



KIRBY CORPORATION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

KIRBY CORPORATION 2001 THIRD QUARTER NET EARNINGS GUIDANCE INCREASED TO \$0.45 - \$0.47 PER SHARE

- **2001 third quarter earnings guidance increased to \$0.45 - \$0.47 per share from the previous guidance of \$0.40 - \$0.44 per share, and compared with \$0.37 per share in the third quarter last year**
- **2001 year guidance increased to \$1.55 - \$1.60 per share from \$1.50 - \$1.55 per share, compared with \$1.39 per share in the year 2000**
- **Kirby repurchased 115,000 shares of its common stock during recent market decline**

Houston, Texas (October 1, 2001) -- Kirby Corporation ("Kirby") (NYSE:KEX) announced today that it expects the net earnings for the 2001 third quarter ended September 30, 2001, to be between \$0.45 - \$0.47 per share compared with its prior published guidance of \$0.40 - \$0.44 per share. Net earnings for the 2000 third quarter were \$0.37 per share. Kirby anticipates reporting its 2001 third quarter and nine months results on October 18, 2001.

For the year ended December 31, 2001, Kirby anticipates that its net earnings will be in the \$1.55 - \$1.60 per share range, up from the previous guidance of \$1.50 - \$1.55 per share. For the 2000 year, Kirby reported earnings of \$1.39 per share.

Joe Pyne, Kirby's President and Chief Executive Officer, commented, "Our higher guidance threshold for the 2001 third quarter reflects an increase in the volumes and spot market rates of refined product movements into the U.S. Midwest region. In mid-August 2001, a fire in a Chicago-area refinery closed the

facility for an estimated six-month period, creating an anomaly in the normal distribution patterns of refined products into the U.S. Midwest. Our largest market, the movement of chemicals and petrochemicals, remained soft during the third quarter and we anticipate continued softness in that market for the remainder of 2001.”

Mr. Pyne further stated, “With the recent drop in Kirby’s stock price following the disruption of the financial markets after September 11, 2001, we repurchased 115,000 shares of our common stock at an average price of \$21.36 per share. Currently, Kirby has 1,387,000 shares available to purchase under its present Board of Directors repurchase authorization.”

Kirby Corporation, based in Houston, Texas, operates 871 inland tank barges, with 15.6 million barrels of capacity, and 215 towing vessels, transporting chemicals, petrochemicals, refined petroleum products, black oil and agricultural chemicals throughout the United States' inland waterway system. Through its diesel engine services segment, Kirby provides after-market service for large medium-speed diesel engines used in marine, power generation, industrial, nuclear and rail applications.

Statements contained in this press release with respect to the future are forward-looking statements. These statements reflect management’s reasonable judgement with respect to future events. Forward-looking statements involve risks and uncertainties. Actual results could differ materially from those anticipated as a result of various factors, including cyclical or other downturns in demand, significant pricing competition, unanticipated additions to industry capacity, changes in the Jones Act or in U.S. maritime policy and practice, fuel costs, interest rates, weather conditions and the timing, magnitude and the number of acquisitions made by Kirby. A list of additional risk factors can be found in Kirby’s annual report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2000, filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

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