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SPIRE CORP
Form 8-K
January 07, 2004

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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 31, 2003

Commission File Number: 0-12742

SPIRE CORPORATION

(Exact name of Registrant as specified in charter)

MASSACHUSETTS

(State or other jurisdiction
of incorporation)

04-2457335

(I.R.S. Employer
Identification Number)

ONE PATRIOTS PARK
BEDFORD, MASSACHUSETTS 01730-2396

(Address of principal executive offices)

781-275-6000

(Registrant's telephone number)

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ITEM 4. CHANGES IN REGISTRANT'S CERTIFYING ACCOUNTANT.

On December 31, 2003, Spire Corporation (the "Company") dismissed KPMG LLP ("KPMG") as its principal independent accountant. However, KPMG will complete the audit of the balance sheets of Bandwidth Semiconductor, LLC (acquired by the Company on May 23, 2003) as of December 31, 2002 and 2001, and the related statements of operations, stockholders' equity, and cash flows for the years ended December 31, 2002 and 2001, all of which are to be included in a Current Report on Form 8-K/A. The decision to change principal independent

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accountants was approved by the Company's Audit Committee. The Company is arranging for the engagement of a principal independent accountant to replace KPMG. A Current Report on Form 8-K will be filed reporting the engagement of the new principal independent accountant.

KPMG's report on the financial statements of the Company for each of the years ended December 31, 2002 and 2001 did not contain an adverse opinion or a disclaimer of opinion and were not modified as to uncertainty, audit scope or accounting principles.

During the Company's two most recent fiscal years ended December 31, 2002 and the subsequent interim period through December 31, 2003, there were no disagreements with KPMG on any matter of accounting principles or practices, financial statement disclosure, or auditing scope or procedure, which disagreements, if not resolved to KPMG's satisfaction, would have caused KPMG to make reference to the subject matter of the disagreement(s) in connection with its reports on the Company's financial statements.

During the Company's two most recent fiscal years ended December 31, 2002 and the subsequent interim period through December 31, 2003, there were no reportable events (as described in Item 304(a)(1)(iv)(B) of Regulation S-B), except as follows:

(i) In connection with its audit of the Company's financial statements for the period ended December 31, 2002, KPMG advised the Audit Committee by a letter dated April 30, 2003 that it noted certain matters involving internal control and its operation that it considered to be reportable conditions under standards established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (the "AICPA"). Reportable conditions are matters coming to an independent auditors' attention that, in their judgment, relate to significant deficiencies in the design or operation of internal control and could adversely affect the organization's ability to record, process, summarize, and report financial data consistent with the assertions of management in the financial statements. KPMG advised the Audit Committee that it considered the following to constitute a reportable condition: During 2002, the Company did not follow its accounting policy on revenue recognition for its business to install solar electric systems (its solar systems division). KPMG advised the audit committee that this condition was considered in determining the nature, timing and extent of the audit tests applied in its audit of the Company's 2002 financial statements, and that the condition did not affect KPMG's report dated March 20, 2003 with respect to these financial statements.

(ii) In connection with its review of the Company's Form 10-QSB for the quarter ended June 30, 2003, KPMG advised the Audit Committee and management by a letter dated December 24, 2003 that it noted certain matters involving internal control and its operation that it considered to be material weaknesses that constituted reportable conditions under standards established by the AICPA. Under those standards, a material weakness is a reportable condition in which the design or operation of one or more internal control components does not reduce to a relatively low level the risk that errors or fraud in amounts that would be material in relation to the financial statements being audited may occur and not be detected within a timely period by employees in the normal

course of performing their assigned functions. KPMG advised management and the Audit Committee that it considered the following to constitute material weaknesses in internal control and operations: the Company's

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failure to adequately staff its finance group with the appropriate level of experience to effectively control the increased level of transaction activity, address the complex accounting matters and manage the increased financial reporting complexities resulting from, among other things, the acquisition of Bandwidth and the implementation of a new financial reporting system.

The Company is currently assessing the findings of KPMG set forth in its letter dated December 24, 2003. However, the Company has made and is continuing to make changes in its controls and procedures, including its internal control over financial reporting, aimed at enhancing their effectiveness and ensuring that the Company's systems evolve with, and meet the needs of, the Company's business. The Company is also continually striving to improve its management and operational efficiency and the Company expects that its efforts in that regard will from time to time directly or indirectly affect the Company's controls and procedures, including its internal control over financial reporting. For example, as a result of the recent resignation of the Company's Chief Financial Officer, the Company intends to commence a search for a new chief financial officer, and the Company expects to hire an experienced person with an appropriate background to manage the diverse and complex financial issues which may arise in its business. The Company is also continuing its efforts to upgrade the information technology capabilities of certain of the Company's business units, as well as integrate the financial accounting systems used by certain of its business units.

The Company has authorized KPMG to respond fully to the inquiries of the successor accountant concerning the subject matter of the reportable conditions and material weaknesses cited by KPMG.

The Company has provided KPMG with a copy of the disclosures it is making in this report and has requested KPMG to furnish the Company with a letter addressed to the Securities and Exchange Commission stating whether it agrees with the statements made by the Company in this report and, if not, stating the respects in which it does not agree. A copy of that letter is filed as Exhibit 16.1 to this report.

ITEM 7. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS, PRO FORMA FINANCIAL INFORMATION AND EXHIBITS.

(c) Exhibits.

Exhibit No. -----	Description -----
16.1	Letter from KPMG LLP to the Securities and Exchange Commission dated January 7, 2004.

SIGNATURE

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 hereunto duly authorized.

SPIRE CORPORATION

Dated: January 7, 2004

By: /s/ Roger G. Little

Roger G. Little
President, Chief Executive Officer and
Chairman of the Board

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EXHIBIT INDEX

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