FORM 4

## **UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**

Washington, D.C. 20549

| OMB APPROVAL             |           |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|--------------------------|-----------|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| OMB Number:              | 3235-0287 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Estimated average burden |           |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| hours per response:      | 0.5       |  |  |  |  |  |  |

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

## 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

| 1. Name and Address of Reporting Person *  TANEN DAVID M          |  |            |  |          | 2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol Nile Therapeutics, Inc. [ NLTX ]  3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year) |   |  |                                  |  |                   |   |  |                                     | ionship of Reporting P<br>all applicable)<br>Director                 |  | 10% Own       |   |  |
|---|--|------------|--|----------|--|---|--|----------------------------------|--|-------------------|---|--|-------------------------------------|---|--|---------------|---|--|
| (Last)  | (First)  | •          | Middle)  | 1:       | 12/23/2008   |   |  |                                  |  |                   |   |  |                                     | Officer (give title below)  |  |               | Other (specify below)   |  |
| C/O TWO RIVER GROUP HOLDINGS, LLC<br>689 FIFTH AVENUE, 12TH FLOOR |  |            |  |          | 4. If Amendment, Date of Original Filed (Month/Day/Year)   |   |  |                                  |  |                   |   | 6. Indiv   | 3                                   |   |  |               | ,   |  |
| (Street) NEW YORK   | NY   | 1          | 0022   |          |  |   |  |                                  |  |                   |   |  |                                     | Form filed  | d by More  | than C        | ne Reportin   | g Person   |
| (City)  | (State   | ) (2       | Zip)   |          |  |   |  |                                  |  |                   |   |  |                                     |   |  |               |   |  |
|   |  | Т          | able I - Nor   | n-Deriva | tive S   | ecuritie  | s Acq  | uired, Di                        | ispo   | sed of            | , or Bene   | efici  | ally Ow                             | ned   |  |               |   |  |
| 1. Title of Security (Instr. 3)  2. Trans Date (Month/            |  |            |  |          |  | 2A. Deemed<br>Execution Date,<br>if any<br>(Month/Day/Year) |  | Transaction Dispose Code (Instr. |  |                   | ities Acquired (A) or<br>d Of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5) |  |                                     | 5. Amount<br>Securities<br>Beneficially<br>Following F<br>Transaction | / Owned<br>Reported  | Form          | : Direct (D)<br>lirect (I)<br>. 4)                                | 7. Nature of<br>Indirect<br>Beneficial<br>Ownership<br>(Instr. 4)  |
|   |  |            |  |          |  |   |  |                                  | <u> </u>   | Amount (A) or (D) |   | Price  | (Instr. 3 and 4)                    |   |  |               | (111501.4)  |  |
|   | Table II - Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned (e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities) |            |  |          |  |   |  |                                  |  |                   |   |  |                                     |   |  |               |   |  |
| 1. Title of<br>Derivative<br>Security (Instr.<br>3)               | 2.<br>Conversion<br>or Exercise<br>Price of<br>Derivative<br>Security  |            | 3A. Deemed<br>Execution Date<br>if any<br>(Month/Day/Yea | Code     | Transaction Code (Instr.   |   | 5. Number of<br>Derivative<br>Securities<br>Acquired (A) or<br>Disposed of<br>(D) (Instr. 3, 4<br>and 5) |                                  | 6. Date Exercisable and<br>Expiration Date<br>(Month/Day/Year) |                   |   | 7. Title and Amount of<br>Securities Underlying<br>Derivative Security (Instr.<br>3 and 4) |                                     |   | 9. Number derivative Securities Beneficia Owned Following Reported Transacti | e<br>s<br>lly | Ownership<br>Form:<br>Direct (D)<br>or Indirect<br>(I) (Instr. 4) | 11. Nature<br>of Indirect<br>Beneficial<br>Ownership<br>(Instr. 4) |
|   |  |            |  | Code     | v  | (A)   | (D)  | Date<br>Exercisable              |  | piration<br>te    | Title   | O N  | Amount<br>or<br>lumber<br>of Shares |   | (Instr. 4)   | on(a)         |   |  |
| Non-Qualified<br>Stock Option<br>(right to buy)                   | \$0.93   | 12/23/2008 |  | A        |  | 25,000  |  | (1)                              | 12/  | /22/2018          | Common<br>Stock                                       |  | 25,000                              | \$0   | 25,00  | 0             | D   |  |

## **Explanation of Responses:**

 $1.\,100\%$  of the shares subject to the option shall vest and become exercisable on January 1, 2010.

/s/ Daron Evans, Attorney-in-Fact 12/23/2008 for David M Tanen

\*\* 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.