

UNITED STATES
 SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
 Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM S-8

REGISTRATION STATEMENT UNDER THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933

KIRBY CORPORATION

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Nevada
 (State or other jurisdiction of
 incorporation or organization)

74-1884980
 (I.R.S. Employer
 Identification No.)

55 Waugh Drive, Suite 1000
 Houston, Texas 77007
 (Address of principal executive offices, including zip code)

2001 EMPLOYEE STOCK OPTION PLAN FOR KIRBY CORPORATION
 2000 NONEMPLOYEE DIRECTOR PLAN FOR KIRBY CORPORATION
 (Full title of the plans)

J. H. Pyne
 President and Chief Executive Officer
 KIRBY CORPORATION
 55 Waugh Drive, Suite 1000
 Houston, Texas 77007
 (Name and address of agent for service)

Copy to: Thomas G. Adler, Esq.
 Jenkins & Gilchrist,
 A Professional Corporation
 1445 Ross Avenue, Suite 3200
 Dallas, Texas 75202

(713) 435-1000
 (Telephone number, including area code, of agent for service)

CALCULATION OF REGISTRATION FEE

Title of each class of securities to be registered	Amount to be registered (1)	Proposed maximum offering price per share (2)(3)(4)	Proposed maximum aggregate offering price (2)(3)(4)	Amount of registration fee (3)(4)
Common Stock, par value \$.10 per share	1,300,000	\$26.37	\$30,395,280.00	\$7,598.82

(1) Consists of 1,000,000 shares of common stock, par value \$.10 per share (the "Common Stock") reserved for issuance to employees of Kirby Corporation (the "Corporation") pursuant to the 2001 Employee Stock Option Plan for Kirby Corporation (the "2001 Employee Plan") and 300,000 shares of Common Stock reserved for issuance to directors of the Corporation pursuant to the 2000 Nonemployee Director Stock Option Plan for Kirby Corporation (the "Nonemployee Director Plan," and together with the 2001 Employee Plan, the "Plans"). In addition, pursuant to Rule 416 under the Securities Act of 1933, this Registration Statement also covers an indeterminate number of additional shares of Common Stock issuable pursuant to the exercise of options and/or awards granted or to be granted under the Plans to prevent dilution that may result from any future stock splits, stock dividends or similar transactions affecting the Common Stock.

(2) Estimated solely for the purpose of computing the registration fee.

(3) Calculated pursuant to Rule 457(c) and (h). Accordingly, the price per share of common stock offered hereunder pursuant to the Plans is based upon 942,000 shares of Common Stock reserved for issuance under the Plans at a price of \$26.37, which is the average of the highest and lowest price per share of Common Stock on the New York Stock Exchange on October 30, 2001; and (ii) 258,000 shares of Common Stock reserved for issuance and subject to stock options already granted under the 2001 Employee Plan at an exercise price of \$21.53 per share.

(4) An aggregate of 100,000 shares of the shares being registered under the Nonemployee Director Plan are shares which were previously registered under the 2000 Director Stock Option Plan for Kirby Corporation (the "Predecessor Plan") on the Registration Statement on Form S-8 (Registration No. 333-42794). The Corporation has filed a post-effective amendment to deregister those shares, and accordingly, the associated registration fee previously paid on these shares

under the prior registration statement is hereby also carried forward to cover that portion of the registration fee under this Registration Statement that corresponds to the shares which were previously available for grant under the Predecessor Plan. Accordingly, the registration fee under this registration statement is calculated with respect to 1,200,000 shares.

PART I

INFORMATION REQUIRED IN THE SECTION 10(A) PROSPECTUS

- Item 1. Plan Information*

- Item 2. Registrant Information and Employee Plan Annual Information*

PART II

INFORMATION REQUIRED IN REGISTRATION STATEMENT

- Item 3. Incorporation of Documents by Reference

The Corporation hereby incorporates by reference in this registration statement the following documents previously filed by the Corporation with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "Commission"):

- (1) the Corporation's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2000;
- (2) the Corporation's Annual Report on Form 11-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2000;
- (3) the Corporation's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended March 31, 2001;
- (4) the Corporation's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended June 30, 2001; and
- (5) the description of the Common Stock, par value \$0.10 per share, of the Corporation (the "Common Stock") set forth in the Registration Statement on Form 8-B, dated October 14, 1976, including any amendment or report filed for the purpose of updating such description.

All documents filed by the Corporation with the Commission pursuant to Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 and 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the "Exchange Act"), subsequent to the date of this registration statement, shall be deemed to be incorporated herein by reference and to be a part hereof from the date of the filing of such documents until

*Information required by Part I to be contained in the Section 10(a) prospectus is omitted from this Registration Statement in accordance with Rule 428 under the Securities Act of 1933 and the Note to Part I of Form S-8.

such time as there shall have been filed a post-effective amendment that indicates that all securities offered hereby have been sold or that deregisters all securities remaining unsold at the time of such amendment.

Item 5. Interests of Named Experts and Counsel

Certain matters with respect to the validity of the Common Stock to be offered hereby will be passed on for the Corporation by Jenkens & Gilchrist, a Professional Corporation. Thomas G. Adler, the Secretary of the Corporation, is a shareholder of Jenkens & Gilchrist, a Professional Corporation.

Item 6. Indemnification of Directors and Officers

(a) The Restated Articles of Incorporation of the Corporation provide for indemnification as follows:

"TWELFTH: 1. The Corporation shall indemnify any person who was or is a party or is threatened to be made a party to any threatened, pending or completed action, suit or proceeding, whether civil, criminal, administrative or investigative, except an action by or in the right of the Corporation, by reason of the fact that he is or was a director, officer, employee or agent of the Corporation, or is or was serving at the request of the Corporation as a director, officer, employee or agent of another corporation, partnership, joint venture, trust or other enterprise, against expenses, including attorneys' fees, judgments, fines and amounts paid in settlement actually and reasonably incurred by him in connection with the action, suit or proceeding if he acted in good faith and in a manner which he reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to the best interests of the Corporation, and, with respect to any criminal action or proceeding, has no reasonable cause to believe his conduct was unlawful. The termination of any action, suit or proceeding by judgment, order, settlement, conviction, or upon a plea of nolo contendere or its equivalent, does not, of itself, create a presumption that the person did not act in good faith and in a manner which he reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to the best interests of the Corporation, and that, with respect to any criminal action or proceeding, he had reasonable cause to believe that his conduct was unlawful.

2. The Corporation shall indemnify any person who was or is a party or is threatened to be made a party to any threatened, pending or completed action or suit by or in the right of the Corporation to procure a judgment in its favor by reason of the fact that he is or was a director, officer, employee or agent of the Corporation, or is or was serving at the request of the Corporation as a director, officer, employee or agent of another corporation, partnership, joint venture, trust or other enterprise against expenses, including amounts paid in settlement and attorneys' fees actually and reasonably incurred by him in connection with the defense or

settlement of the action or suit if he acted in good faith and in a manner which he reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to the best interests of the Corporation. Indemnification shall not be made for any claim, issue or matter as to which such a person has been adjudged by a court of competent jurisdiction, after exhaustion of all appeals therefrom, to be liable to the Corporation or for amounts paid in settlement to the corporation unless and only to the extent that the court in which the action or suit was brought or other court of competent jurisdiction determines upon application that in view of all the circumstances of the case, the person is fairly and reasonably entitled to indemnity for such expenses as the court deems proper.

3. To the extent that a director, officer, employee or agent of a corporation has been successful on the merits or otherwise in defense of any action, suit or proceeding referred to in sections 1 and 2 of this Article Twelfth, or in defense of any claim, issue or matter therein, he must be indemnified by the corporation against expenses, including attorneys' fees, actually and reasonably incurred by him in connection with the defense.

4. Any indemnification under section 1 and 2 of this Article Twelfth, unless ordered by a court or advanced pursuant to section 5 of this Article Twelfth, must be made by the Corporation only as authorized in the specific case upon a determination that indemnification of the director, officer, employee or agent is proper in the circumstances. The determination must be made:

(a) By the stockholders;

(b) By the board of directors by majority vote of a quorum consisting of directors who were not parties to the act, suit or proceeding;

(c) If a majority vote of a quorum consisting of directors who were not parties to the act, suit or proceeding so orders, by independent legal counsel in a written opinion; or

(d) If a quorum consisting of directors who were not parties to the act, suit or proceeding cannot be obtained, by independent legal counsel in a written opinion.

5. The expenses of officers and directors incurred in defending a civil or criminal action, suit or proceeding must be paid by the Corporation as they are incurred and in advance of the final disposition of the action, suit or proceeding upon receipt of an undertaking by or on behalf of the director

or officer to repay the amount if it is ultimately determined by a court of competent jurisdiction that he is not entitled to be indemnified by the Corporation. The provisions of this section 5 of this Article Twelfth do not affect any rights to advancement of expenses to which corporate personnel other than directors or officers may be entitled under any contract or otherwise by law.

6. The indemnification and advancement of expenses provided by this Article Twelfth:

(a) Does not exclude any other rights to which a person seeking indemnification or advancement of expenses may be entitled under these articles of incorporation or any bylaws, agreement, vote of stockholders or disinterested directors or otherwise, for either an action in his official capacity or an action in another capacity while holding his office, except that indemnification, unless ordered by a court pursuant to section 2 of this Article Twelfth or for the advancement of expenses of any director or officer, if a final adjudication establishes that his acts or omissions involved intentional misconduct, fraud or a knowing violation of the law and was material to the cause of action.

(b) Continues for a person who has ceased to be a director, officer, employee or agent and inures to the benefit of the heirs, executors and administrators of such person.

7. The Corporation may purchase and maintain insurance or make other financial arrangements on behalf of any person who is or was a director, officer, employee or agent of the Corporation, or is or was serving at the request of the Corporation as a director, officer, employee or agent of another corporation, partnership, joint venture, trust or other enterprise for any liability asserted against him and liability and expenses incurred by him in his capacity as a director, officer, employee or agent, or arising out of his status as such, whether or not the corporation has the authority to indemnify him against such liability and expenses.

8. The other financial arrangements made by the corporation pursuant to section 7 of this Article Twelfth may include the following:

(a) The creation of a trust fund.

(b) The establishment of a program of self-insurance.

(c) The securing of its obligation of indemnification by granting a security interest or other lien on any assets of the Corporation.

(d) The establishment of a letter of credit, guaranty or surety.

No financial arrangement made pursuant to this section may provide protection for a person adjudged by a court of competent jurisdiction, after exhaustion of all appeals therefrom, to be liable for intentional misconduct, fraud or a knowing violation of law, except with respect to the advancement of expenses or indemnification ordered by a court.

9. Any insurance or other financial arrangement made on behalf of a person pursuant to this Article Twelfth may be provided by the Corporation or any other person approved by the board of directors, even if all or part of the other person's stock or other securities is owned by the Corporation.

10. In the absence of fraud:

(a) The decision of the board of directors as to the propriety of the terms and conditions of any insurance or other financial arrangement made pursuant to this Article Twelfth and the choice of the person to provide the insurance or other financial arrangement shall be conclusive; and

(b) The insurance or other financial arrangement:

(1) is not void or voidable; and

(2) does not subject any director approving it to personal liability for his action, even if a director approving the insurance or other financial arrangement is a beneficiary of the insurance or other financial arrangement."

(b) The Corporation's Bylaws provide that the Corporation shall indemnify each and every present and former director and officer of the Corporation, and each and every person who may have served at the Corporation's request as a director or officer of another corporation in which the Corporation owns shares of capital stock or of which the Corporation is a creditor (each of which other corporation is individually referred to herein as an "Other Enterprise"), against any and all expenses (including attorneys' fees) actually and necessarily incurred by him in connection with the defense of any action, suit or proceeding in which he was or is a party by reason of being or having been a director or officer of the Corporation or Other Enterprise to the fullest extent permitted by law. The rights of indemnification provided in the Bylaws are in addition to any other rights to which a person may otherwise be entitled by any other provisions of the Corporation's Restated Articles of Incorporation, statute, agreement, vote of stockholders or otherwise.

The Corporation's Bylaws further provide that the Corporation shall indemnify officers and directors of the Corporation, as well as other persons who serve as agents and employees of the Corporation, to the extent set forth in the Corporation's Restated Articles of Incorporation.

Additionally, the Corporation's Bylaws provide that the Corporation may purchase and maintain insurance on behalf of, and contractually agree to indemnify, any person who is or was a director, officer, employee or agent of the Corporation, or is or was serving at the request of the Corporation as a director, officer, employee or agent of another corporation, partnership, joint venture, trust or other enterprise against any liability asserted against him and incurred by him in any such capacity, or arising out of his status as such, whether or not the Corporation would have the power to indemnify him against such liability under the provisions of the Bylaws.

(c) The Corporation has entered into agreements with each Director and certain key officers, including C. Berdon Lawrence, J.H. Pyne, Norman W. Nolen, Mark R. Buese, Jack M. Sims, Connie C. Power, Howard G. Runser, G. Stephen Holcomb and Thomas G. Adler, and certain officers of subsidiaries of the Corporation, including Steven P. Valerius and Dorman L. Strahan, that provide for the indemnification of such individuals for certain liabilities incurred in such capacity.

Item 8. Exhibits.

(a) Exhibits.

The following documents are filed as a part of this registration statement.

Exhibit	Description of Exhibit
4.1	Restated Articles of Incorporation of Kirby Exploration Company, Inc., as amended (incorporated by reference from Exhibit 3.1 to the Corporation's Registration Statement on Form S-3, Reg. No. 33-30832, filed with the Commission on August 30, 1989).
4.2	Certificate of Amendment of Restated Articles of Incorporation of the Corporation (incorporated by reference from Exhibit 3.2 to the Corporation's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 1990).
4.3	Rights Agreement, dated as of July 18, 2000, between Kirby Corporation and Fleet National Bank, a national banking association, which includes the Form of Resolutions Establishing Designations, Preferences and Rights of Series A Junior Participating Preferred Stock of Kirby Corporation as Exhibit A, the form of Rights Certificate as Exhibit B, and the Summary of Rights as Exhibit C (incorporated by reference

from Exhibit 4.1 to the Corporation's Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the Commission on July 20, 2000).

- 4.4* 2001 Employee Stock Option Plan for Kirby Corporation
- 4.5* 2000 Nonemployee Director Stock Option Plan for Kirby Corporation
- 5.1* Opinion of Jenkens & Gilchrist, a Professional Corporation
- 23.1* Consent of Jenkens & Gilchrist, a Professional Corporation (included in their opinion filed as Exhibit 5.1)
- 23.2* Consent of KPMG LLP
- 24 Power of Attorney (included with signature page of this Registration Statement)

* Filed herewith.

Item 9. Undertakings.

A. The undersigned registrant hereby undertakes:

(1) to file, during any period in which offers or sales are being made, a post-effective amendment to this registration statement to include any material information with respect to the plan of distribution not previously disclosed in the registration statement or any material change to such information in the registration statement;

(2) that, for the purpose of determining any liability under the Securities Act of 1933, each such post-effective amendment shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial bona fide offering thereof; and

(3) to remove from registration by means of a post-effective amendment any of the securities being registered which remain unsold at the termination of the offering.

B. The undersigned registrant hereby undertakes that, for purposes of determining any liability under the Securities Act of 1933 (the "Securities Act"), each filing of the registrant's annual report pursuant to section 13(a) or section 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (and, where applicable, each filing of an employee benefit plan's annual report pursuant to section 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934) that is incorporated by reference

in the registration statement shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial bona fide offering thereof.

C. Insofar as indemnification for liabilities arising under the Securities Act may be permitted to directors, officers and controlling persons of the registrant pursuant to the foregoing provisions, or otherwise, the registrant has been advised that in the opinion of the Commission such indemnification is against public policy as expressed in the Securities Act and is, therefore, unenforceable. In the event that a claim for indemnification against such liabilities (other than the payment by the registrant of expenses incurred or paid by a director, officer or controlling person of the registrant in the successful defense of any action, suit or proceeding) is asserted by such director, officer or controlling person in connection with the securities being registered, the registrant will, unless in the opinion of its counsel the matter has been settled by controlling precedent, submit to a court of appropriate jurisdiction the question of whether such indemnification by it is against public policy as expressed in the Securities Act and will be governed by the final adjudication of such issue.

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, the registrant certifies that it has reasonable grounds to believe that it meets all of the requirements for filing on Form S-8 and has duly caused this registration statement to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized, in the City of Houston, State of Texas, on October 31, 2001.

KIRBY CORPORATION

By: /s/ J. H. Pyne

 J. H. Pyne
 President and Chief Executive Officer

POWER OF ATTORNEY

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENT, that each individual whose signature appears below hereby constitutes and appoints J. H. Pyne and Norman W. Nolen his true and lawful attorney-in-fact and agent with full power of substitution and resubstitution for him and in his name, place and stead, in any and all capacities, to sign any or all amendments to this registration statement, and to file the same with all exhibits thereto and other documents in connection therewith, with the Commission, granting unto said attorney-in-fact and agent full power and authority to do and perform each and every act and thing requisite and necessary to be done in connection therewith, as fully to all intents and purposes as he might or could do in person hereby ratifying and confirming that said attorney-in-fact and agent or his substitutes, may lawfully do or cause to be done by virtue hereof.

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, this registration statement has been signed by the following persons in the capacities and on the dates indicated:

Signature -----	Capacity -----	Date ----
/s/ C. Berdon Lawrence ----- C. Berdon Lawrence	Chairman of the Board and Director of the Company	October 31, 2001
/s/ J. H. Pyne ----- J. H. Pyne	President, Director and Principal Executive Officer of the Company	October 31, 2001
/s/ Norman W. Nolen ----- Norman W. Nolen	Executive Vice President, Treasurer, Assistant Secretary and Principal Financial Officer of the Company	October 31, 2001
/s/ G. Stephen Holcomb ----- G. Stephen Holcomb	Vice President, Controller, Assistant Secretary and Principal Accounting Officer of the Company	October 31, 2001
/s/ C. Sean Day ----- C. Sean Day	Director of the Company	October 31, 2001
/s/ Bob G. Gower ----- Bob G. Gower	Director of the Company	October 31, 2001
----- Walter E. Johnson	Director of the Company	October __, 2001
/s/ William M. Lamont, Jr. ----- William M. Lamont, Jr.	Director of the Company	October 31, 2001
/s/ George A. Peterkin, Jr.	Director of the Company	October 31, 2001

George A. Peterkin, Jr.

/s/ Robert G. Stone, Jr.

Robert G. Stone, Jr.

Director of the Company

October 31, 2001

/s/ Richard C. Webb

Richard C. Webb

Director of the Company

October 31, 2001

KIRBY CORPORATION

2001 EMPLOYEE STOCK OPTION PLAN

ARTICLE 1. GENERAL

Section 1.1. Purpose. The purpose of this Plan is to advance the interests of Kirby Corporation, a Nevada corporation (the "Company"), by providing an additional incentive to attract and retain qualified and competent employees for the Company and its subsidiaries, upon whose efforts and judgment the success of the Company is largely dependent, through the encouragement of stock ownership in the Company by such persons.

Section 1.2. Definitions. As used herein, the following terms shall have the meaning indicated:

(a) "Board" means the Board of Directors of the Company.

(b) "Change in Control" means the occurrence of any of the following events:

(i) Any "person" (as such term is used in Sections 13(d) and 14(d)(2) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended) becomes the beneficial owner, directly or indirectly, of voting securities representing thirty percent (30%) or more of the combined voting power of the Company's then outstanding voting securities or, if a person is the beneficial owner, directly or indirectly, of voting securities representing thirty percent (30%) or more of the combined voting power of the Company's outstanding voting securities as of the date the particular Option is granted, such person becomes the beneficial owner, directly or indirectly, of additional voting securities representing ten percent (10%) or more of the combined voting power of the Company's then outstanding voting securities;

(ii) During any period of twelve (12) months, individuals who at the beginning of such period constitute the Board cease for any reason to constitute a majority of the Directors unless the election, or the nomination for election by the Company's stockholders, of each new Director was approved by a vote of at least a majority of the Directors then still in office who were Directors at the beginning of the period;

(iii) The stockholders of the Company approve (A) any consolidation or merger of the Company or any Subsidiary that results in the holders of the Company's voting securities immediately prior to the consolidation or merger having (directly or indirectly) less than a majority ownership interest in the outstanding voting securities of the surviving entity immediately after the consolidation or merger, (B) any sale, lease, exchange or other transfer (in one transaction or a series of related transactions) of all or substantially all of the assets of the Company or (C) any plan or proposal for the liquidation or dissolution of the Company;

(iv) The stockholders of the Company accept a share exchange, with the result that stockholders of the Company immediately before such share exchange do not own, immediately following such share exchange, at least a majority of the voting securities of the entity resulting from such share exchange in substantially the same proportion as their ownership of the voting securities outstanding immediately before such share exchange; or

(v) Any tender or exchange offer is made to acquire thirty percent (30%) or more of the voting securities of the Company, other than an offer made by the Company, and shares are acquired pursuant to that offer.

For purposes of this definition, the term "voting securities" means equity securities, or securities that are convertible or exchangeable into equity securities, that have the right to vote generally in the election of Directors.

(c) "Code" means the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended.

(d) "Committee" means the Compensation Committee, if any, appointed by the Board.

(e) "Date of Grant" means the date on which the Committee takes formal action to grant an Option or a Restricted Stock Award to an Eligible Person.

(f) "Director" means a member of the Board.

(g) "Eligible Person" means an employee of the Company or a Subsidiary.

(h) "Fair Market Value" of a Share means the mean of the high and low sales price on the New York Stock Exchange on the day of reference as quoted in any newspaper of general circulation or, if the Shares shall not have been traded on such exchange on such date, the mean of the high and low sales price on such exchange on the next day prior thereto on which the Shares were so traded, as quoted in any newspaper of general circulation. If the Shares are not listed for

trading on the New York Stock Exchange, the Fair Market Value on the date of reference shall be determined by any fair and reasonable means prescribed by the Committee.

(i) "Incentive Stock Option" means an option that is an incentive stock option as defined in Section 422 of the Code.

(j) "Nonincentive Stock Option" means an option that is not an Incentive Stock Option.

(k) "Option" means any option granted under this Plan.

(l) "Optionee" means a person to whom a stock option is granted under this Plan or any successor to the rights of such person under this Plan by reason of the death of such person.

(m) "Participant" means a person to whom a Restricted Stock Award is granted under the Plan.

(n) "Plan" means this 2001 Employee Stock Option Plan for Kirby Corporation.

(o) "Restricted Stock" means Shares granted under this Plan that are subject to restrictions imposed by the Committee pursuant to Article III.

(p) "Restricted Stock Award" means an award of Restricted Stock under this Plan.

(q) "Share" means a share of the common stock, par value ten cents (\$0.10) per share, of the Company.

(r) "Subsidiary" means any corporation (other than the Company) in any unbroken chain of corporations beginning with the Company if each of the corporations other than the last corporation in the unbroken chain owns stock possessing 50% or more of the total combined voting power of all classes of stock in one of the other corporations in the chain.

Section 1.3. Total Shares. The maximum number of Shares that may be issued under the Plan shall be One Million (1,000,000) Shares, which may be from Shares held in the Company's treasury or from authorized and unissued Shares. If any Option or Restricted Stock Award granted under the Plan shall terminate, expire or be cancelled or surrendered as to any Shares, new Options or Restricted Stock Awards may thereafter be granted covering such Shares.

Section 1.4. Awards Under the Plan. Only Eligible Persons may receive awards under the Plan. Awards to Eligible Persons may be in the form of Options or shares of Restricted Stock. No Option or Restricted Stock Award shall confer on any person any right to continue as an employee of the Company or any Subsidiary.

ARTICLE II. STOCK OPTIONS

Section 2.1. Grant of Options. The Company may from time to time grant Options to Eligible Persons. Options may be Incentive Stock Options or Nonincentive Stock Options as designated by the Committee on the Date of Grant. If no such designation is made by the Committee for an Option, the Option shall be a Nonincentive Stock Option. The aggregate Fair Market Value (determined as of the Date of Grant) of the Shares with respect to which Incentive Stock Options are exercisable for the first time by an Optionee during any calendar year under the Plan and all such plans of the Company and any parent or subsidiary of the Company (as defined in Section 424 of the Code) shall not exceed \$100,000. Each Option shall be evidenced by an option agreement containing any terms deemed necessary or desirable by the Committee that are not inconsistent with the Plan or applicable law.

Section 2.2. Exercise Price. The exercise price per Share for any Option shall be determined by the Committee, but shall not be less than the Fair Market Value on the Date of Grant and shall not be less than 110% of the Fair Market Value on the Date of Grant for any Incentive Stock Option if the Optionee is a person who owns directly or indirectly (within the meaning of Section 422(b)(6) of the Code) stock possessing more than 10% of the total combined voting power of all classes of stock of the Company.

Section 2.3. Term of Option. The term of an Option shall be determined by the Committee, provided that, in the case of an Incentive Stock Option, the term of the Option shall not exceed ten years from the Date of Grant unless the grant is to a person who owns directly or indirectly (within the meaning of Section 422(b)(6) of the Code) stock possessing more than 10% of the total combined voting power of all classes of the Company, in which case the term of the Option shall not exceed five years from the Date of Grant. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Plan, no Option shall be exercised after the expiration of its term.

Section 2.4. Vesting. Options shall be exercisable at such times and subject to such terms and conditions as the Committee shall specify in the option agreement. Unless the option agreement specifies otherwise, the Committee shall have discretion at any time to accelerate such times and otherwise waive or amend any conditions in respect of all or any portion of the Options held by any Optionee. Notwithstanding the other provisions of this Section 2.4 and unless otherwise provided in the option agreement, upon the occurrence of a Change in Control, all Options outstanding at the time of the Change in Control shall become immediately exercisable.

Section 2.5. Termination of Options.

(a) Except as otherwise provided in the option agreement, the portion of an Option that is exercisable shall automatically and without notice terminate upon the earliest to occur of the following:

(i) thirty (30) days after the date on which Optionee ceases to be an Employee for any reason other than (x) death, (y) mental or physical disability as determined by a medical doctor satisfactory to the Committee or (z) termination for cause;

(ii) one (1) year after the date on which Optionee ceases to be an Employee as a result of a mental or physical disability as determined by a medical doctor satisfactory to the Committee;

(iii) either (y) one (1) year after the death of Optionee or (z) six (6) months after the death of Optionee if Optionee dies during the 30-day period described in Section 2.5(a)(i) or the one-year period described in Section 2.5(a)(ii);

(iv) the date on which Optionee ceases to be an Employee as a result of a termination for cause; and

(v) the tenth anniversary of the Date of Grant of the Option.

(b) The portion of an Option that is not exercisable shall automatically and without notice terminate on the date on which Optionee ceases to be an Employee for any reason.

(c) The Committee shall have discretion at any time to extend the term of any Nonincentive Stock Option to any date that is not later than the date described in Section 2.5(a)(v).

Section 2.6. Exercise of Options. An Option may be exercised in whole or in part to the extent exercisable in accordance with Section 2.4 and the option agreement. An Option shall be deemed exercised when (i) the Company has received written notice of such exercise in accordance with the terms of the Option and (ii) full payment of the aggregate exercise price of the Shares as to which the Option is exercised has been made. Unless further limited by the Committee in any Option, the exercise price of any Shares purchased shall be paid solely in cash, by certified or cashier's check, by money order, by personal check or with Shares owned by the Optionee for at least six months, or by a combination of the foregoing. If the exercise price is paid in whole or in part with Shares, the value of the Shares surrendered shall be their Fair Market Value on the date received by the Company.

Section 2.7. Adjustment of Shares.

(a) If at any time while the Plan is in effect or unexercised Options are outstanding, there shall be any increase or decrease in the number of issued and outstanding Shares through the declaration of a stock dividend or through any recapitalization resulting in a stock split, combination or exchange of Shares, then and in such event:

(i) appropriate adjustment shall be made in the maximum number of Shares then subject to being optioned under the Plan so that the same proportion of the Company's issued and outstanding Shares shall continue to be subject to being so optioned, and

(ii) appropriate adjustment shall be made in the number of Shares and the exercise price per Share thereof then subject to any outstanding Option, so that the same proportion of the Company's issued and outstanding Shares shall remain subject to purchase at the same aggregate exercise price.

(b) In the event of a merger, consolidation or other reorganization of the Company in which the Company is not the surviving entity, the Board or the Committee may provide for any or all of the following alternatives: (i) for Options to become immediately exercisable, (ii) for exercisable Options to be cancelled immediately prior to such transaction, (iii) for the assumption by the surviving entity of the Plan and the Options, with appropriate adjustments in the number and kind of shares and exercise prices or (iv) for payment in cash or stock in lieu of and in complete satisfaction of Options.

(c) Any fractional shares resulting from any adjustment under this Section 2.7 shall be disregarded and each Option shall cover only the number of full shares resulting from such adjustment.

(d) Except as otherwise expressly provided herein, the issuance by the Company of shares of its capital stock of any class, or securities convertible into shares of capital stock of any class, either in connection with direct sale or upon the exercise of rights or warrants to subscribe therefor, or upon conversion of shares or

obligations of the Company convertible into such shares or other securities, shall not affect, and no adjustment by reason thereof shall be made with respect to, the number of or exercise price of Shares then subject to outstanding Options granted under the Plan.

(e) Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, the existence of outstanding Options granted under the Plan shall not affect in any manner the right or power of the Company to make, authorize or consummate (i) any or all adjustments, recapitalizations, reorganizations or other changes in the Company's capital structure or its business; (ii) any merger or consolidation of the Company; (iii) any issue by the Company of debt securities, or preferred or preference stock that would rank above the Shares subject to outstanding Options; (iv) the dissolution or liquidation of the Company; (v) any sale, transfer or assignment of all or any part of the assets or business of the Company; or (vi) any other corporate act or proceeding, whether of a similar character or otherwise.

Section 2.8. Transferability of Options. An Option shall not be transferable by the Optionee otherwise than by will or the laws of descent and distribution. So long as an Optionee lives, only such Optionee or his or her guardian or legal representative shall have the right to exercise such Option.

Section 2.9. Issuance of Shares. No person shall be, or have any of the rights or privileges of, a stockholder of the Company with respect to any of the Shares subject to any Option unless and until certificates representing such Shares shall have been issued and delivered to such person.

ARTICLE III. RESTRICTED STOCK

Section 3.1. Grant of Restricted Stock Awards. The Committee may from time to time grant Restricted Stock Awards to Eligible Persons. Subject to the provisions of the Plan and applicable law, all Restricted Stock Awards under the Plan shall be in such form and shall have such terms and conditions as the Committee, in its discretion, may from time to time determine.

Section 3.2. Terms and Conditions of Restricted Stock Awards. Each Restricted Stock Award shall specify the number of shares of Restricted Stock awarded, the price, if any, to be paid by the Participant receiving the Restricted Stock Award and the date or dates on which the Restricted Stock will vest. The vesting and number of shares of Restricted Stock may be conditioned upon the completion of a specified period of service with the Company or its Subsidiaries or upon the attainment of any performance goals established by the Committee, including without limitation goals related to the performance of the Company or any Subsidiary, division, department or other unit of the Company, the performance of the Company's common stock or other securities, the performance of the recipient of the Restricted Stock Award or any combination of the foregoing.

Section 3.3. Restrictions on Transfer. Unless otherwise provided in the grant relating to a Restricted Stock Award, stock certificates representing the Restricted Stock granted to a Participant shall be registered in the Participant's name or, at the option of the Committee, not issued until such time as the Restricted Stock shall become vested or as otherwise determined by the Committee. If certificates are issued prior to the shares of Restricted Stock becoming vested, such certificates shall either be held by the Company on behalf of the Participant, or delivered to the Participant bearing a legend to restrict transfer of the certificate until the Restricted Stock has vested, as determined by the Committee. The Committee shall determine whether the Participant shall have the right to vote and/or receive dividends on the Restricted Stock before it has vested. Except as may otherwise be expressly permitted by the Committee, no share of Restricted Stock may be sold,

transferred, assigned or pledged by the Participant until such share has vested in accordance with the terms of the Restricted Stock Award. Unless the grant of a Restricted Stock Award specifies otherwise, in the event of a Participant's termination of employment before all the Participant's Restricted Stock has vested, or in the event other conditions to the vesting of Restricted Stock have not been satisfied prior to any deadline for the satisfaction of such conditions set forth in the award, the shares of Restricted Stock that have not vested shall be forfeited and any purchase price paid by the Participant shall be returned to the Participant. At the time Restricted Stock vests (and, if the Participant has been issued legended certificates for Restricted Stock, upon the return of such certificates to the Company), a certificate for such vested shares shall be delivered to the Participant (or the beneficiary designated by the Participant in the event of death), free of all restrictions.

Section 3.4. Accelerated Vesting. Notwithstanding the vesting conditions set forth in a Restricted Stock Award, unless the Restricted Stock Award grant or other agreement with the Participant specifies otherwise:

(a) the Committee may in its discretion at any time accelerate the vesting of Restricted Stock or otherwise waive or amend any conditions of a grant of a Restricted Stock Award, and

(b) all shares of Restricted Stock shall vest upon a Change of Control of the Company.

Section 3.5. Section 83(b) Election. If a Participant receives Restricted Stock that is subject to a "substantial risk of forfeiture," such Participant may elect under Section 83(b) of the Code to include in his or her gross income, for the taxable year in which the Restricted Stock is received, the excess of the Fair Market Value of such Restricted Stock on the Date of Grant (determined without regard to any restriction other than one which by its terms will never lapse), over the amount paid for the Restricted Stock. If the Participant makes the Section 83(b) election, the Participant shall (a) make such election in a manner that is satisfactory to the Committee, (b) provide the Company with a copy of such election, (c) agree to promptly notify the Company if any Internal Revenue Service or state tax agent, on audit or otherwise, questions the validity or correctness of such election or of the amount of income reportable on account of such election and (d) agree to such federal and state income tax withholding as the Committee may reasonably require in its sole discretion.

ARTICLE IV. ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS

Section 4.1. Administration of the Plan. The Plan shall be administered by the Committee. The Committee shall have the authority to interpret the provisions of the Plan, to adopt such rules and regulations for carrying out the Plan as it may deem advisable, to decide conclusively all questions arising with respect to the Plan and to make all other determinations and take all other actions necessary or desirable for the administration of the Plan. All decisions and acts of the Committee shall be final and binding upon all affected Optionees and Participants. If there is no Committee, the Board shall administer the Plan and in such case all references to the Committee shall be deemed to be references to the Board.

Section 4.2. Amendment. The Board may amend or modify the Plan in any respect at any time. Such action shall not impair any of the rights of any holder of any Option or Restricted Stock outstanding on the date of the amendment or modification without the holder's written consent.

Section 4.3. Duration and Termination. The Plan shall be of unlimited duration, provided that no Incentive Stock Option shall be granted under the Plan on or after the tenth anniversary of the approval of the Plan by the stockholders of the Company. The Board may suspend, discontinue or terminate the Plan at any time. Such action shall not impair any of the rights of any holder of any Option or Restricted Stock outstanding on the date of the Plan's suspension, discontinuance or termination without the holder's written consent.

Section 4.4. Withholding. Prior to the issuance of any Shares under the Plan, arrangements satisfactory to the Committee in its sole discretion shall have been made for the Optionee's or Participant's payment to the Company of the amount, if any, that the Committee determines to be necessary for the Company or Subsidiary employing the Optionee or Participant to withhold in accordance with applicable federal or state income tax withholding requirements.

Section 4.5. Agreements and Undertakings. As a condition of any issuance or transfer of a certificate for Shares, the Committee may obtain such agreements or undertakings, if any, as it may deem necessary or advisable to assure compliance with any provision of the Plan, any agreement or any law or regulation including, but not limited to, the following:

(a) a representation, warranty or agreement by the Optionee or Participant to the Company that the Optionee or Participant is acquiring the Shares for investment and not with a view to, or for sale in connection with, the distribution of any such Shares; and

(b) a representation, warranty or agreement to be bound by any legends that are, in the opinion of the Committee, necessary or appropriate to comply with the provisions of any securities law deemed by the Committee to be applicable to the issuance of the Shares and are endorsed on the Share certificates.

Section 4.6. Governing Law. The Plan shall be governed by the laws of the State of Texas except to the extent that federal law or Nevada corporate law is controlling.

Section 4.7. Effective Date. The Plan shall be effective as of January 15, 2001. If the Plan is not approved by a majority of the Company's stockholders represented in person or by proxy at a duly convened meeting on or before the first anniversary of the effective date of the Plan, (a) each Nonincentive Stock Option theretofore granted under the Plan shall remain outstanding, (b) each Incentive Stock Option theretofore granted under the Plan shall be deemed to be a Nonincentive Stock Option and shall remain outstanding as such, (c) any Restricted Stock theretofore granted under the Plan shall remain outstanding and (d) no further Options or Restricted Stock shall be granted under the Plan after the first anniversary of the effective date of the Plan or, if earlier, the date of a meeting of stockholders of the Company at which the Plan is proposed for approval but is not approved.

ADOPTED BY THE BOARD:

January 15, 2001

KIRBY CORPORATION

2000 NONEMPLOYEE DIRECTOR STOCK OPTION PLAN

1. Purpose. The purpose of this Plan is to advance the interests of Kirby Corporation, a Nevada corporation (the "Company"), by providing an additional incentive to attract and retain qualified and competent directors, upon whose efforts and judgment the success of the Company is largely dependent, through the encouragement of stock ownership in the Company by such persons.

2. Definitions. As used herein, the following terms shall have the meaning indicated:

(a) "Board" means the Board of Directors of the Company.

(b) "Change in Control" means the occurrence of any of the following events:

(i) Any "person" (as such term is used in Sections 13(d) and 14(d)(2) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended) becomes the beneficial owner, directly or indirectly, of voting securities representing thirty percent (30%) or more of the combined voting power of the Company's then outstanding voting securities or, if a person is the beneficial owner, directly or indirectly, of voting securities representing thirty percent (30%) or more of the combined voting power of the Company's outstanding voting securities as of the date the particular Option is granted, such person becomes the beneficial owner, directly or indirectly, of additional voting securities representing ten percent (10%) or more of the combined voting power of the Company's then outstanding voting securities;

(ii) During any period of twelve (12) months, individuals who at the beginning of such period constitute the Board cease for any reason to constitute a majority of the Directors unless the election, or the nomination for election by the Company's stockholders, of each new Director was approved by a vote of at least a majority of the Directors then still in office who were Directors at the beginning of the period;

(iii) The stockholders of the Company approve (A) any consolidation or merger of the Company or any Subsidiary that results in the holders of the Company's voting securities immediately prior to the consolidation or merger having (directly or indirectly) less than a majority ownership interest in the outstanding voting securities of the surviving entity immediately after the consolidation or merger, (B) any sale, lease, exchange or other transfer (in one transaction or a series of related transactions) of all or substantially all of the assets of the Company or (C) any plan or proposal for the liquidation or dissolution of the Company;

(iv) The stockholders of the Company accept a share exchange, with the result that stockholders of the Company immediately before such share exchange do not own, immediately following such share exchange, at least a majority of the voting securities of the entity resulting from such share

exchange in substantially the same proportion as their ownership of the voting securities outstanding immediately before such share exchange; or

(v) Any tender or exchange offer is made to acquire thirty percent (30%) or more of the voting securities of the Company, other than an offer made by the Company, and shares are acquired pursuant to that offer.

For purposes of this definition, the term "voting securities" means equity securities, or securities that are convertible or exchangeable into equity securities, that have the right to vote generally in the election of Directors.

(c) "Committee" means the Compensation Committee, if any, appointed by the Board.

(d) "Compensation Plan" means the written plan or program in effect from time to time, as approved by the Board, which sets forth the compensation to be paid to Eligible Directors.

(e) "Date of Grant" means the date on which an Option is granted to an Eligible Director.

(f) "Director" means a member of the Board.

(g) "Eligible Director" means a Director who is not an employee of the Company or a Subsidiary.

(h) "Fair Market Value" of a Share means the mean of the high and low sales price on the New York Stock Exchange on the day of reference as quoted in any newspaper of general circulation or, if the Shares shall not have been traded on such exchange on such date, the mean of the high and low sales price

on such exchange on the next day prior thereto on which the Shares were so traded, as quoted in any newspaper of general circulation. If the Shares are not listed for trading on the New York Stock Exchange, the Fair Market Value on the date of reference shall be determined by any fair and reasonable means prescribed by the Committee.

(i) "Nonincentive Stock Option" means an option that is not an incentive stock option as defined in Section 422 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended.

(j) "Option" means any option granted under this Plan.

(k) "Optionee" means a person to whom a stock option is granted under this Plan or any successor to the rights of such person under this Plan by reason of the death of such person.

(l) "Payment Date" means the last day of a calendar quarter.

(m) "Plan" means this 2000 Nonemployee Director Stock Option Plan for Kirby Corporation.

(n) "Share" means a share of the common stock, par value ten cents (\$0.10) per share, of the Company.

(o) "Subsidiary" means any corporation (other than the Company) in any unbroken chain of corporations beginning with the Company if, at the time of the granting of the Option, each of the corporations other than the last corporation in the unbroken chain owns stock possessing 50% or more of the total combined voting power of all classes of stock in one of the other corporations in such chain.

3. Total Shares. The maximum number of Shares to be issued pursuant to Options under this Plan shall be THREE HUNDRED THOUSAND (300,000) Shares from Shares held in the Company's treasury. If any Option granted under the Plan shall terminate, expire or be cancelled or surrendered as to any Shares, new Options may thereafter be granted covering such Shares.

4. Automatic Grant of Options. Options shall automatically be granted to Eligible Directors as provided in Sections 5, 6 and 7. All Options shall be Nonincentive Stock Options. Each Option shall be evidenced by an option agreement containing such terms deemed necessary or desirable by the Committee that are not inconsistent with the Plan or any applicable law. Neither the Plan nor any Option shall confer upon any person any right to continue to serve as a Director.

5. Automatic One-Time Grant. Each Eligible Director shall automatically be granted an Option for FIVE THOUSAND (5,000) Shares on the date of such Eligible Director's first election as a Director.

6. Automatic Annual Grants. Immediately after each annual meeting of stockholders of the Company, each Eligible Director shall automatically be granted an Option for THREE THOUSAND (3,000) Shares.

7. Election to Receive Options. If the Compensation Plan permits Eligible Directors to elect to receive an Option in lieu of all or part of Director fees otherwise payable in cash, each Eligible Director who has properly and timely made such election as provided in the Compensation Plan shall automatically be granted an Option for a number of Shares equal to (i) the amount of the fee such Eligible Director elects to receive in the form of an Option divided by (ii) the Fair Market Value of a Share on the Date of Grant multiplied by (iii) 3, with the result rounded to the nearest whole Share.

8. Option Price. The option price per Share for any Option shall be the Fair Market Value on the Date of Grant.

9. Date of Grant.

(a) The Date of Grant of an Option granted under Section 5 shall be the date of the Eligible Director's first election as a Director.

(b) The Date of Grant of an Option granted under Section 6 shall be the date of the annual meeting of stockholders of the Company.

(c) The Date of Grant of an Option granted under Section 7 shall be the date by which the Eligible Director must make an election pursuant to the Compensation Plan to receive the Option in lieu of cash fees.

10. Vesting.

(a) An Option granted under Section 5 shall be exercisable on or after the Date of Grant.

(b) An Option granted under Section 6 shall become exercisable six months after the Date of Grant.

(c) An Option granted under Section 7 shall become exercisable on the Payment Date(s) following the Date of Grant as provided in this Section 10(c). The number of Shares as to which an Option granted under Section 7 will become exercisable on each Payment Date after the Date of Grant shall equal the number of Shares subject to the Option divided by the number of Payment Dates occurring after the Date of Grant and before the first anniversary of the most recent annual meeting of stockholders of the Company.

(d) Notwithstanding the other provisions of this Section 10, (i) an Option shall only become exercisable as provided in this Section 10 if the Optionee is a Director at the time the Option would otherwise become exercisable and (ii) upon the occurrence of a Change in Control, all Options outstanding at the time of the Change in Control shall become immediately exercisable.

11. Term of Options. The portion of an Option that is exercisable shall automatically and without notice terminate upon the earlier of (a) one (1) year after the Optionee ceases to be a Director for any reason or (b) ten (10) years after the Date of Grant of the Option. The portion of an Option that is not exercisable shall automatically and without notice terminate at the time the Optionee ceases to be a Director for any reason.

12. Exercise of Options. Any Option may be exercised in whole or in part to the extent exercisable in accordance with Section 10. An Option shall be deemed exercised when (i) the Company has received written notice of such exercise in accordance with the terms of the Option and (ii) full payment of the aggregate option price of the Shares as to which the Option is exercised has been made. Unless further limited by the Committee in any Option, the option price of any Shares purchased shall be paid solely in cash, by certified or cashier's check, by money order, by personal check or with Shares owned by the

Optionee for at least six months, or by a combination of the foregoing. If the option price is paid in whole or in part with Shares, the value of the Shares surrendered shall be their Fair Market Value on the date received by the Company.

13. Adjustment of Shares.

(a) If at any time while the Plan is in effect or unexercised Options are outstanding, there shall be any increase or decrease in the number of issued and outstanding Shares through the declaration of a stock dividend or through any recapitalization resulting in a stock split, combination or exchange of Shares, then and in such event:

(i) appropriate adjustment shall be made in the maximum number of Shares then subject to being optioned under the Plan, and the numbers of Options to be granted under Sections 5, 6 and 7, so that the same proportion of the Company's issued and outstanding Shares shall continue to be subject to being so optioned, and

(ii) appropriate adjustment shall be made in the number of Shares and the exercise price per Share thereof then subject to any outstanding Option, so that the same proportion of the Company's issued and outstanding Shares shall remain subject to purchase at the same aggregate exercise price.

(b) In the event of a merger, consolidation or other reorganization of the Company in which the Company is not the surviving entity, the Board or the Committee may provide for any or all of the following alternatives: (i) for Options to become immediately exercisable, (ii) for exercisable Options to be cancelled immediately prior to such transaction, (iii) for the assumption by the surviving entity of the Plan and the Options, with appropriate adjustments in the number and kind of shares and exercise prices or (iv) for payment in cash or stock in lieu of and in complete satisfaction of Options.

(c) Any fractional shares resulting from any adjustment under this Section 13 shall be disregarded and each Option shall cover only the number of full shares resulting from such adjustment.

(d) Except as otherwise expressly provided herein, the issuance by the Company of shares of its capital stock of any class, or securities convertible into shares of capital stock of any class, either in connection with direct sale or upon the exercise of rights or warrants to subscribe therefor, or upon conversion of shares or obligations of the Company convertible into such shares or other securities, shall not affect, and no adjustment by reason thereof shall be made with respect to, the number of or exercise price of Shares then subject to outstanding Options granted under the Plan.

(e) Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, the existence of outstanding Options granted under the Plan shall not affect in any manner the right or power of the Company to make, authorize or consummate (i) any or all adjustments, recapitalizations, reorganizations or other changes in the

Company's capital structure or its business; (ii) any merger or consolidation of the Company; (iii) any issue by the Company of debt securities, or preferred or preference stock that would rank above the Shares subject to outstanding Options; (iv) the dissolution or liquidation of the Company; (v) any sale, transfer or assignment of all or any part of the assets or business of the Company; or (vi) any other corporate act or proceeding, whether of a similar character or otherwise.

14. Transferability of Options. Each Option shall provide that such Option shall not be transferable by the Optionee otherwise than by will or the laws of descent and distribution and that so long as an Optionee lives, only such Optionee or his guardian or legal representative shall have the right to exercise such Option.

15. Issuance of Shares. No person shall be, or have any of the rights or privileges of, a stockholder of the Company with respect to any of the Shares subject to any Option unless and until certificates representing such Shares shall have been issued and delivered to such person. As a condition of any transfer of the certificate for Shares, the Committee may obtain such agreements or undertakings, if any, as it may deem necessary or advisable to assure compliance with any provision of the Plan, any agreement or any law or regulation including, but not limited to, the following:

(a) a representation, warranty or agreement by the Optionee to the Company, at the time any Option is exercised, that the Optionee is acquiring the Shares for investment and not with a view to, or for sale in connection with, the distribution of any such Shares; and

(b) a representation, warranty or agreement to be bound by any legends that are, in the opinion of the Committee, necessary or appropriate to comply with the provisions of any securities law deemed by the Committee to be applicable to the issuance of the Shares and are endorsed upon the Share certificates.

16. Administration of the Plan. The Plan shall be administered by the Committee. The Committee shall have the authority to interpret the provisions of the Plan, to adopt such rules and regulations for carrying out the Plan as it may deem advisable, to decide conclusively all questions arising with respect to the Plan and to make all other determinations and take all other actions necessary or desirable for the administration of the Plan. All decisions and acts of the Committee shall be final and binding upon all affected Optionees. If there is no Committee, the Board shall administer the Plan and in such case all references to the Committee shall be deemed to be references to the Board.

17. Amendment. The Board may amend or modify the Plan in any respect at any time.

18. Duration and Termination. The Plan shall be of unlimited duration. The Board may suspend, discontinue or terminate the Plan at any time. Such action shall not impair any of the rights of any holder of any Option outstanding on the date of the Plan's suspension, discontinuance or termination without the holder's written consent.

19. Effective Date. The Plan shall be effective as of September 26, 2000.

ADOPTED BY THE BOARD: September 26, 2000

October 31, 2001

Kirby Corporation
55 Waugh Drive, Suite 1000
Houston, Texas 77007

Re: Registration Statement on Form S-8

Gentlemen:

We have acted as counsel to Kirby Corporation, a Nevada corporation (the "Corporation"), in connection with the preparation of the Registration Statement on Form S-8 (the "Registration Statement") to be filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on October 31, 2001, under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the "Securities Act"), relating to 1,300,000 shares of the \$0.10 par value common stock (the "Common Stock") of the Corporation that have been or may be issued upon the exercise of options granted or that may be granted under the 2001 Employee Stock Option Plan for Kirby Corporation (the "2001 Employee Plan") and 300,000 shares of Common Stock that have been or may be issued upon exercise of options granted or that may be granted under the 2000 Nonemployee Director Stock Option Plan for Kirby Corporation (the "Nonemployee Director Plan," and together with the 2001 Employee Plan, the "Plans").

You have requested the opinion of this firm with respect to certain legal aspects of the proposed offering. In connection therewith, we have examined and relied upon the original, or copies identified to our satisfaction, of (1) the Articles of Incorporation and the Bylaws of the Corporation, as amended; (2) minutes and records of the corporate proceedings of the Corporation with respect to the establishment of the Plans and the reservation of 1,000,000 shares of Common Stock to be issued under the 2001 Employee Plan and the reservation of 300,000 shares of Common Stock to be issued under the Nonemployee Director Plan to which the Registration Statement relates; (3) the Registration Statement and exhibits thereto, including the Plans; and (4) such other documents and instruments as we have deemed necessary for the expression of the opinions herein contained. In making the foregoing examinations, we have assumed the genuineness of all signatures and the authenticity of all documents submitted to us as originals, and the conformity to original documents of all documents submitted to us as certified or photostatic copies. As to various questions of fact material to this opinion, and as to the content and form of the Articles of Incorporation, the Bylaws, minutes, records, resolutions and other documents or writings of the Corporation, we have relied, to the extent we deem reasonably appropriate, upon representations or certificates of officers or directors of the Corporation and upon documents, records and instruments furnished to us by the Corporation, without independent check or verification of their accuracy.

Based upon our examination and consideration of, and reliance on, the documents and other matters described above, and subject to the comments and assumptions noted below, we are of the opinion that the Corporation presently has available at least 1,300,000 shares of authorized but unissued shares of Common Stock and/or treasury shares of Common Stock. From these shares of Common Stock, the shares of Common Stock proposed to be sold through the 2001 Employee Plan and Nonemployee Director Plan may be issued. Assuming that: (i) the outstanding options were duly granted in accordance with the terms of the 2001 Employee Plan, the options to be granted in the future are duly granted in accordance with the terms of the 2001 Employee Plan, and the shares of Common Stock to be issued pursuant to the exercise of options under the 2001 Employee Plan are duly issued in accordance with the terms of the 2001 Employee Plan, (ii) the outstanding options were duly granted in accordance with the terms of the Nonemployee Director Plan, the options to be granted in the future are duly granted in accordance with the terms of the Nonemployee Director Plan, and the shares of Common Stock to be issued pursuant to the exercise of options under the Nonemployee Director Plan are duly issued in accordance with the terms of the Nonemployee Director Plan, (iii) the Corporation maintains an adequate number of authorized but unissued shares and/or treasury shares of Common Stock available for issuance to those persons who exercise options pursuant to the Plans, (iv) the consideration for shares of Common Stock issued pursuant to the exercise of options under the 2001 Employee Plan is actually received by the Corporation in accordance with the terms of the 2001 Employee Plan, and exceeds the par value of such shares, and (v) the consideration for shares of Common Stock issued pursuant to the exercise of options under the Nonemployee Director Plan is actually received by the Corporation in accordance with the terms of the Nonemployee Director Plan, and exceeds the par value of such shares, then we are of the opinion that the shares of Common Stock issued pursuant to the exercise of options and in accordance with the terms of the Plans, will be duly and validly issued, fully paid and nonassessable.

We hereby consent to the filing of this opinion as an exhibit to the Registration Statement and to references to our firm included in or made a part of the Registration Statement. In giving this consent, we do not admit that we come within the category of persons whose consent is required under Section 7 of the Securities Act or the Rules and Regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission thereunder.

Very truly yours,

JENKENS & GILCHRIST,
a Professional Corporation

By: /s/ Thomas G. Adler

Thomas G. Adler

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' CONSENT

The Board of Directors
Kirby Corporation

We consent to the use of our reports incorporated herein by reference.

/s/ KPMG LLP

KPMG LLP

Houston, Texas
October 31, 2001