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KIRBY CORP Form 8-K January 29, 2004

> UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549 FORM 8-K

CURRENT REPORT

PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

DATE OF REPORT (DATE OF EARLIEST EVENT REPORTED): JANUARY 29, 2004

KIRBY CORPORATION

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

NEVADA

74-1884980

(State or other jurisdiction of incorporation or organization) Identification No.)

55 WAUGH DRIVE, SUITE 1000 HOUSTON, TEXAS

77007 (Zip Code)

(Address of principal executive offices)

REGISTRANT'S TELEPHONE NUMBER, INCLUDING AREA CODE: (713) 435-1000

Item 7. Financial Statements and Exhibits

(c) Exhibits:

99.1 Press release dated January 29, 2004

Item 12. Results of Operations and Financial Condition

On January 29, 2004, Kirby Corporation ("Kirby") issued a press release announcing earnings for the fourth quarter and year ended December 31, 2003. A copy of the press release is attached as Exhibit 99.1 to this report.

EBITDA, a non-GAAP financial measure, is used in the press release. Kirby defines EBITDA as net earnings before interest expense, taxes on income, depreciation and amortization. Kirby has historically evaluated its operating performance using numerous measures, one of which is EBITDA. EBITDA is presented because of its wide acceptance as a financial indicator. EBITDA is one of the performance measures used in Kirby's incentive bonus plan. EBITDA is also used by rating agencies in determining Kirby's credit rating and by analysts publishing research reports on Kirby, as well as by investors and investment bankers generally in valuing companies. A quantitative reconciliation of EBITDA to GAAP net earnings for the 2003 and 2002 fourth quarters and years is included in the press release.

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the Registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned thereunto duly authorized.

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(Registrant)

By: /s/ NORMAN W. NOLEN

Norman W. Nolen

Executive Vice President, Treasurer

and Chief Financial Officer

Dated: January 29, 2004

EXHIBIT INDEX

Exhibit 99.1 Press release dated January 29, 2004