



**KIRBY CORPORATION**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**KIRBY CORPORATION TO ANNOUNCE 2011 FOURTH QUARTER AND  
YEAR RESULTS ON FEBRUARY 2, 2012,  
WITH CONFERENCE CALL ON FEBRUARY 3, 2012**

**Houston, Texas (January 9, 2012)** -- Kirby Corporation ("Kirby") (NYSE:KEX) will announce its 2011 fourth quarter and year results at 5:00 p.m. central time on Thursday, February 2, 2012. A conference call to discuss the results will be held at 10:00 a.m. central time on Friday, February 3, 2012.

The telephone numbers to call to participate in the conference call are 800-446-2782 for domestic callers and 847-413-3235 for international callers. Please dial in five to ten minutes prior to the start of the call. The host is Steve Holcomb. The confirmation number is 31547305.

An audio conference call playback will be available starting at 1:00 p.m. central time on Friday, February 3, 2012 through 5:00 p.m. central time on Friday, March 2, 2012 by dialing 888-843-7419 for domestic callers and 630-652-3042 for international callers. The passcode is 31547305#. A live audio webcast of the conference call will be available to the public and a replay will be available after the conference call by visiting Kirby's website at <http://www.kirbycorp.com/>.

The financial and other information to be discussed in the conference call will be available in the 2011 fourth quarter and year press release and in a Form 8-K to be furnished by Kirby on the day of the call, both of which will be posted on Kirby's website at <http://www.kirbycorp.com/> in the Investor Relations section under Press Releases and SEC Filings.

Kirby Corporation, based in Houston, Texas, is the nation's largest domestic tank barge operator, transporting bulk liquid products throughout the Mississippi River System, the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway, and coastwise along all three United States coasts and in Alaska and Hawaii. Kirby transports petrochemicals, black oil products, refined petroleum products and agricultural chemicals by tank barge. Through the diesel engine services segment, Kirby provides after-market service for medium-speed and high-speed diesel engines and reduction gears used in marine and power generation applications. Kirby also distributes and services high-speed diesel engines, transmissions, pumps, compression products, and manufactures oilfield service equipment, including hydraulic fracturing equipment, for land-based pressure pumping and oilfield service markets.

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. Forward-looking statements are based on currently available information and Kirby assumes no obligation to update such statements. A list of additional risk factors can be found in Kirby's annual report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2010 and quarterly report on Form 10-Q for the period ended September 30, 2011 filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission.