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CALGON CARBON CORPORATION  
Form 8-A12B  
January 28, 2005

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

FORM 8-A

FOR REGISTRATION OF CERTAIN CLASSES OF SECURITIES  
PURSUANT TO SECTION 12(b) OR 12(g) OF THE  
SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

CALGON CARBON CORPORATION  
(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware  
(State of Incorporation or organization)

25-0530110  
(I.R.S. Employer  
Identification No.)

P.O. Box 717, Pittsburgh, PA  
(Address of principal executive offices)

15230-0717  
(zip code)

If this form relates to the registration of a class of securities pursuant to Section 12(b) of the Exchange Act and is effective pursuant to General Instruction A.(c), check the following box. ( X )

If this form relates to the registration of a class of securities pursuant to Section 12(g) of the Exchange Act and is effective pursuant to General Instruction A.(d), check the following box. ( )

Securities Act registration statement file number to which this form relates: N/A

(If applicable)

Securities to be registered pursuant to Section 12(b) of the Act:

Title of Each Class  
to be so Registered

Name of Each Exchange on Which  
Each Class is to be Registered

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Rights to Purchase Series A Junior  
Participating Preferred Stock (pursuant to  
Rights Agreement dated as of January 27,  
2005)

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New York Stock Exchange

Securities to be registered pursuant to Section 12(g) of the Act:

None

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(Title of Class)

Item 1. Description of Securities To Be Registered.

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In connection with the expiration of the Rights Agreement by and between Calgon Carbon Corporation (the "Company") and Equiserve Trust Company, N.A. (as successor to First Chicago Trust Company of New York), dated as of February 3, 1995, as amended (the "Expiring Rights Agreement"), and the February 3, 2005 expiration of the associated Rights (as defined therein) issued thereunder, on January 27, 2005, the Board of Directors of the Company approved the execution of a new Rights Agreement (the "New Rights Agreement"), between the Company and StockTrans, Inc., as Rights Agent (the "Rights Agent").

In connection with the implementation of the New Rights Agreement, on January 27, 2005, the Board of Directors of the Company declared a dividend distribution of one Right for each outstanding share of common stock, par value \$.01 per share, of the Company ("Common Stock"). The distribution is payable to the stockholders of record at the close of business on February 3, 2005, and is effective simultaneous with the expiration of the Rights granted under the Expiring Rights Agreement. Each newly issued Right will entitle the registered holder to purchase from the Company one ten-thousandth of a share of a series of the Company's preferred stock designated as Series A Junior Participating Preferred Stock ("Preferred Stock") at a price of \$35.00 per one ten-thousandth of a share (the "Purchase Price"), subject to adjustment. The description and terms of the Rights are set forth in the New Rights Agreement, a copy of which is attached hereto as Exhibit 1.

Initially, the Rights will be attached to all Common Stock certificates representing shares then outstanding, and no separate Rights Certificates will be distributed. Subject to certain exceptions specified in the New Rights Agreement, the Rights will separate from the Common Stock and a Distribution Date will occur upon the earlier of (i) 10 business days following a public announcement that a person or group of affiliated or associated persons (an "Acquiring Person") has acquired beneficial ownership of 10% or more of the outstanding shares of Common Stock (15% or more, in the case of certain institutional investors, as described below) or (ii) 10 business days (or such later date as the Board shall determine) following the commencement of a tender offer or exchange offer that would result in a person or group becoming an Acquiring Person. Notwithstanding the foregoing, a person will not be deemed to be an Acquiring Person if, among other things: (a) such person acquires beneficial ownership of in excess of 10% of the outstanding Common Stock as a result of repurchases of Common Stock by the Company, provided such person does not subsequently acquire any additional shares of Common Stock, (b) such person beneficially owns more than 10% of the outstanding Common Stock, but not more than 15% of the outstanding Common Stock, and reports such beneficial ownership on Schedule 13G or (c) such person was a holder of 10% or more of the outstanding shares of Common Stock as of December 27, 2004, provided such person does not subsequently acquire beneficial ownership of additional shares representing 1% or more of the outstanding Common Stock, other than through inadvertence or under certain other circumstances.

Until the Distribution Date, (i) the Rights will be evidenced by the Common Stock certificates and will be transferred with and only with such Common Stock certificates, (ii) new Common Stock certificates issued after the Record Date will contain a notation incorporating the New Rights Agreement by reference and (iii) the surrender for transfer of any certificates for Common Stock outstanding will also constitute the transfer of the Rights associated with the Common Stock represented by such certificate. Pursuant to the New Rights Agreement, the Company reserves the right to require prior to the occurrence of a Triggering Event (as defined below) that, upon any exercise of Rights, a number of Rights be exercised so that only

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whole shares of Preferred Stock will be issued.

The Rights are not exercisable until the Distribution Date and will expire at 5:00 P.M. (New York City time) on February 3, 2015 (the "Expiration Date"), unless such date is extended or the Rights are earlier redeemed or exchanged by the Company as described below.

As soon as practicable after the Distribution Date, Rights Certificates will be mailed to holders of record of the Common Stock as of the close of business on the Distribution Date and, thereafter, the separate Rights Certificates alone will represent the Rights. Except as otherwise determined by the Board of Directors, only shares of Common Stock issued prior to the Distribution Date will be issued with Rights.

In the event that a Person becomes an Acquiring Person, each holder of a Right will thereafter have the right to receive, upon exercise, Common Stock (or, in certain circumstances, cash, property or other securities of the Company) having a value equal to two times the exercise price of the Right. Notwithstanding any of the foregoing, following the occurrence of the event set forth in this paragraph, all Rights that are, or (under certain circumstances specified in the New Rights Agreement) were, beneficially owned by any Acquiring Person will be null and void. However, Rights are not exercisable following the occurrence of any of the events set forth above until such time as the Rights are no longer redeemable by the Company as set forth below.

For example, at an exercise price of \$35.00 per Right, each Right not owned by an Acquiring Person (or by certain related parties) following any one of the events set forth in the preceding paragraph would entitle its holder to purchase \$70.00 worth of Common Stock (or other consideration, as noted above) for \$35.00. Assuming that the Common Stock had a per share value of \$10.00 at such time, the holder of each valid Right would be entitled to purchase 7 shares of Common Stock for \$35.00.

In the event that, at any time following the date on which a person or group becomes an Acquiring Person (the "Stock Acquisition Date"), (i) the Company engages in a merger or other business combination transaction in which the Company is not the surviving corporation, (ii) the Company engages in a merger or other business combination transaction in which the Company is the surviving corporation and the Common Stock of the Company is changed or exchanged, or (iii) 50% or more of the Company's assets, cash flow or earning power is sold or transferred, each holder of a Right (except Rights which have previously been voided as set forth above) shall thereafter have the right to receive, upon exercise, common stock of the acquiring company having a value equal to two times the exercise price of the Right. The events set forth in this paragraph and in the second preceding paragraph are referred to as the "Triggering Events."

Up to and including the tenth business day after a Stock Acquisition Date, the Company may redeem the Rights in whole, but not in part, at a price of \$0.001 per Right, rounded to the nearest \$0.01, but not less than \$0.01. Promptly upon the action of the Board of Directors of the Company electing to redeem the Rights, the Rights will terminate and the only right of the holders of Rights will be to receive the \$0.001 Redemption Price.

If at any time that the Rights become exercisable for Common Stock, the Company has insufficient authorized but unissued Common Stock to permit the issuance of all of the shares of Common Stock the holders of the Rights would be entitled to purchase, the Board may provide the holders of the Rights (other than the Acquiring Person) with cash, other equity securities or debt securities, take action to reduce the Purchase Price of the Rights or do any combination of the foregoing to ensure that holders of the Rights receive

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the intended benefits of the Rights.

At any time after a person becomes an Acquiring Person and prior to the acquisition by such person or group of fifty percent (50%) or more of the outstanding Common Stock, the Board may exchange the Rights (other than Rights owned by such person or group which have become null and void), in whole or in part, for Common Stock at an exchange ratio of one share of Common Stock, or one ten-thousandth of a share of Preferred Stock (or of a share of a class or series of the Company's preferred stock having equivalent rights, preferences and privileges), per Right (subject to adjustment).

Until a Right is exercised, the holder thereof, as such, will have no rights as a stockholder of the Company, including, without limitation, the right to vote or to receive dividends. While the distribution of the Rights will not be taxable to stockholders or to the Company, stockholders may, depending upon the circumstances, recognize taxable income in the event that the Rights become exercisable for Common Stock (or other consideration) of the Company or for common stock of the acquiring company or in the event of the redemption of the Rights as set forth above.

Any of the provisions of the New Rights Agreement may be amended by the Board of Directors of the Company prior to the Distribution Date. After the Distribution Date, the provisions of the New Rights Agreement may be amended by the Board in order to cure any ambiguity, to make changes which do not adversely affect the interests of holders of Rights, or to shorten or lengthen any time period under the New Rights Agreement. The foregoing notwithstanding, no amendment may be made to the New Rights Agreement at such time as the Rights are not redeemable, except to cure any ambiguity or correct or supplement any provision contained in the New Rights Agreement which may be defective or inconsistent with any other provision therein.

The holder of each share of Common Stock of the Company outstanding at the close of business on February 3, 2005 will receive one Right. So long as the Rights are attached to the Common Stock, one additional Right (as such number may be adjusted pursuant to the provisions of the New Rights Agreement) shall be deemed to be delivered for each share of Common Stock issued or transferred by the Company in the future. In addition, following the Distribution Date and prior to the expiration or redemption of the Rights, the Company may issue Rights when it issues Common Stock only if the Board deems it to be necessary or appropriate, or in connection with the issuance of shares of Common Stock pursuant to the exercise of stock options or under employee plans or upon the exercise, conversion or exchange of certain securities of the Company. 100,000 shares of Preferred Stock are initially reserved for issuance upon exercise of the Rights.

The Rights may have certain anti-takeover effects. The Rights may cause substantial dilution to a person or group that attempts to acquire the Company in a manner which causes the Rights to become exercisable. The Rights, however, should not affect any prospective offeror willing to make an offer at a price that is fair and otherwise in the best interest of the Company and its stockholders. The Rights should not interfere with any merger or other business combination approved by the Board since the Board may, at its option, at any time until ten business days following the Stock Acquisition Date redeem the then outstanding Rights at the Redemption Price or take other action to exempt such a transaction under the New Rights Agreement.

The New Rights Agreement, dated as of January 27, 2005, between the Company and StockTrans, Inc. as Rights Agent, specifying the terms of the Rights is attached hereto as an exhibit and is incorporated herein by reference. The foregoing description of the Rights is qualified in its entirety by reference to such exhibit.

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Item 2. Exhibits.  
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1. Rights Agreement, dated as of January 27, 2005, by and between the registrant and StockTrans, Inc., including the Form of Rights Certificate attached as Exhibit B thereto and the Summary of Rights to Purchase Preferred Stock attached as Exhibit C thereto (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.1 to the Current Report on Form 8-K filed by the registrant with the Securities and Exchange Commission on January 28, 2005).

SIGNATURE

Pursuant to the requirements of Section 12 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the Registrant has duly caused this registration statement to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized.

Date: January 28, 2005

CALGON CARBON CORPORATION

By: /s/ Michael J. Mocniak  
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Michael J. Mocniak  
Senior Vice President, General  
Counsel and Secretary

EXHIBIT INDEX  
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