when and the terms under which a MAP employee (or his beneficiaries or legal personal representative, as the case may be, as those terms are defined in the plan) who dies,

becomes disabled or retires or leaves MAP employment may continue to exercise vested MAP stock options. The Committee will also decide the extent to which unvested MAP stock options will vest for those MAP employees. Under the notice of grant, a MAP employee who retires from or dies or becomes disabled while employed at MAP, Ashland or from MAP to another unit of USX or his or her beneficiary or personal representative may exercise any MAP stock option granted on September 21, 2000 until its expiration date. That option may be exercised for the number of shares which the MAP employee could have acquired under the option immediately prior to the retirement, death or disability.

The plan provides that if the employment of a MAP employee who has received MAP stock options terminates before the end of the one year vesting period for the options or any other period determined by the Committee, then those options will immediately terminate. Under the notice of grant, a MAP employee, after terminating employment from MAP, Ashland or from MAP to another unit of USX for a reason other than retirement, death or disability, may exercise any MAP stock option granted on September 21, 2000 until the earlier of 30 days after termination or the expiration date of the option. The MAP employee may exercise the option for the number of shares of our common stock, which the MAP employee could have acquired under the option immediately prior to termination.

#### ADJUSTMENTS

The kind of shares that we may issue under the plan and the kind of shares underlying or the exercise price for any outstanding MAP stock options will be automatically adjusted to maintain the proportionate interest of any MAP employee who received MAP stock options before any of the following types of events: a stock split, stock dividend, recapitalization, merger, consolidation, reorganization, combination, exchange of shares, split-up, split-off, spin-off, liquidation or any distribution to holders of our common stock other than cash dividends. Any adjustment under this provision will be conclusive and binding for all purposes of the plan.

#### AMENDMENT

Our board of directors or the Committee may at any time terminate, modify or amend the plan in those respects it deems advisable and as permitted by law.

#### TYPE OF STOCK OPTION

The MAP stock options will be nonqualified stock options and will not be entitled to tax treatment as incentive stock options as defined in Section 422 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended.

#### LISTING

We have applied for a listing of the shares of our common stock underlying the MAP stock options on the New York Stock Exchange and the Chicago Stock Exchange, subject to official notice of issuance.

#### FEDERAL INCOME TAX CONSEQUENCES

The following brief description of the tax consequences of awards under the plan is based on Federal tax laws currently in effect and does not purport to be a complete description of such Federal tax consequences.

If shares are issued to the original holder of a nonqualified option that is granted and exercised in accordance with the plan, then:

- - no income will be recognized by the holder at the time of grant of the option;
- - upon exercise of the option the holder will recognize taxable ordinary income in an amount equal to the excess of the fair market value, at the time of exercise, of the shares acquired over the option price;
- - subject to the limitation described below, we will be entitled to a deduction at the same time and in the same amount as the holder has income under the preceding item; and

- - upon a sale of the shares acquired, the holder will have short-term or long-term capital gain or loss, as the case may be, in an amount equal to the difference between the amount realized on the sale and the tax basis of the shares sold.

Assuming that the payment of the option price is made entirely in cash, the tax basis of the shares will be equal to their fair market value on the date of exercise, but not less than the option price, and their holding period will begin on the day after the tax basis of the shares is determined in this manner.

If the optionee uses previously owned shares to exercise an option in whole or in part, the transaction will not be considered to be a taxable disposition of the previously owned shares. The holder's tax basis and holding period of the previously owned shares will be carried over to the equivalent number of shares received on exercise. The tax basis of the additional shares received upon exercise will be the fair market value of the shares on the date of exercise but not less than the amount of cash used in payment, and the holding period for the additional shares will begin on the day after the tax basis of the shares is determined in this manner. In order to facilitate recordkeeping by optionees, when an option is exercised with previously owned shares, we will deliver separate stock certificates to the optionee representing the shares surrendered and the additional shares to which the optionee is entitled as a result of the exercise.

In addition to the Federal income tax consequences described above, the acquisition, ownership or disposition of a MAP stock option or shares acquired upon the exercise of a MAP stock option may have tax consequences under various state or foreign laws that may be applicable to certain option holders. Since these tax consequences, as well as the Federal income tax consequences described above, may vary from holder to holder depending upon the particular facts and circumstances involved, each holder should consult its own tax advisor with respect to the Federal income tax consequences of the grant or exercise of a MAP stock option, and also with respect to any tax consequences under applicable state or foreign law. Ashland will not withhold more than the statutorily required amounts for federal, state and local taxes.

#### PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION

We will offer the underlying shares of our common stock directly to the MAP employees who have received MAP stock options under the terms of the plan. We will pay all expenses relating to the offer and sale to eligible MAP employees of the shares of our common stock underlying the MAP stock options. Those MAP employees will not incur any commissions, fees or other charges or expenses in connection with the offer of securities covered by this prospectus.

#### LEGAL MATTERS

The validity of the common stock offered hereby has been passed upon by David L. Hausrath, Esq., Vice President and General Counsel of Ashland. Mr. Hausrath owns beneficially 41,702 shares of our common stock (including common stock units held in our deferred compensation plan).

PART II

INFORMATION NOT REQUIRED IN PROSPECTUS

ITEM 14. OTHER EXPENSES OF ISSUANCE AND DISTRIBUTION.

The expenses in connection with the issuance and distribution of the securities being registered, other than underwriting compensation, are:

Filing Fee for Registration Statement	\$ 1,234
Accounting Fees and Expenses	\$ 2,000
Stock Exchange Listing Fees	\$ 1,500
	-----
Total	\$ 4,734
	=====

All of the above amounts, other than the Commission filing fee, are estimates only.

ITEM 15. INDEMNIFICATION OF DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS.

Sections 271B.8-500 through 580 of the Kentucky Business Corporation Act contain detailed provisions for indemnification of directors and officers of Kentucky corporations against judgments, penalties, fines, settlements and reasonable expenses in connection with litigation. Under Kentucky law, the provisions of a company's articles and by-laws may govern the indemnification of officers and directors in lieu of the indemnification provided for by statute. We have elected to indemnify our officers and directors pursuant to our Restated Articles, our By-laws and by contract rather than to have such indemnification governed by the statutory provisions.

Article X of the Restated Articles permits, but does not require, us to indemnify our directors, officers and employees to the fullest extent permitted by law. Our By-laws require indemnification of our officers and employees under certain circumstances. We have entered into indemnification contracts with each of our directors that require indemnification to the fullest extent permitted by law, subject to certain exceptions and limitations.

We have purchased insurance which insures (subject to certain terms and conditions, exclusions and deductibles) us against certain costs which we might be required to pay by way of indemnification to our directors or officers under our Restated Articles or By-laws, indemnification agreements or otherwise and protects individual directors and officers from certain losses for which they might not be indemnified by us. In addition, we have purchased insurance which provides liability coverage (subject to certain terms and conditions, exclusions and deductibles) for amounts which we, or the fiduciaries under our employee benefit plans, which may include our directors, officers and employees, might be required to pay as a result of a breach of fiduciary duty.

ITEM 16. EXHIBITS.

The following Exhibits are filed as part of this Registration Statement:

- 3.1 Second Restated Articles of Incorporation, as amended effective January 30, 1998 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3 to Ashland's Form 10-Q for the quarter ended December 31, 1997).
- 3.2 By-laws, as amended effective January 27, 2000 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3 to Ashland's Form 10-Q for the quarter ended December 31, 1999).
- \*4 Form of Certificate of Common Stock, par value \$1.00 per share.
- \*5 Opinion of David L. Hausrath, Esq.
- \*10.1 Ashland Inc. Stock Option Plan for Employees of Joint Ventures.
- \*10.2 Form of Notice of Grant of Non-Qualified Stock Option.
- \*23.1 Consent of Ernst & Young LLP.
- \*23.2 Consent of David L. Hausrath, Esq. (included as part of Exhibit 5).
- \*24 Power of Attorney, including resolutions of the board of directors.

\*Filed herewith

ITEM 17. UNDERTAKINGS.

(A) Ashland hereby undertakes:

(1) To file, during any period in which offers or sales are being made, a post-effective amendment to this registration statement:

(i) To include any prospectus required by Section 10(a)(3) of the Securities Act of 1933;

(ii) To reflect in the prospectus any facts or events arising after the effective date of the registration statement (or the most recent post-effective amendment thereof) which, individually or in the aggregate, represent a fundamental change in the information set forth in the registration statement. Notwithstanding the foregoing, any increase or decrease in volume of securities offered (if the total dollar value of securities offered would not exceed that which was registered) and any deviation from the low or high end of the estimated maximum offering range may be reflected in the form of prospectus filed with the Commission pursuant to Rule 424(b) if, in the aggregate, the changes in volume and price represent no more than a 20% change in the maximum aggregate offering price set forth in the "Calculation of Registration Fee" table in the effective registration statement and

(iii) To include any material information with respect to the plan of distribution not previously disclosed in the registration statement or any material change to such information in the registration statement.

Provided, however, that paragraphs (A)(1)(i) and (A)(1)(ii) do not apply if the information required to be included in a post-effective amendment by those paragraphs is contained in periodic reports filed by the Ashland pursuant to section 13 or section 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 that are incorporated by reference in the registration statement.

(2) That, for the purpose of determining any liability under the Securities Act of 1933, each such post-effective amendment shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial bona fide offering thereof.

(3) To remove from registration by means of a post-effective amendment any of the securities being registered that remain unsold at the termination of the offering.

(B) Ashland hereby undertakes that, for purposes of determining any liability under the Securities Act of 1933, each filing of the Ashland's annual report pursuant to section 13(a) or section 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (and each filing of an employee benefit plan's annual report pursuant to section 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934) that is incorporated by reference in the registration statement shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered herein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial bona fide offering thereof.

(C) Insofar as indemnification for liabilities arising under the Securities Act of 1933 may be permitted to directors, officers and controlling persons of Ashland pursuant to the foregoing provisions, or otherwise, Ashland has been advised that in the opinion of the Securities and Exchange Commission such indemnification is against public policy as expressed in the Securities Act of 1933 and is, therefore, unenforceable. In the event that a claim for indemnification against such liabilities (other than the payment by Ashland of expenses incurred or paid by a director, officer or controlling person of Ashland in the successful defense of any action, suit or proceeding) is asserted by such director, officer or controlling person in connection with the securities being registered, Ashland will, unless in the opinion of its counsel the matter has been settled by controlling precedent, submit to a court of appropriate jurisdiction the question whether such indemnification by it is against public policy, as expressed in the Securities Act of 1933 and will be governed by the final adjudication of such issue.

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act, Ashland certifies that it has reasonable grounds to believe that it meets all the requirements for filing on Form S-3 and has duly caused this Registration Statement to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized in the City of Covington, Commonwealth of Kentucky, on February 1, 2001.

ASHLAND INC.,

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
David L. Hausrath  
Vice President and General Counsel

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act, this Registration Statement has been signed below by the following persons in the capacities indicated on February 1, 2001.

Signature	Title
* ----- Paul W. Chellgren	Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer (Principal Executive Officer)
* ----- J. Marvin Quin	Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer (Principal Financial Officer)
* ----- Kenneth L. Aulen	Administrative Vice President and Controller (Principal Accounting Officer)
* ----- Samuel C. Butler	Director
* ----- Frank C. Carlucci	Director
* ----- Ernest H. Drew	Director
* ----- James B. Farley	Director
* ----- Bernadine P. Healy	Director
* ----- Mannie L. Jackson	Director
* ----- Patrick F. Noonan	Director
* ----- Jane C. Pfeiffer	Director
* ----- William L. Rouse, Jr.	Director
* ----- Theodore L. Solso	Director

\*By -----  
David L. Hausrath  
Attorney-in-fact

\*Original powers of attorney authorizing, Paul W. Chellgren, David L. Hausrath and Linda L. Foss and each of them to sign the Registration

Statement and amendments thereto on behalf of the above-mentioned directors and officers of Ashland have been filed with the Commission as Exhibit 24 to the Registration Statement.

II-3



EXHIBIT INDEX

4	Form of Certificate of Common Stock, par value \$1.00 per share.
5	Opinion of David L. Hausrath, Esq.
10.1	Ashland Inc. Stock Option Plan for Employees of Joint Ventures.
10.2	Form of Notice of Grant of Non-Qualified Stock Option.
23.1	Consent of Ernst & Young LLP.
23.2	Consent of David L. Hausrath, Esq. (included as part of Exhibit 5).
24	Power of Attorney, including resolutions of the board of directors.

[GRAPHIC]

[GRAPHIC]

[GRAPHIC]

COMMON STOCK

COMMON STOCK

INCORPORATED UNDER THE LAWS OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY

ASHLAND INC. THIS CERTIFICATE IS TRANSFERABLE IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK OR CLEVELAND, OHIO CUSIP 044204 10 5 SEE REVERSE FOR CERTAIN DEFINITIONS

This Certifies that

is the owner of

FULLY-PAID AND NON-ASSESSABLE SHARES OF THE PAR VALUE OF \$1.00 EACH OF THE COMMON STOCK

of Ashland Inc. transferable by the holder hereof in person or by duly authorized attorney upon surrender to the Company of this certificate properly endorsed. The voting power, designation, preference, and relative, participating, optional or other special rights and qualifications, limitations or restrictions hereof, granted to or imposed upon the shares of each class, are set forth in the Company's Second Restated Articles of Incorporation, as amended. This certificate is not valid unless countersigned by the Transfer Agent and registered by the Registrar.

Witness the seal for the Company and signatures of its duly authorized officers.

DATED

/s/ Richard Thomas SECRETARY

/s/ Paul W. Chellgren CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

[SEAL]

COUNTERSIGNED AND REGISTERED NATIONAL CITY BANK (CLEVELAND, OHIO) TRANSFER AGENT AND REGISTRAR

BY

AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE

ASHLAND INC.

ASHLAND INC. WILL FURNISH WITHOUT CHARGE TO EACH SHAREHOLDER WHO SO REQUESTS, A PRINTED COPY OF THE PORTION OF THE COMPANY'S SECOND RESTATED ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION, AS AMENDED, AND OTHER DOCUMENTS SHOWING THE DESIGNATIONS, RELATIVE RIGHTS, PREFERENCES AND LIMITATIONS APPLICABLE TO EACH CLASS OF SHARES AND THE VARIATIONS IN RIGHTS, PREFERENCES AND LIMITATIONS DETERMINED FOR EACH SERIES AND THE AUTHORITY OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS TO DETERMINE VARIATIONS FOR FUTURE SERIES. SUCH REQUEST MAY BE MADE TO THE SECRETARY OF THE COMPANY OR TO THE TRANSFER AGENT.

This certificate also evidences and entitles the holder hereof to certain Rights as set forth in a Rights Agreement dated as of May 16, 1996, as it may be amended from time to time (the "Rights Agreement"), between Ashland Inc. (the "Company") and National City Bank, as Successor Rights Agent (the "Rights Agent"), the terms of which are hereby incorporated herein by reference and a copy of which is on file at the principal executive offices of the Company. Under certain circumstances, as set forth in the Rights Agreement, such Rights will be evidenced by separate certificates and will no longer be evidenced by this certificate. The Rights Agent will mail to the holder of this certificate a copy of the Rights Agreement without charge after a receipt of a written request therefor. Rights beneficially owned by Acquiring Persons or their Affiliates or Associates (as such terms are defined in the Rights Agreement) and by any subsequent holder of such Rights are null and void and nontransferable.

The following abbreviations, when used in the inscription on the face of this certificate, shall be construed as though they were written out in full according to applicable laws or regulations:

- TEN COM -- as tenants in common
TEN ENT -- as tenants by the entirety
JP TEN -- as joint tenants with right of survivorship and not as tenants in common

UNIF GIFT MIN ACT -- Custodian (Cust.) (Minor) under Uniform Gifts to Minors Act (State)

(Cust.) (Minor)
under Uniform Transfers to Minors Act
State

Additional abbreviations may also be used though not in the above list.

For value received; hereby sell, assign and transfer unto

PLEASE INSERT SOCIAL SECURITY OR OTHER IDENTIFYING NUMBER OF ASSIGNEE

PLEASE PRINT OR TYPEWRITE NAME AND ADDRESS INCLUDING POSTAL ZIP CODE OF ASSIGNEE

Shares of the capital stock represented by the within Certificate, and do hereby irrevocably constitute and appoint

Attorney to transfer the said stock on the books of the within named Company with full power of substitution in the premises.

Dated,

AFFIX MEDALLION SIGNATURE GUARANTEE IMPRINT BELOW

NOTICE: THE ABOVE SIGNATURE(S) TO THIS ASSIGNMENT MUST CORRESPOND WITH THE NAME AS WRITTEN UPON THE FACE OF THE CERTIFICATE IN EVERY PARTICULAR, WITHOUT ALTERATION OR ENLARGEMENT, OR ANY CHANGE WHATEVER.

THE SIGNATURES MUST BE GUARANTEED BY AN ELIGIBLE GUARANTOR INSTITUTION SUCH AS A SECURITIES BROKER/DEALER, COMMERCIAL BANK, TRUST COMPANY, SAVINGS ASSOCIATION OR A CREDIT UNION PARTICIPATING IN A MEDALLION PROGRAM APPROVED BY THE SECURITIES TRANSFER ASSOCIATION, INC.

February 1, 2001

Ashland Inc.  
50 E. RiverCenter Boulevard  
P.O. Box 391  
Covington, KY 41012-0391

Gentlemen:

As Vice President and General Counsel of Ashland Inc., a Kentucky corporation ("Ashland"), I have examined and am familiar with such documents, corporate records and other instruments as I have deemed necessary for the purposes of this opinion, including the Ashland Inc. Stock Option Plan for Employees of Joint Ventures (the "Plan"), the corporate proceedings of Ashland taken to adopt the Plan, and the Registration Statement on Form S-3 (the "Registration Statement") filed by Ashland with the Securities and Exchange Commission for the registration under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, of 149,300 shares of Common Stock, par value \$1.00 per share, of Ashland ("Common Stock") to be distributed under the Plan.

Based upon the foregoing, I am of the opinion that when certificates representing such shares of Common Stock have been duly executed, countersigned by a Transfer Agent, registered by a Registrar of Ashland and paid for in accordance with applicable law and delivered in accordance with the terms of the Plan, such shares of Common Stock will be duly authorized, validly issued, fully paid and nonassessable.

I hereby consent to the use of my opinion for filing as an exhibit to the Registration Statement.

Very truly yours,

David L. Hausrath

ASHLAND INC. STOCK OPTION PLAN  
FOR EMPLOYEES OF JOINT VENTURES

SECTION 1. PURPOSE

The purpose of the Ashland Inc. Stock Option Plan for Employees of Joint Ventures of Ashland Inc. is to promote the interests of Ashland Inc. and its shareholders by attracting and retaining management personnel whose training, experience and abilities contribute to the success of the Joint Ventures' businesses, which will ultimately benefit Ashland and its shareholders. Accordingly, Ashland may grant Options to selected officers and employees (including Ashland employees loaned to a Joint Venture) of its Joint Ventures.

SECTION 2. DEFINITIONS

(A) "Agreement" shall mean a written agreement setting forth the terms of an Award, to be entered into at Ashland's discretion.

(B) "Ashland" shall mean, collectively, Ashland Inc. and its subsidiaries.

(C) "Beneficiary" shall mean the person, persons, trust or trusts designated by an Employee or if no designation has been made, the person, persons, trust, or trusts entitled by will or the laws of descent and distribution to receive the benefits specified under this Plan in the event of an Employee's death.

(D) "Board" shall mean the Board of Directors of Ashland.

(E) "Code" shall mean the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended from time to time.

(F) "Committee" shall mean the Personnel and Compensation Committee of the Board.

(G) "Common Stock" shall mean the Common Stock of Ashland Inc. (\$1.00 par value), subject to adjustment upon a change in capitalization of Ashland as set forth in Section 7(D) hereof.

(H) "Employee" shall mean a regular, full-time or part-time employee of a Joint Venture or any employee of Ashland who has been loaned to the Joint Venture, as selected or approved by the Committee to receive an award of Options under the Plan.

(I) "Exercise Price" shall mean, with respect to each share of Common Stock subject to an Option, the price fixed by the Committee at which such share may be purchased from Ashland pursuant to the exercise of such Option.

(J) "Joint Venture" shall mean any joint venture in which Ashland has an interest, designated by the Committee or the Board as a joint venture under this Plan.

(K) "Nonqualified Stock Option" or "NQSO" shall mean an Option granted pursuant to this Plan which does not qualify as an incentive stock option under the Code.

(L) "Option" shall mean the right to purchase Common Stock at a price to be specified and upon terms to be designated by the Committee or otherwise determined pursuant to this Plan. Each Option shall be a Nonqualified Stock Option.

(M) "Personal Representative" shall mean the person or persons who, upon the disability or incompetence of an Employee, shall have acquired on behalf of the Employee by legal proceeding or otherwise the right to receive the benefits specified in this Plan.

(N) "Plan" shall mean this Ashland Inc. Stock Option Plan for Employees of Joint Ventures.

(O) "Retire" or "Retirement" shall mean retirement of an Employee from the employ of a Joint Venture.

SECTION 3. ADMINISTRATION

The Plan shall be administered by the Committee.

SECTION 4. ELIGIBILITY

Options may only be granted to individuals who are Employees of a Joint Venture.

## SECTION 5. OPTIONS

(A) Each Option shall, at the discretion of Ashland and as directed by the Committee, be evidenced by an Agreement between the recipient and Ashland, which Agreement shall contain such terms and conditions as the Committee, in its sole discretion, may determine in accordance with the Plan.

(B) Every Option shall provide for a fixed expiration date of not later than ten years and one month from the date such Option is granted.

(C) The Exercise Price of Common Stock issued pursuant to each Option shall be fixed by the Committee at the time of the granting of the Option.

(D) Every Option shall provide that it may not be exercised in whole or in part for a period of one year after the date of granting such Option (unless otherwise determined by the Committee) and if the employment of the Employee shall terminate prior to the end of such one year period (or such other period determined by the Committee), the Option granted to such Employee shall immediately terminate.

(E) The Committee shall determine and direct whether, and the terms under which, an Employee (or his Beneficiaries or Personal Representative) who dies, becomes disabled, Retires or leaves the employment of a Joint Venture (including, without limitation, an individual who terminates his or her employment with a Joint Venture, or whose employment with a Joint Venture is terminated, as a result of Ashland divesting itself of its interest in a Joint Venture) may continue to exercise vested Options, and the extent to which unvested Options will vest.

(F) Unless otherwise directed by the Committee, the Exercise Price for the Common Stock shall be paid in full when the Option is exercised.

## SECTION 6. AMENDMENTS AND TERMINATIONS

The Board or the Committee may at any time terminate, modify or amend the Plan in such respects as it shall deem advisable and as permitted by applicable law.

## SECTION 7. MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

(A) Unless otherwise directed by the Committee or the Board, an Employee's rights and interest under the Plan may not be assigned or transferred in whole or in part, either directly or by operation of law or otherwise (except in the event of an Employee's death, by will or the laws of descent and distribution), including, but not by way of limitation, execution, levy, garnishment, attachment, pledge, bankruptcy or in any other manner, and no such right or interest of any Employee in the Plan shall be subject to any obligation or liability of such individual.

(B) By accepting any award of Options under the Plan, each Employee and each Personal Representative or Beneficiary claiming under or through him or her shall be conclusively deemed to have indicated his or her acceptance and ratification of, and consent to, any action taken under the Plan by Ashland, the Board or the Committee pursuant to this Plan, including any amendment of the Plan by the Board or the Committee.

(C) The Committee shall have the right, from time to time and at any time, to elect, in its sole discretion and without the consent of the holder thereof, to cancel Options granted pursuant to this Plan, whether vested or unvested, and to cause Ashland to pay the Employee holding such Options an amount determined by using the Black-Scholes method of valuation or other method of valuation generally accepted and used by nationally recognized executive compensation consulting firms. Buyouts pursuant to this provision may be made in cash, in shares of Ashland Common Stock, or partly in cash and partly in Ashland Common Stock, as the Committee determines. Payments of any such buyout amounts shall be made net of any applicable foreign, federal (including FICA), state and local withholding taxes.

(D) In the event of any change in the outstanding Common Stock of Ashland by reason of any stock split, stock dividend, recapitalization, merger, consolidation, reorganization, combination, or exchange of shares, split-up, split-off, spin-off, liquidation or other similar change in capitalization, or any distribution to common stockholders other than cash dividends, the kind of shares that may be issued under the Plan and the kind of shares subject to, or the price per share under any outstanding Options shall be automatically adjusted so that the proportionate interest of the Employee shall be maintained as before the occurrence of such event. Such adjustment shall be conclusive and binding for all purposes of the Plan.

NOTICE OF GRANT OF NON-QUALIFIED STOCK OPTION

Name of Employee:

Number of Option Shares:

Exercise Price Per Share: \$33.0625

Date of Option Grant: September 21, 2000

Exercise Schedule: 09/21/01 50% or \_\_\_\_\_ shares
09/21/02 75% or \_\_\_\_\_ shares
09/21/03 100% or \_\_\_\_\_ shares

Expiration Date: October 21, 2010

ASHLAND INC. ("Ashland") hereby confirms the grant of a non-qualified stock option to purchase shares of Ashland Common Stock (the "Option") to the above-named Marathon Ashland Petroleum LLC ("MAP") employee ("Employee"). This Option is granted under, and is subject to, all of the terms and conditions of this Notice of Grant and the Plan. A copy of the Plan is attached for your information.

Each Employee granted an Award under this Plan shall agree by his or her acceptance of such Award to remain in the service of MAP, Ashland or another unit of USX for a period of at least one year from date of the Award. Nothing in the Plan, or in any Award granted pursuant to the Plan, shall confer from Ashland to any individual any right to continue in the employment of or service to MAP or interfere in any way with the right of MAP to terminate the Employee's employment at any time.

In the event the Employee should transfer from MAP to Ashland or another unit of USX, this Option shall continue to vest in accordance with the exercise schedule described above and be governed by the terms of this Notice of Grant and the Plan and such Employee shall continue to have all rights and obligations of an Employee as provided in this Notice of Grant and the Plan.

In the event of the Employee's retirement from or death or disability while employed by MAP, Ashland or another unit of USX, this option shall continue to be exercisable until the expiration date of this Option for the number of shares which the Employee could have acquired under the Option immediately prior to the retirement, death or disability.

In the event the Employee should terminate employment from MAP, Ashland or another unit of USX for any reason other than stated above, this Option shall be exercisable until the earlier to occur of the expiration date of this Option or thirty (30) days after termination only for the number of shares which the Employee could have acquired under this Option immediately prior to termination.

Please acknowledge your receipt of this Notice by signing, dating and returning the enclosed copy of this Notice of Grant to Carrie Ramey, Ashland Inc., 50 E. RiverCenter Boulevard, P. O. Box 391, Covington, KY 41012-0391, on or before November 21, 2000, or the Option will become null and void.

ASHLAND INC.

EMPLOYEE SIGNATURE:

BY:

-----

DATE:

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Consent of Independent Auditors

We consent to the incorporation by reference in the Registration Statement (Form S-3) and the related Prospectus of Ashland Inc. (Ashland) for the registration of 149,300 shares of its common stock, of our report dated November 1, 2000, with respect to the consolidated financial statements and schedule of Ashland included in its Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended September 30, 2000, filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

/s/ Ernst & Young LLP

Cincinnati, Ohio  
January 30, 2001



Exhibit 23.2 - Consent of David L. Hausrath, Esq. (included as part of Exhibit 5).

POWER OF ATTORNEY

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS, that each of the undersigned Directors and Officers of ASHLAND INC., a Kentucky corporation, which is about to file a Registration Statement on Form S-3 for the registration of up to 149,550 shares of Ashland Common Stock with the Securities and Exchange Commission under the provisions of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, hereby constitutes and appoints PAUL W. CHELLGREN, DAVID L. HAUSRATH and LINDA L. FOSS, and each of them, his or her true and lawful attorneys-in-fact and agents, with full power to act without the others to sign and file such Registration Statement and the exhibits thereto and any and all other documents in connection therewith, and any such amendments thereto, with the Securities and Exchange Commission, and to do and perform any and all acts and things requisite and necessary to be done in connection with the foregoing as fully as he or she might or could do in person, hereby ratifying and confirming all that said attorneys-in-fact and agents, or any of them, may lawfully do or cause to be done by virtue hereof.

Dated: November 2, 2000

-----  
Paul W. Chellgren, Chairman of the Board  
and Chief Executive Officer

-----  
Ralph E. Gomory, Director

-----  
J. Marvin Quin, Senior Vice President  
and Chief Financial Officer

-----  
Bernadine P. Healy, Director

-----  
Kenneth L. Aulen, Administrative Vice President,  
Controller and Principal Accounting Officer

-----  
Mannie L. Jackson, Director

-----  
Samuel C. Butler, Director

-----  
Patrick F. Noonan, Director

-----  
Frank C. Carlucci, Director

-----  
Jane C. Pfeiffer, Director

-----  
Ernest H. Drew, Director

-----  
William L. Rouse, Jr., Director

-----  
James B. Farley, Director

-----  
Theodore M. Solso, Director

CERTIFICATION

The undersigned certifies that he is an Assistant Secretary of ASHLAND INC. ("ASHLAND"), a Kentucky corporation, and that, as such, he is authorized to execute this Certificate on behalf of ASHLAND and further certifies that attached are true and correct copies of excerpts from the minutes of a meeting of the Board of Directors of ASHLAND duly called, convened, and held on September 21, 2000 at which a quorum was present and acting throughout.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have signed and sealed this Certification this 22nd day of January, 2001.

-----  
J. Michael Peffer  
Assistant Secretary

EXCERPT FROM

ASHLAND INC.

MINUTES OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING

September 21, 2000

GRANT OF STOCK OPTIONS TO EMPLOYEES  
OF MARATHON ASHLAND PETROLEUM LLC  
AND CERTAIN OF ITS SUBSIDIARIES

RESOLVED, that approval is hereby granted to issue 149,550 non-qualified Ashland Inc. stock options to 254 individuals employed by Marathon Ashland Petroleum LLC to purchase Ashland Common Stock, at an exercise price equal to the closing price on the New York Stock Exchange composite tape on September 21, 2000 (which price was subsequently determined to be \$33.0625 per share) under the terms set forth in the Ashland Inc. Stock Option Plan for Employees of Joint Ventures and the Notice of Grant of Non-Qualified Stock Option provided to each recipient of such stock options;

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Chairman of the Board, any Vice President, the Secretary, any Assistant Secretary of the Corporation or the Corporation's counsel (the "Authorized Officers") be, and each of them hereby is, acting singly, authorized to execute and file with Securities and Exchange Commission (1) a Registration Statement on Form S-3 or any other appropriate form with respect to the Common Stock underlying the stock options to be granted pursuant to the foregoing resolution and (2) such further amendments thereto as are necessary or desirable;

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Authorized Officers be, and each of them hereby is, authorized to cause the Corporation to make application to the New York Stock Exchange and the Chicago Stock Exchange for the listing on such Exchanges, upon official notice of issuance of the Common Stock to be issued pursuant to the foregoing resolutions and to take all other action which in their judgment shall be necessary, proper or advisable to accomplish the foregoing;

FURTHER RESOLVED, that in connection with the stock option grants contemplated under the foregoing resolutions, there may be credited to the Corporation's capital account the sum of \$1.00 for each share of Common Stock issued by the Corporation pursuant to an exercise of stock options and the granting and exercise of the stock options shall otherwise be handled on the books of the Corporation in accordance with the laws of the Commonwealth of Kentucky and generally accepted accounting principles; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Authorized Officers be, and they hereby are, authorized to take all such further action and to execute all such further instruments and documents, in the name and on behalf of the Corporation, as shall be necessary, proper or advisable to accomplish the purposes of the foregoing resolutions.

\*\*\*\*