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CHEMED CORP
Form DEF 14A
April 04, 2005

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SCHEDULE 14A INFORMATION
(Rule 14a)
INFORMATION REQUIRED IN PROXY STATEMENT
SCHEDULE 14A INFORMATION
Proxy Statement Pursuant to Section 14(a) of the Securities
Exchange Act of 1934

Filed by the Registrant

Filed by a Party other than the Registrant

Check the appropriate box:

Preliminary Proxy Statement Confidential, for Use of the Commission
Only (as permitted by Rule 14a-6(e) (2))

Definitive Proxy Statement

Definitive Additional Materials

Soliciting Material pursuant to Section 240.14a-11(c) or Section 240.14a-12

Chemed Corporation

(Name of Registrant as Specified in its Charter)

Chemed Corporation

(Name of Person(s) Filing Proxy Statement, if other than the Registrant)

Payment of Filing Fee (Check the appropriate box):

No fee required.

Fee computed on table below per Exchange Act Rules 14a-6(i) (4) and 0-11.

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(1) Amount Previously Paid:

(2) Form, Schedule or Registration Statement No.:

(3) Filing Party:

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LOGO

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS
MAY 16, 2005

The Annual Meeting of Stockholders of Chemed Corporation will be held at The Queen City Club, 331 East Fourth Street, Cincinnati, Ohio, on Monday, May 16, 2005, at 11 a.m. for the following purposes:

- (1) To elect directors;
- (2) To ratify the selection of independent accountants by the Audit Committee of the Board of Directors; and
- (3) To transact such other business as may properly be brought before the meeting.

Stockholders of record at the close of business on March 31, 2005, are entitled to notice of, and to vote at, the meeting.

IF YOU DO NOT PLAN TO ATTEND THE MEETING, PLEASE COMPLETE, DATE AND SIGN THE ENCLOSED PROXY AND RETURN IT IN THE ENVELOPE PROVIDED AT YOUR EARLIEST CONVENIENCE, OR VOTE BY TELEPHONE OR INTERNET AS INSTRUCTED ON THE PROXY CARD. NO POSTAGE IS REQUIRED IF IT IS MAILED IN THE UNITED STATES.

Naomi C. Dallob
Secretary

April 11, 2005

LOGO

PROXY STATEMENT

This Proxy Statement is furnished in connection with the solicitation by the Board of Directors of Chemed Corporation (the "Company" or "Chemed") of proxies to be used at the Annual Meeting of Stockholders ("Annual Meeting") of the Company to be held on May 16, 2005, and any adjournments thereof. The Company's mailing address is 2600 Chemed Center, 255 East Fifth Street, Cincinnati, Ohio 45202-4726. The approximate date on which this Proxy Statement and the enclosed proxy are being sent to stockholders is April 11, 2005. Each valid proxy received in time will be voted at the meeting and, if a choice is specified on the proxy, the shares represented thereby will be voted

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accordingly. The proxy may be revoked by the stockholder at any time before the meeting by providing notice to the Secretary.

Only stockholders of record as of the close of business on March 31, 2005, will be entitled to vote at the Annual Meeting or any adjournments thereof. On such date, the Company had outstanding 12,702,737 shares of capital stock, par value \$1 per share ("Capital Stock"), entitled to one vote per share.

ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

Thirteen directors are to be elected at the Annual Meeting to serve until the following annual meeting of stockholders and until their successors are duly elected and qualified. Set forth below are the names of the persons to be nominated by the Board of Directors, together with a description of each person's principal occupation during the past five years and other pertinent information.

Unless authority is withheld or names are stricken, it is intended that the shares covered by each proxy will be voted for the nominees listed. Votes that are withheld or stricken will be excluded entirely from the vote and will have no effect. The Company anticipates that all nominees listed in this Proxy Statement will be candidates when the election is held. However, if for any reason any nominee is not a candidate at that time, proxies will be voted for any substitute nominee designated by the Board of Directors (except where a proxy withholds authority with respect to the election of directors). The affirmative vote of a plurality of the votes cast will be necessary to elect each of the nominees for director.

NOMINEES

EDWARD L. HUTTON Mr. Hutton is Chairman of the Board of the Company and has held this position since May 2004. Prior to May 2004, Mr. Hutton served in an executive position as Chairman of the Company from November 1993. Previously, from 1970 to May 2001, he also served the Company as Chief Executive Officer, and from 1970 to November 1993, he served the Company as President. Mr. Hutton is also the Chairman of the Board of Directors of Omnicare, Inc., Covington, Kentucky (healthcare products and services), (hereinafter "Omnicare"). Mr. Hutton is a director of Omnicare. Mr. Hutton is the father of Thomas C. Hutton, a Vice President and a director of the Company.

KEVIN J. McNAMARA Mr. McNamara is President and Chief Executive Officer of the Company and has held these positions since August 1994 and May 2001, respectively. Previously, he served as Executive Vice President, Secretary and General Counsel from November 1993, August 1986 and August 1986, respectively, to August 1994.

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DONALD BREEN, JR. Mr. Breen is Senior Vice President of John Morrell & Co., Cincinnati, Ohio (producer of fresh foods) and has held this position since 1992.

CHARLES H. ERHART, JR. Mr. Erhart retired as President of W. R. Grace and Co. (hereinafter "Grace"), Columbia, Maryland (international specialty chemicals, construction and packaging) in August 1990, having held that position since July 1989. Previously, he was

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Chairman of the Executive Committee of Grace and held that position from November 1986 to July 1989. He is a director of Omnicare.

JOEL F. GEMUNDER
Director since 1977
Age: 65

Mr. Gemunder is President and Chief Executive Officer of Omnicare and has held these positions since May 1981 and May 2001, respectively. He is also a director of Omnicare and Ultratech Stepper, Inc.

PATRICK P. GRACE
Director since 1996
Age: 49

Mr. Grace is President of MLP Capital, Inc., co-managing partner of several real estate and mining interests in the southeastern United States and has held that position since March 1996. From January 2002 to August 2002, he was also President and Chief Executive Officer of Kingdom Group, LLC ("Kingdom"), New York, New York (a provider of turnkey compressed natural gas fueling systems), which filed for bankruptcy in November 2002. Previously, he was President of Kingdom, from December 2000 to January 2002, and he was Executive Vice President of Kingdom from August 1999 to December 2000. From December 1997 to January 31, 1999, Mr. Grace was also Chief Operating and Financial Officer of C3 Communications, Inc., San Francisco, California, a unit of Level 3 Communications (interactive marketing).

THOMAS C. HUTTON
Director since 1985
Age: 54

Mr. Hutton is a Vice President of the Company and has held this position since February 1988. He is a son of Edward L. Hutton, Chairman of the Board and a director of the Company.

WALTER L. KREBS
Director from May 1989
to April 1991, and
May 1995 to May 2003
Age: 72

Mr. Krebs retired as Senior Vice President-Finance, Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer of Service America Systems, Inc., a wholly owned subsidiary of the Company ("Service America"), in July 1999, having held the position since October 1997. Previously, he was a Director - Financial Services of DiverseyLever, Inc. (formerly known as Diversey Corporation), Detroit, Michigan (specialty chemicals) ("Diversey") from April 1991 to April 1996. Previously, from January 1990 to April 1991, he was a Senior Vice President and the Chief Financial Officer of the Company's then-wholly-owned subsidiary, DuBois Chemicals, Inc. ("DuBois").

SANDRA E. LANEY
Director since 1986
Age: 61

Ms. Laney is Chairman and CEO of Cadre Computer Resources Co., Cincinnati, Ohio (information security) and has held this position since August 31, 2001. Ms. Laney retired as an Executive Vice President and the Chief Administrative Officer of the Company on March 1, 2003, having held these positions since May 2001 and May 1991, respectively. Previously, from November 1993 until May 2001, she held the position of Senior Vice President of the Company. She is a director of Omnicare.

TIMOTHY S. O'TOOLE
Director since 1991

Mr. O'Toole is an Executive Vice President of the Company and has held this position since May 1992.

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of the Compensation/Incentive Committee were paid the cash equivalent of the 200-share stock award or \$8,994.

The Company has a deferred compensation plan for nonemployee directors under which certain directors who are not employees of the Company or of a subsidiary of the Company participate. Under the plan, which is not a tax-qualified plan, an account is established for each participant to which amounts are credited quarterly at the rate of \$4,000 per annum. Amounts credited to these accounts are used to purchase shares of Capital Stock, and all dividends received on such shares are reinvested in such Capital Stock. Each participant is entitled to receive the balance in his account within 90 days following the date he ceases to serve as a director. Directors may participate in the Company's health insurance plans by paying rates offered to former employees under COBRA.

Directors may also elect to defer receipt of their directors' fees under the Company's Excess Benefit Plan.

COMMITTEES AND MEETINGS OF THE BOARD

The Company has the following Committees of the Board of Directors: Audit Committee, Nominating Committee and Compensation/Incentive Committee.

The Audit Committee (a) is directly responsible for the appointment, compensation, and oversight of a firm of independent accountants to audit the Company and its consolidated subsidiaries, (b) reviews and reports to the Board of Directors on the Company's annual financial statements and the independent accountants' report on such financial statements, (c) meets with the Company's senior financial officers, internal auditors and independent accountants to review audit plans and work and other non-audit services regarding the Company's accounting, financial reporting and internal control systems and (d) confers quarterly with senior management, internal audit staff, and the independent accountants to review quarterly financial results. The Audit Committee consists of Messrs. Erhart, Grace and Saunders. The Board of Directors has determined that Mr. Saunders qualifies as an "audit committee financial expert" within the meaning of the applicable SEC regulations. The Audit Committee met on twelve occasions during 2004.

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The Compensation/Incentive Committee makes recommendations to the Board of Directors concerning (a) salary and incentive compensation payable to officers and certain other key employees of the Company, (b) establishment of incentive compensation plans and programs generally, (c) adoption and administration of certain employee benefit plans and programs and (d) additional year-end contributions by the Company under the Chemed/Roto-Rooter Savings and Retirement Plan ("Retirement Plan"). In addition, the Compensation/Incentive Committee administers the Company's (a) 2002 Executive Long-Term Incentive Plan, (b) eight Stock Incentive Plans and the 1999 Long-Term Employee Incentive Plan and (c) grants of stock options and stock awards to key employees of the Company. The Compensation/Incentive Committee consists of Messrs. Erhart, Breen and Wood. The Compensation/Incentive Committee met on six occasions during 2004. A copy of the Compensation/Incentive Committee Charter is available on the Company's Web site, www.chemed.com.

The Nominating Committee (a) recommends to the Board of Directors the candidates for election to the Board at each Annual Meeting of Stockholders of the Company, (b) recommends to the Board of Directors candidates for election by the Board to fill vacancies on the Board, (c) considers candidates submitted by directors, officers, employees, stockholders and others and (d) performs such other functions as may be assigned by the Board. The Nominating Committee

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consists of Messrs. Erhart, Gemunder and Grace. Each member of the Nominating Committee is independent as defined under the listing standards of the New York Stock Exchange. The Nominating Committee met once during 2004. In identifying and evaluating nominees for director, the Nominating Committee considers candidates with a wide variety of academic backgrounds and professional and business experiences. After reviewing written statements of the candidates' backgrounds and qualifications, the Nominating Committee arranges for personal interviews with those candidates that it believes merit further consideration. Once it has completed this process, the Nominating Committee makes its final recommendations to the Board. Mr. Krebs, who is the only nominee for director who is not standing for re-election, was recommended to the Nominating Committee by Mr. McNamara, the Company's Chief Executive Officer. Stockholders wishing to submit a candidate for election to the Board should submit the name of such candidate and a supporting statement to the Company's Secretary at 2600 Chemed Center, 255 East Fifth Street, Cincinnati, Ohio 45202-4726. The Nominating Committee has a charter and a current copy is available on the Company's Web site, www.chemed.com.

During 2004, there were six meetings of the Board of Directors, and each director attended at least 75 percent of the aggregate of (a) the total number of meetings held by the Board of Directors and (b) the total number of meetings held by all Committees of the Board of Directors on which he or she served that were held during the period for which he or she was a director or member of any such Committee. While the Company does not have a formal policy with regard to Board members' attendance at the Annual Meeting, all members of the Board are encouraged to attend. Eleven members of the Board attended last year's Annual Meeting held on May 17, 2004.

The Board and the Nominating Committee of the Board undertook an annual review of director independence. During this review, the Board and the Nominating Committee considered transactions and relationships between each director or any member of his or her immediate family and the Company and its subsidiaries and affiliates, including those reported under the caption "Certain Relationships and Related Transactions" below. The Board and the Nominating Committee also examined transactions and relationships between directors or their affiliates and members of the Company's senior management or their affiliates. The purpose of this review was to determine whether any such relationships or transactions were inconsistent with a determination that the director is independent under the New York Stock Exchange corporate governance standards. The Board and the Nominating Committee similarly reviewed the independence of Mr. Krebs, who is the only nominee for director who is not standing for re-election.

As a result of this review, the Board and the Nominating Committee have affirmatively determined that, under the New York Stock Exchange listing standards, the following directors and nominees for director, constituting a majority of the individuals nominated for election as directors at the Annual Meeting, are independent of the Company and its management: Messrs. Breen, Erhart, Gemunder, Grace, Krebs, Saunders, Walsh and Wood.

Stockholders wishing to communicate with members of the Board should send such communications to the Company's Secretary at 2600 Chemed Center, 255 East Fifth Street, Cincinnati, Ohio, 45202-4726. The Secretary will forward these communications to the members of the Board and, if applicable, to specified individual directors.

EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION

REPORT OF THE COMPENSATION/INCENTIVE COMMITTEE ON EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION

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The Company believes that executive compensation must align executive officers' interests with those of the Company's stockholders and that such interests are served by having compensation directly and materially linked to financial and operating performance criteria which, when successfully achieved, will enhance stockholder value.

The Company attempts to achieve this objective with an executive compensation package for its senior executives which combines base salary, annual cash incentive compensation, and long-term incentive compensation in the form of stock options, stock awards and awards under the 2002 Executive Long-Term Incentive Plan ("LTIP"), along with various benefit plans, including pension plans, savings plans and medical benefits generally available to the employees of the Company.

The executive compensation program is administered by the Compensation/Incentive Committee of the Board of Directors. The membership of the Compensation/Incentive Committee comprises three outside directors (i.e., nonemployees of the Company). The Compensation/Incentive Committee is responsible for the review, approval and recommendation to the Board of Directors of matters concerning base salary and annual cash incentive compensation for key executives of the Company. The recommendations of the Compensation/Incentive Committee on such matters must be approved by the full Board of Directors. The Compensation/Incentive Committee also administers the Company's stock incentive plans, under which it reviews and approves grants of stock options and stock awards, and the Company's LTIP. The Compensation/Incentive Committee also has retained the services of compensation consultants, Compensation Strategies, Inc.

The Compensation/Incentive Committee may use its discretion to set executive compensation where, in its judgment, external, internal or individual circumstances warrant.

Following is a discussion of the components of the executive officer compensation program.

In determining base salary levels for the Company's executive officers, the Compensation/Incentive Committee takes into account the magnitude of responsibility of the position, individual experience and performance and specific issues particular to the Company. In general, base salaries are set at levels believed by this Compensation/Incentive Committee to be sufficient to attract and retain qualified executives when considered along with the other components of the Company's compensation structure.

The Compensation/Incentive Committee believes that a significant portion of total cash compensation should be linked to annual performance criteria. Consequently, the purpose of annual incentive compensation for senior executives and key managers is to provide a direct financial incentive in the form of an annual cash bonus to those executives who achieve their business units' and the Company's annual goals. Operational and financial goals are established at the beginning of each fiscal year and generally take into account such measures of performance as sales and earnings growth, profitability, cash flow and return on investment. Other nonfinancial measures of performance relate to organizational development, product or service expansion and strategic positioning of the Company's assets.

Individual performance is also taken into account in determining individual bonuses. It is the Company's belief that bonuses as a percentage of a senior executive's salary should be sufficiently high so as to provide a major incentive for achieving annual performance targets. Bonuses for senior executives of the Company generally range from 25 percent to 83 percent of base salary.

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The Long-Term Incentive Plan and stock option and stock award programs form the basis of the Company's incentive plans for executive officers and key managers. The objective of these plans has been to align executive and long-term-stockholder interests by creating a strong and direct link between executive pay and stockholder return.

Stock options have customarily been granted annually and have been generally regarded as the primary incentive for long-term performance as they are granted at fair market value and have had vesting restrictions over four-year periods, except for those granted in May 2004 which vested in full on November 17, 2004. The Committee considers each grantee's current option holdings in making grants. Both the amounts of stock awards and proportion of stock options have increased as a function of higher salary and position of responsibility within the Company. In May 2002, the stockholders of the Company approved the adoption of the LTIP covering officers and key employees of the Company. The LTIP is administered by the Compensation/Incentive Committee of the Board of Directors and was adopted to replace the restricted stock program, which was terminated at the end of 2001. In August 2002, the Compensation/Incentive Committee established guidelines which covered the

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granting of compensation awards based on two independent elements: 1) a totally discretionary award based on operating performance of the Company covering a period greater than one year and less than four years and 2) an award based on the attainment of a target stock price of \$50 per share during 10 consecutive trading days prior to the fourth anniversary of the plan. Based on this criteria, in February 2004, the Compensation/Incentive Committee approved a payout under the LTIP in the aggregate amount of \$7.8 million. In June, the Compensation/Incentive Committee established new guidelines covering LTIP awards. These guidelines are disclosed under the caption "Long Term Incentive Plan."

The Compensation/Incentive Committee has considered, and is continuing to review, the qualifying compensation regulations issued by the Internal Revenue Service in December 1993. Generally, the Committee structures compensation arrangements to achieve deductibility under the tax regulations, except where the benefit of such deductibility is outweighed by the need for flexibility or the attainment of other corporate objectives.

The base salary of Mr. K. J. McNamara, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Company, was increased on February 18, 2005, to a base rate of \$600,000. His bonus in respect of 2004 services was \$500,000 and a restricted stock award of 4,000 shares, vesting in full on February 18, 2009. The Compensation/Incentive Committee believes that Mr. McNamara's base salary, LTIP awards, 2004 bonus and stock options granted are consistent with his performance as measured by the criteria discussed above.

Compensation/Incentive Committee

Charles H. Erhart, Jr., Chairman
Donald Breen, Jr.
Frank E. Wood

SUMMARY COMPENSATION TABLE

The following table shows the compensation paid to the Chief Executive Officer and the four most highly compensated executive officers of the Company for the past three years for all services rendered in all capacities to the Company and its subsidiaries:

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SUMMARY COMPENSATION TABLE

NAME AND PRINCIPAL POSITION	YEAR	ANNUAL COMPENSATION		LONG TERM COMPENSATION		
		SALARY (\$)	BONUS (\$)	AWARDS (1)		ALL OTHER COMPENSATION (\$)
				SECURITIES UNDERLYING CHEMED STOCK OPTIONS (#)	PAYOUTS	
K. J. McNamara President and CEO	2004	\$417,600	\$500,000	50,000	\$3,097,609	\$525,758 (2)
	2003	406,975	260,575	40,000	-0-	105,889
	2002	396,829	387,946	30,000	-0-	282,154
E. L. Hutton (3) Chairman of the Board	2004	293,750	56,000	-0-	948,122	222,639 (4)
	2003	250,000	156,000	-0-	-0-	70,592
	2002	316,666	200,000	25,000	-0-	513,692
T. S. O'Toole Executive Vice President	2004	360,516	225,000	45,000	1,189,024	228,531 (5)
	2003	232,017	92,097	20,000	-0-	54,517
	2002	237,592	195,959	20,000	-0-	165,050
S. S. Lee Executive Vice President	2004	247,507	145,000	17,000	381,802	114,361 (6)
	2003	238,921	109,230	15,000	-0-	59,663
	2002	235,441	98,017	14,000	-0-	130,613
D. P. Williams Vice President and CFO	2004	217,025	155,000	25,000	548,411	105,628 (7)
	2003	175,430	62,000	10,000	-0-	39,721
	2002	167,893	62,000	9,000	-0-	53,943

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SUMMARY COMPENSATION TABLE (CONTINUED)

- (1) The number and value of the aggregate restricted shares of Capital Stock held by the named executives at December 31, 2004 were as follows: K.J. McNamara - 5,200 shares; E.L. Hutton - 0 shares; T.S. O'Toole - 3,000 shares; S.S. Lee - 2,000 shares; and D.P. Williams - 2,500 shares. The restricted shares reflect a one time grant in 2004 and vest in full on December 31, 2007. Recipients receive dividends on the awarded shares and are entitled to vote them, whether or not vested. These restricted shares were awarded under the LTIP.
- (2) Includes the following amounts: \$513,007 allocated to Mr. McNamara's account under the Retirement Plan and Employee Stock Ownership Plans ("ESOP") with respect to 2004; a \$3,807 premium payment for term life insurance; and \$8,944 in the form of an unrestricted stock award of 200 shares of Capital Stock.
- (3) Prior to May 2004, Mr. Hutton served as Chairman of the Company and was considered an executive officer of the Company. Since May 2004, Mr. Hutton has served as Chairman of the Board and is no longer an executive officer of the Company.

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- (4) Includes the following amounts: \$210,311 allocated to Mr. Hutton's account under the Company's Retirement Plan and ESOP with respect to 2004; a \$3,384 premium payment for term life insurance; and \$8,944 in the form of an unrestricted stock award of 200 shares of Capital Stock.
- (5) Includes the following amounts: \$215,730 allocated to Mr. O'Toole's account under the Retirement Plan and ESOP with respect to 2004; a \$3,857 premium payment for term life insurance; and \$8,944 in the form of an unrestricted stock award of 200 shares of Capital Stock. Does not include amounts Mr. O'Toole received pursuant to a consulting agreement with PCI Holding Corp., which purchased the Company's wholly owned Patient Care, Inc. subsidiary in October 2002. Pursuant to this agreement, which PCI Holding terminated on August 19, 2004, Mr. O'Toole received compensation at the rate of \$3,000 per month during the term of the agreement. Also does not include \$830,000 which Mr. O'Toole received when his 40,000 options in Vitas common stock were cashed out in connection with the Company's acquisition of Vitas in February 2004.
- (6) Includes the following amounts: \$112,417 allocated to Mr. Lee's account under the Retirement Plan, ESOP and Roto-Rooter's Deferred Compensation Plan and Retirement Plan with respect to 2004 and a \$1,944 premium payment for term life insurance.
- (7) Includes the following amounts: \$104,073 allocated to Mr. Williams' account under the Retirement Plan, ESOP and Roto-Rooter Retirement Plan with respect to 2004 and a \$1,555 premium payment for term life insurance.

STOCK OPTIONS

The table below shows information concerning Chemed stock options granted in 2004 to the named executives in the Summary Compensation Table.

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CHEMED STOCK OPTION GRANTS IN 2004

NAME	NUMBER OF SECURITIES UNDERLYING OPTIONS GRANTED (#) (1)	INDIVIDUAL GRANTS -----			EXERCISE PRICE (\$/SHARE)	EXPIRATION DATE	POTENTIAL REALIZABLE VALUE	
		% OF TOTAL OPTIONS GRANTED TO EMPLOYEES IN 2004	AT ASSUMED ANNUAL RATES OF STOCK PRICE APPRECIATION FOR OPTION TERM	5% (\$)			10% (\$)	
K. J. McNamara	50,000	12.5%		\$43.55	5/17/2014	\$1,369,418	\$3,470,374	
E. L. Hutton	-0-	-0-		-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	
T. S. O'Toole	45,000	11.2		43.55	5/17/2014	1,232,476	3,123,337	
S. S. Lee	17,000	4.2		43.55	5/17/2014	465,602	1,179,927	
D. P. Williams	25,000	6.2		43.55	5/17/2014	684,709	1,735,187	

- (1) These options which were granted on May 17, 2004, provide for the purchase price of option shares equal to the fair market value of Capital Stock on that date; are transferable by will, by the laws of descent and distribution, pursuant to a qualified domestic relations order or to

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certain family members, if permitted under SEC Rule 16b-3 or any successor rule thereto; and become exercisable in full on November 17, 2004.

The table below shows information concerning Chemed stock options exercised during 2004 and the year-end number and value of unexercised Chemed stock options held by the executive officers named in the Summary Compensation Table.

AGGREGATED CHEMED STOCK OPTION EXERCISES IN 2004 AND YEAR-END STOCK OPTION VALUES

NAME	NUMBER OF SHARES ACQUIRED ON EXERCISE (#)	VALUE REALIZED (\$)	NUMBER OF SECURITIES UNDERLYING UNEXERCISED OPTIONS AT 12/31/04 (#)		VALUE OF UNEXERCISED IN-THE-MONEY OPTIONS AT 12/31/04 (\$)	
			EXERCISABLE	UNEXERCISABLE	EXERCISABLE	UNEXERCISABLE
K. J. McNamara	5,000	\$132,400	151,500	27,500	\$4,439,930	\$859,200
E. L. Hutton	44,077	979,680	97,750	6,250	2,894,780	190,500
T. S. O'Toole	34,500	772,780	116,500	15,000	3,273,350	467,700
S. S. Lee	-0-	-0-	68,000	11,000	2,040,675	343,155
D. P. Williams	-0-	-0-	59,250	7,250	1,695,975	226,230

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LONG TERM INCENTIVE PLAN

The table below shows information concerning LTIP awards granted to the named executives in the Summary Compensation Table during 2004.

LONG-TERM INCENTIVE PLAN - AWARDS IN LAST FISCAL YEAR

	NUMBER OF SHARES OF CAPITAL STOCK (#) (1)	CASH AWARDS (\$) (1)	NUMBER OF RESTRICTED SHARES OF CAPITAL STOCK (#) (2)
	-----	-----	-----
K.J. McNamara	32,346	\$1,000,000	5,200
E.L. Hutton	10,782	333,333	-0-
T.S. O'Toole	11,860	366,667	3,000
S.S. Lee	3,234	100,000	2,000
D.P. Williams	4,852	150,000	2,500

(1) Awarded in February 2004.

(2) Awarded June 22, 2004.

During January 2004, the price of the Company's stock exceeded \$50 per share for more than 10 consecutive trading days, fulfilling one of the performance targets of the 2002 Executive Long-Term Incentive Plan. In February the Compensation/Incentive Committee ("CIC") approved a payout under the LTIP in the aggregate amount of \$7.8 million (\$2.8 million in cash and 84,633 shares of

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Capital Stock).

During June 2004, the CIC approved guidelines covering the establishment of a pool of 125,000 capital shares ("2004 LTIP Pool") to be distributed to eligible members of management upon attainment of the following hurdles during the period January 1, 2004 through December 31, 2007:

- 44,000 shares will be awarded if Chemed's cumulative pro forma adjusted EBITDA (including the results of Vitas beginning on January 1, 2004) reaches \$365 million within the four-year period.
- 44,000 shares will be awarded if Chemed's stock price reaches the following hurdles during any 30 trading days out of any 60 trading day period during the four-year period:
 - 11,000 shares for a stock price of \$70.00
 - an additional 16,500 shares for a stock price of \$77.50
 - an additional 16,500 shares for a stock price of \$85.00
- 22,000 shares represent a retention element, subject to a four-year, time based vesting.
- 15,000 shares may be awarded at the discretion of the CIC.

On June 22, 2004, the CIC awarded 22,000 restricted shares of Capital Stock to key employees of management under the retention component of the 2004 LTIP Pool. These shares vest on December 31, 2007 for all participants still employed by the Company.

EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENTS

The Company has entered into employment agreements with Messrs. McNamara, O'Toole, Lee and Williams. Mr. McNamara's employment agreement provides for his continued employment as President and Chief Executive Officer of the Company through May 3, 2008, subject to earlier termination under certain circumstances, at a base salary of \$417,600 per annum or such higher amount as the Board of Directors may determine, as well as participation in incentive compensation plans, stock incentive plans and other benefit plans. In the event of termination without cause, the agreement provides that for the balance of the term of the agreement, Mr. McNamara will receive severance payments equal to 150 percent of his then-current base salary, the amount of incentive compensation most recently paid or approved in respect of the previous year, and the fair market value of

all stock awards which would have vested during the 12 months prior to termination notwithstanding that such shares vested on an accelerated basis effective January 1, 2002. In addition, such severance payments will be reduced by the amount of any earned income received by Mr. McNamara from any other source for any period such severance payments are payable. Messrs. O'Toole, Lee and Williams have employment agreements which provide for their continued employment as senior executives of the Company through May 3, 2007, May 21, 2006, and May 21, 2006, respectively, and are identical in all material respects to that of Mr. McNamara, except their respective agreements provide for a base salary of \$240,800, \$238,921 and \$171,990 per annum or such higher amounts as the Board of Directors may determine.

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EXECUTIVE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN

Pursuant to the Company's Executive Stock Ownership Plan, during 2004, Messrs. McNamara and E. L. Hutton had the following aggregate amounts of indebtedness outstanding (principal and interest), respectively: Mr. McNamara - \$489,759; Mr. E. L. Hutton - \$390,319. Mr. Hutton repaid his loan in full on March 9, 2004. As of February 15, 2005, the aggregate amount of indebtedness outstanding for Mr. McNamara was \$483,333.

CERTAIN TRANSACTIONS AND RELATED TRANSACTIONS

In connection with the August 2001 sale of the assets of the Company's former subsidiary, Cadre Computer Resources, Inc. ("Cadre"), to a corporation, Cadre Computer Resources Co. ("Cadre Computer"), owned by certain officers and the current employees of Cadre in August 2001, the Company loaned Cadre Computer \$518,000. At December 31, 2004, the aggregate amount of indebtedness outstanding was \$322,993. Messrs. McNamara and E. L. Hutton and Ms. Laney are directors of Cadre Computer. Ms. Laney, who is Chairman and CEO of Cadre Computer, also has a 45% ownership interest in Cadre Computer.

In October 2004, Vitas entered into a pharmacy services agreement ("Agreement") with Omnicare whereby Omnicare will provide specified pharmacy services for Vitas and its hospice patients in geographical areas served by both Vitas and Omnicare. The Agreement has an initial term of three years that renews automatically thereafter for one-year terms. Either party may cancel the Agreement at the end of any term by giving written notice at least 90 days prior to the end of said term. During 2004, Vitas made purchases of \$344,000 from Omnicare under the Agreement.

Mr. E.L. Hutton is non-executive Chairman and a director of the Company and Omnicare. Mr. Gemunder is a director of the Company and President and Chief Executive Officer of Omnicare and Ms. Laney is a director of the Company and Omnicare.

Mr. Walsh is a partner in the New York office of the law firm of Thompson Hine LLP. During 2004 the Dayton, Ohio office of Thompson Hine LLP provided legal services to the Company for which the Company paid \$37,119.

COMPARATIVE STOCK PERFORMANCE

The graph below compares the yearly percentage change in the Company's cumulative total stockholder return on Capital Stock (as measured by dividing (i) the sum of (A) the cumulative amount of dividends for the period December 31, 1999, to December 31, 2004, assuming dividend reinvestment, and (B) the difference between the Company's share price at December 31, 1999, and December 31, 2004; by (ii) the share price at December 31, 1999) with the cumulative total return, assuming reinvestment of dividends, of the (1) S&P 500 Stock Index and (2) Dow Jones Industrial Diversified Index.

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CHEMED CORPORATION CUMULATIVE TOTAL STOCKHOLDER RETURN FOR FIVE-YEAR PERIOD ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2002

[PERFORMANCE GRAPH]

DECEMBER 31...	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
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Chemed Corporation	100.00	118.99	121.59	128.38	169.62	249.10
S&P 500	100.00	90.90	80.09	62.39	80.29	89.03
Dow Jones Industrial Diversified	100.00	100.72	90.55	58.80	79.54	94.79

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SECURITY OWNERSHIP OF CERTAIN
BENEFICIAL OWNERS AND MANAGEMENT

The following table sets forth information as of December 31, 2004, with respect to the only persons who are known to be the beneficial owner of more than 5 percent of Capital Stock:

NAME AND ADDRESS OF BENEFICIAL OWNER	AMOUNT AND NATURE OF BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP	PERCENT OF CLASS (3)
Mario J. Gabelli, Marc J. Gabelli, and various related entities. One Corporate Center Rye, NY 10580	1,549,463 shares (1)	11.3%
Perry Corp. 599 Lexington Avenue New York, NY 10022	1,200,000 shares (2)	8.6%

(1) Sole voting power, 1,549,463 shares; sole dispositive power, 1,549,463 shares.

(2) Sole voting power, 1,200,000 shares; sole dispositive power, 1,200,000 shares.

(3) For purposes of calculating Percent of Class, all shares subject to stock options which were exercisable within 60 days of December 31, 2004, were assumed to have been issued.

The following table sets forth information as of December 31, 2004, with respect to Capital Stock beneficially owned by all nominees and directors of the Company, the executive officers named in the Summary Compensation Table and the Company's directors and executive officers as a group:

NAME	AMOUNT AND NATURE OF BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP (1)	PERCENT OF CLASS (2)
Edward L. Hutton	32,154 Direct 97,750 Option 11,081 Trustee	
Kevin J. McNamara	73,796 Direct 151,500 Option Trustee (3)	1.1%

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Donald Breen, Jr.	2,000	Direct
Charles H. Erhart, Jr.	10,000	Direct
Joel F. Gemunder	5,538	Direct
	3,476	Trustee
Patrick P. Grace	1,100	Direct

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NAME	AMOUNT AND NATURE OF BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP (1)	PERCENT OF CLASS (2)
Thomas C. Hutton	40,276 Direct 39,000 Option 11,581 Trustee (3)	
Walter L. Krebs	5,022 Direct	
Sandra E. Laney	53,624 Direct 56,100 Option 11,081 Trustee (3)	
Spencer S. Lee	12,832 Direct 68,000 Option	
Timothy S. O'Toole	26,147 Direct 116,500 Option	
Donald E. Saunders	2,251 Direct	
George J. Walsh III	2,525 Direct	
David P. Williams	20,829 Direct 59,250 Option	
Frank E. Wood	200 Direct	
Directors and Executive Officers as a Group (16 persons)	298,620 Direct 656,600 Option 75,795 Trustee (4)	2.2% 4.7%

FOOTNOTES TO STOCK OWNERSHIP TABLE

(1) Includes securities beneficially owned (a) by the named persons or group members, their spouses and their minor children (including shares of Capital Stock allocated as of December 31, 2004, to the account of each named person or member of the group under the Company's Retirement Plan and under the Company's ESOP or, with respect to Mr. Gemunder, allocated to his account as of December 31, 2004, under the Omnicare Employees Savings and Investment Plan), (b) by trusts and custodianships for their benefit and (c) by trusts and other entities as to which the named person or group has or shares the power to direct voting or investment of securities. "Direct" refers to securities in categories (a) and (b) and "Trustee" to securities in category (c). Where securities would fall into

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both "Direct" and "Trustee" classifications, they are included under "Trustee" only. "Option" refers to shares which the named person or group has a right to acquire within 60 days from December 31, 2004. For purposes of determining the Percent of Class, all shares subject to stock options which were exercisable within 60 days from December 31, 2004, were assumed to have been issued.

- (2) Percent of Class under 1.0 percent is not shown.
- (3) Messrs. T. C. Hutton and McNamara and Ms. Laney are trustees of the Chemed Foundation which holds 60,738 shares of Capital Stock over which the trustees share both voting and investment power. This number is included in the total number of "Trustee" shares held by the Directors and Executive Officers as a Group but is not reflected in the respective holdings of the individual trustees.
- (4) Shares over which more than one individual holds beneficial ownership have been counted only once in calculating the aggregate number of shares owned by Directors and Executive Officers as a Group.

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SECTION 16(a) BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP REPORTING COMPLIANCE

Pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and the regulations thereunder, the Company's executive officers and directors and persons who own more than 10 percent of Capital Stock are required to file reports with respect to their ownership and changes in ownership of Capital Stock with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC"). In addition, such persons are required to forward copies of such reports to the Company. Based on a review of the copies of such reports furnished to the Company and on the written representation of such non-reporting persons that, with respect to 2004, no reports on Form 5 were required to be filed with the SEC, the Company believes that, during the period January 1, 2004, through December 31, 2004, except for Mr. O'Toole, Mr. Williams, and Mr. E. L. Hutton the Company's executive officers and directors and greater-than-10-percent stockholders have complied with all Section 16(a) reporting requirements. Mr. O'Toole and Mr. E. L. Hutton filed Form 4s to correct the information on previous Form 4s and Mr. Williams filed Form 4s to correct calculation errors on previously filed Form 4s.

RATIFICATION OF SELECTION OF INDEPENDENT PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

The Audit Committee has selected the firm of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP as independent accountants for the Company and its consolidated subsidiaries for the year 2005. This firm has acted as independent accountants for the Company and its consolidated subsidiaries since 1970. Although the submission of this matter to the stockholders is not required by law or by the By-Laws of the Company, the selection of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP will be submitted for ratification at the Annual Meeting. The affirmative vote of the majority of the shares represented at the meeting, with abstentions having the effect of negative votes, will be necessary to ratify the selection of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP as independent accountants for the Company and its consolidated subsidiaries for the year 2005. If the selection is not ratified at the meeting, the Audit Committee will reconsider its selection of independent accountants.

AUDIT COMMITTEE REPORT

The Audit Committee is appointed by the Board of Directors of the Company to assist the Board in monitoring:

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- The integrity of the Company's financial statements.
- Compliance by the Company with legal and regulatory requirements.
- The independence and performance of the Company's internal and external auditors.

During 2000, the Audit Committee developed a charter for the Committee, which was approved by the full Board of Directors on May 15, 2000. The charter was amended on March 11, 2005. A copy of the charter, as amended, is attached hereto as Exhibit A and a copy is available on the Company's Web site, www.chemed.com.

The Company's management has primary responsibility for preparing the Company's financial statements and for the Company's financial reporting process. The Company's independent accountants, PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, are responsible for expressing an opinion on the conformity of the Company's audited financial statements to generally accepted accounting principles.

In this context, the Audit Committee hereby reports as follows:

1. The Audit Committee has reviewed and discussed the audited financial statements with the Company's management.
2. The Audit Committee has discussed with the independent accountants the matters required to be discussed by SAS 61 (Codification of Statements on Auditing Standard, AU 380).
3. The Audit Committee has received the written disclosures and the letter from the independent accountants required by Independence Standards Board Standard No. 1 (Independence Standards Board Standard No. 1, Independence Discussions with Audit Committees) and has discussed with the independent accountants the independent accountants' independence.

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4. Based on the review and discussion referred to in paragraphs (1) through (3) above, the Audit Committee recommended to the Board of Directors of the Company that the audited financial statements be included in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2004, for filing with the SEC.

Each of the members of the Audit Committee is independent as defined under the listing standards of the New York Stock Exchange.

The undersigned members of the Audit Committee have submitted this Report.

Donald E. Saunders, Chairman
Charles H. Erhart, Jr.
Patrick P. Grace

FEES PAID TO INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS

AUDIT FEES

PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP billed the company \$614,000 and \$1,189,000 in 2003 and 2004, respectively. These fees were for professional services rendered for the integrated audit of the Company's annual financial statements and of its internal control over financial reporting, review of the financial statements

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included in the Company's Forms 10-Q and review of documents filed with the SEC.

AUDIT-RELATED FEES

PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP billed the company \$122,400 and \$1,446,000 in 2003 and 2004, respectively for audit-related services. In 2003, these fees related primarily to the audit of the Company's employee benefit plans. In 2004, \$1,115,000 of these fees related to audits of significant subsidiaries of the Company for years 2001, 2002, and 2003 financial statements for the purpose of registering the Company's floating rate notes, \$205,000 for review of the Private Placement Memorandum related to the acquisition of VITAS, \$59,000 for consultation concerning financial accounting and reporting standards and the remaining \$67,000 was related primarily to the audit of the Company's employee benefit plans.

TAX FEES

No such services were rendered during 2003 or 2004.

ALL OTHER FEES

PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP billed the Company \$2,200 and \$2,300, respectively, in aggregate fees for services rendered other than the services described above, for the years 2003 and 2004.

The Audit Committee has adopted a policy which requires the Committee's pre-approval of audit and non-audit services performed by the independent auditor to assure that the provision of such services does not impair the auditor's independence. The Audit Committee pre-approved all of the audit and non-audit services rendered by PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP as listed above.

STOCKHOLDER PROPOSALS

Any proposals by stockholders intended to be included in the proxy materials for presentation at the 2006 Annual Meeting of Stockholders must be in writing and received by the Secretary of the Company no later than December 11, 2005. Any proposals by stockholders intended to be presented at the 2005 Annual Meeting of Stockholders outside of the Company's proxy solicitation process shall be considered untimely if notice of such a proposal was not given to the Secretary of the Company by February 16, 2005. In the case of timely notice, persons named in the proxies solicited by the Company for that meeting (or their substitutes) will be allowed to use their discretionary voting authority when the proposal is raised at the meeting without any discussion of the proposal in the Company's proxy statement for that meeting.

ADDITIONAL COPIES OF ANNUAL REPORT AND PROXY STATEMENT

If you are a stockholder of record and share an address with another stockholder and have received only one annual report or proxy statement, you may write or call the Company to request a separate copy of these materials at no cost to you. You may write to the Company at 2600 Chemed Center, Cincinnati, Ohio 45202-4726, Attn: Investor Relations, or call 1-800-2CHEMED or 1-800-224-3633.

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OTHER MATTERS

As of the date of this Proxy Statement, the management has not been notified of any stockholder proposals intended to be raised at the 2005 Annual

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Meeting outside of the Company's proxy solicitation process nor does management know of any other matters which will be presented for consideration at the Annual Meeting. However, if any other stockholder proposals or other business should come before the meeting, the persons named in the enclosed proxy (or their substitutes) will have discretionary authority to take such action as shall be in accordance with their best judgment.

EXPENSES OF SOLICITATION

The expense of soliciting proxies in the accompanying form will be borne by the Company. The Company will request banks, brokers and other persons holding shares beneficially owned by others to send proxy materials to the beneficial owners and to secure their voting instructions, if any. The Company will reimburse such persons or institutions for their expenses in so doing. In addition to solicitation by mail, officers and regular employees of the Company may, without extra remuneration, solicit proxies personally, by telephone or email from some stockholders if such proxies are not promptly received. The Company has also retained D. F. King & Co., Inc., a proxy soliciting firm, to assist in the solicitation of such proxies at a cost which is not expected to exceed \$7,500 plus reasonable expenses. This Proxy Statement and the accompanying Notice of Meeting are sent by order of the Board of Directors.

Naomi C. Dallob
Secretary

April 11, 2005

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EXHIBIT A

CHEMED CORPORATION AUDIT COMMITTEE CHARTER

The Audit Committee is appointed by the Board to assist the Board in monitoring (1) the integrity of the financial statements of the Company, (2) the compliance by the Company with legal and regulatory requirements, and (3) the independence and performance of the Company's internal and external auditors.

The members of the Audit Committee shall be appointed by the Board and shall consist of at least three members of the Board who meet the independence and experience requirements of the New York Stock Exchange. Accordingly, all of the members will be directors:

1. Who have no relationship to the Company that may interfere with the exercise of their independence from management and the Company,
2. Who receive no compensation from the Company other than directors' fees, and
3. Who are financially literate or who become financially literate within a reasonable period of time after appointment to the Audit Committee. In addition, at least one member of the Audit Committee will have accounting or related financial management expertise.

The Audit Committee shall meet, whether in person or telephonically, at least four times each year. The Audit Committee shall make regular reports to the Board.

The Audit Committee shall:

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1. Review and assess the adequacy of this Charter annually and recommend any proposed changes to the Board for approval.
2. Review the annual audited financial statements with management and the independent auditor prior to the filing by the Company of its annual report on Form 10-K, including significant financial reporting matters related thereto.
3. Review with management and the independent auditor the Company's quarterly financial statements prior to the filing by the Company of its reports on Form 10-Q, or where practicable, prior to the first public release of quarterly earnings.
4. Assist Board oversight of the integrity of the Company's financial statements.
5. Discuss earnings press releases, as well as financial information and earnings guidance provided by the Company to analysts and ratings agencies.
6. Review with management the Company's major financial risk exposures and the steps management has taken to monitor and control such exposures.
7. Review significant issues with respect to the Company's accounting principles and practices as

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suggested by the independent auditor, internal auditors or management.

8. Review with the independent auditor any audit problems or difficulties and management's response to them.
9. Set clear hiring policies for employees or former employees of the independent auditor.
10. Exercise sole authority in the appointment, oversight and retention of the independent auditor, which firm is ultimately accountable to the Audit Committee and the Board.
11. Exercise sole authority to approve the fees to be paid to the independent auditor.
12. Approve any significant non-audit relationship with the independent auditor.
13. Receive periodic reports no less frequently than annually from the independent auditor regarding all relationships between the independent auditor and the Company, and the auditor's independence, discuss such reports with the auditor, and if so determined by the Audit Committee, recommend that the Board take appropriate action to satisfy itself to the independence of the auditor.
14. Obtain and review, at least annually, a report by the independent auditor describing: its internal quality control procedures; any material issues raised by (i) the most recent quality control review, (ii) peer review of the firm, or (iii) any inquiry or investigation by governmental or professional authorities within the

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preceding five years concerning any independent audits by the firm, and any steps taken to address such issues; and all relationships between the independent auditor and the Company.

15. Evaluate and discuss with the Board the performance and independence of the independent auditor and, if so determined in the Audit Committee's sole authority, replace the independent auditor.
16. Meet with the independent auditor prior to the annual audit to review the planning and scope of the audit. Exercise sole authority to approve the terms of the audit engagement.
17. Discuss with the independent auditor the matters required to be discussed by Statement on Auditing Standards No. 61, as amended, relating to the conduct of the annual audit and quarterly reviews.
18. Assist Board oversight of the internal audit department responsibilities, performance, and the adequacy of its resources to carry out its responsibilities.
19. Review the appointment and replacement of the internal auditor.
20. Prepare the report required by the rules of the Securities and Exchange Commission to be included in the Company's annual proxy statement.
21. Assist Board oversight of, and review with the Company's counsel, legal matters that may have a material impact on the financial statements and any material reports or inquiries received from

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regulators or governmental agencies.

22. Meet with management, the internal auditor, and the independent auditor in separate executive sessions to discuss any matters that the Audit Committee or those persons believe should be discussed.
23. Review and approve the expense reports of the Company's principal executive officer.
24. Obtain advice, as it deems appropriate, from outside legal, accounting and other advisors.
25. Establish procedures for the receipt, retention and treatment of complaints received by the Company regarding accounting, internal accounting controls, or auditing matters; and for the confidential, anonymous submission by employees of such concerns.

The foregoing shall be the common recurring activities of the Audit Committee in carrying out its functions. These functions are set forth as a guide with the understanding that the Audit Committee may diverge from this guide as appropriate given the circumstances.

The Committee shall annually conduct an evaluation of its performance.

The Company shall provide appropriate funding, as determined by the Committee, for payment to any registered public accounting firm performing audit, review, or attest services; to outside advisors retained by the Committee; and of ordinary administrative expenses of the Committee.

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While the Audit Committee has the responsibilities and powers set forth in this Charter, it is not the duty of the Audit Committee to plan or conduct audits or to determine that the Company's financial statements are complete and accurate and are in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. This is the responsibility of management and the independent auditor.

Consequently, in carrying out its responsibilities, the Audit Committee is not providing any expert or special assurance as to the Company's financial statements or any professional certification as to the independent auditor's work.

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(CHEMED LOGO)

CHEMED CORPORATION
STOCKHOLDER'S PROXY AND
CONFIDENTIAL ESOP AND SAVINGS & RETIREMENT PLAN VOTING INSTRUCTION CARD
ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS, MAY 16, 2005

The undersigned hereby appoints E. L. Hutton, K. J. McNamara and N. C. Dallob as Proxies, each with the power to appoint a substitute, and hereby authorizes them to represent and to vote, as designated on the reverse side, all the shares of capital stock of Chemed Corporation held of record by the undersigned on March 31, 2005, at the Annual Meeting of Stockholders to be held on May 16, 2005, or at any adjournment thereof.

This proxy also provides confidential voting instructions for shares of Chemed Corporation Capital Stock held by The Fifth Third Bank, Trustee of the Chemed Corporation Employee Stock Ownership Plan I (ESOP), for the benefit of the undersigned and directs such Trustee to vote as designated on the reverse side of this card. The Trustee will vote all unallocated shares in the same proportion the allocated shares have been voted and will vote allocated shares for which no voting instructions have been received in the same proportion as total voted allocated shares.

This proxy also provides confidential voting instructions for shares of Chemed Corporation Capital Stock held by Merrill Lynch Trust Company, Trustee of the Chemed/Roto-Rooter Savings & Retirement Plan (Plan), for the benefit of the undersigned and directs such Trustee to vote as designated on the reverse side of this card. The Trustee will vote all non-vested shares in the same proportion the vested shares have been voted. Additionally, any vested shares for which no voting instructions have been received will be voted in the same proportion as total voted vested shares.

This proxy/confidential ESOP and Plan voting instruction card is solicited jointly by the Board of Directors of Chemed Corporation and the Trustees of the ESOP and Plan, pursuant to a separate Notice of Annual Meeting and Proxy Statement, receipt of which is hereby acknowledged.

The Company's proxy tabulator, Wells Fargo Bank, N. A., will report separately to the Company and to each Trustee as to proxies received and voting instructions provided. Individual ESOP and Plan voting instructions will be kept confidential by the proxy tabulator and not provided to the Company.

PLEASE MARK, SIGN, DATE AND RETURN THIS CARD PROMPTLY
USING THE ENCLOSED ENVELOPE, OR VOTE BY TELEPHONE OR INTERNET.

(continued and to be signed on reverse side)

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COMPANY #

THERE ARE THREE WAYS TO VOTE:

VOTE BY PHONE -- TOLL FREE -- 1-800-560-1965

- Use any touch-tone telephone to vote 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, until 11:59 p.m., Eastern Daylight Time, on Wednesday, May 11, 2005.
- Have your proxy/confidential ESOP and Plan voting instruction card and the last 4 digits of the U. S. Social Security Number (SSN) or Taxpayer Identifying Number (TIN) for this account. Follow the simple instructions the voice prompts provide you.

VOTE BY INTERNET -- HTTP://WWW.EPROXY.COM/CHE/

- Use the Internet to vote your proxy 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, until 11:59 p.m., Eastern Daylight Time, on Wednesday, May 11, 2005.
- Have your proxy/confidential ESOP and Plan voting instruction card and the last 4 digits of the U. S. Social Security Number (SSN) or Taxpayer Identifying Number (TIN) for this account. Follow the simple instructions to obtain your records and create an electronic ballot.

YOUR TELEPHONE OR INTERNET VOTE AUTHORIZES THE NAMED PROXIES, ESOP TRUSTEE AND/OR PLAN TRUSTEE TO VOTE YOUR SHARES IN THE SAME MANNER AS IF YOU MARKED, SIGNED AND RETURNED YOUR PROXY/CONFIDENTIAL ESOP AND PLAN VOTING INSTRUCTION CARD.

VOTE BY MAIL

Mark, sign and date your proxy/confidential ESOP and Plan voting instruction card and return it in the postage-paid envelope provided or return it to Shareowner Services(SM), P. O. Box 64873, St. Paul, MN 55164-0873.

NOTICE TO ESOP AND PLAN PARTICIPANTS: YOUR VOTING INSTRUCTIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY WELLS FARGO BANK BY 11:59 P.M., EASTERN DAYLIGHT TIME, WEDNESDAY, MAY 11, 2005, IN ORDER TO ENSURE THAT YOUR VOTE IS COUNTED.

IF YOU VOTE BY PHONE OR INTERNET, PLEASE DO NOT MAIL YOUR CARD.

- Please detach here -

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS RECOMMENDS A VOTE FOR THE FOLLOWING PROPOSALS:

1.Election of Directors (mark ONLY ONE box):

- | | | |
|---------------------------|--|---|
| 01 Edward L. Hutton | 05 Joel F. Gemunder | 09 Sandra E. Laney |
| 02 Kevin J. McNamara | 06 Patrick P. Grace | 10 Timothy S. O'Toole |
| 03 Donald Breen, Jr. | 07 Thomas C. Hutton | 11 Donald E. Saunders |
| 04 Charles H. Erhart, Jr. | 08 Walter L. Krebs | 12 George J. Walsh III |
| 13 Frank E. Wood | [] FOR all
nominees
listed unless
indicated below. | [] WITHHOLD ALL
VOTING
AUTHORITY for
directors. |

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INSTRUCTIONS: TO WITHHOLD AUTHORITY TO VOTE FOR ANY INDIVIDUAL NOMINEE(S), WRITE THE NUMBER(S) OF THE NOMINEE(S) IN THE BOX AT RIGHT.

2. To ratify the selection of independent accountants by the Audit Committee of the Board of Directors.

For Against Abstain

In their discretion, the Proxies are authorized to vote upon such other business as may properly come before the meeting.

IF NO CHOICE IS SPECIFIED, THIS PROXY/CONFIDENTIAL ESOP AND PLAN VOTING INSTRUCTION CARD WILL BE VOTED FOR PROPOSALS 1 AND 2.

Address Change? Mark Box Indicate changes below:

Dated _____, 2005

Signature(s) in Box

NOTE: Please sign as name appears. Joint owners should each sign. When signed on behalf of a corporation, partnership, estate, trust or other stockholder, state how you are authorized to sign.