



KIRBY CORPORATION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

KIRBY CORPORATION TO ANNOUNCE 2001 THIRD QUARTER RESULTS ON OCTOBER 18, 2001

Houston, Texas (October 11, 2001) -- Kirby Corporation ("Kirby") (NYSE:KEX) will announce its 2001 third quarter results before the market opens on Thursday, October 18, 2001. A conference call to discuss the third quarter will be held at 10:00 a.m. central time that morning.

The telephone numbers to call to participate in the third quarter results conference call are 800-779-1198 for domestic callers and 712-271-0064 for international callers. Please dial in five minutes prior to the start of the call. The passcode for the call is Kirby. The leader is Steve Holcomb.

An audio playback will be available starting at approximately 12:00 p.m. central time on October 18 through 5:00 p.m. central time on Friday, November 16, 2001, by dialing 800-934-9838 for domestic callers and 402-220-4875 for international callers.

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.