

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

**FORM 8-K**

**CURRENT REPORT**

**Pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of  
the Securities Exchange Act of 1934**

Date of Report (Date of earliest event reported): **December 17, 2004**

**CLECO CORPORATION**

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

**Louisiana**  
(State or other jurisdiction  
of incorporation)

**1-15759**  
(Commission File Number)

**72-1445282**  
(IRS Employer  
Identification No.)

**2030 Donahue Ferry Road**  
**Pineville, Louisiana**  
(Address of principal executive offices)

**71360-5226**  
(Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: **(318) 484-7400**

Check the appropriate box below if the Form 8-K filing is intended to simultaneously satisfy the filing obligation of the registrant under any of the following provisions:

- Written communications pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act (17 CFR 230.425)
- Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14a-12)
- Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d-2(b) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14d-2(b))
- Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13e-4(c) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.13e-4(c))

**Item 8.01 Other Events**

On December 20, 2004, Cleco Corporation (the “Company”) issued a press release announcing that David M. Eppler, its President and Chief Executive Officer, has advised the Company’s board of directors that he intends to retire in June 2005 or later in the year if necessary to facilitate an orderly management transition. A copy of the press release is furnished with this report as Exhibit 99.1.

**Item 9.01 Financial Statements and Exhibits.**

(c) Exhibits.

The following exhibit is furnished herewith:

99.1 Press Release issued December 20, 2004 announcing Mr. Eppler’s decision to retire in 2005.

## SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned thereunto duly authorized.

CLECO CORPORATION

Date: December 20, 2004

By: /s/ Kathleen F. Nolen  
Kathleen F. Nolen  
Treasurer

## **EXHIBIT INDEX**

<b><u>Exhibit Number</u></b>	<b><u>Exhibit Description</u></b>
99.1	Press Release issued December 20, 2004 announcing Mr. Eppler's decision to retire in 2005.