

Edgar Filing: BEAR STEARNS COMPANIES INC - Form 424B3

BEAR STEARNS COMPANIES INC  
 Form 424B3  
 May 18, 2001

PRICING SUPPLEMENT NO. 44  
 DATED: May 14, 2001  
 (To Prospectus dated January 11, 2001,  
 and Prospectus Supplement dated January 11, 2001)

Rule 424(b)(3)  
 File No. 333-52902

\$9,015,893,162  
 THE BEAR STEARNS COMPANIES INC.  
 MEDIUM-TERM NOTES, SERIES B

Principal Amount: \$35,000,000 Floating Rate Notes [ ] Book Entry Notes [x]  
 Original Issue Date: 5/24/2001 Fixed Rate Notes [x] Certificated Notes [ ]  
 Maturity Date: 5/24/2016 CUSIP#: 073928UB7  
 Option to Extend Maturity: No [x]  
 Yes [ ] Final Maturity Date:

| Redeemable On<br>----- | Redemption<br>Price(s)<br>----- | Optional<br>Repayment<br>Date(s)<br>----- | Optional<br>Repayment<br>Price(s)<br>----- |
|------------------------|---------------------------------|---|--|
| *                      | N/A                             | N/A                                       | N/A  |

Applicable Only to Fixed Rate Notes:  
 -----

Interest Rate: 7.25%

Interest Payment Dates: \*\*

Applicable Only to Floating Rate Notes:  
 -----

Interest Rate Basis: Maximum Interest Rate:  
 [ ] Commercial Paper Rate Minimum Interest Rate:  
 [ ] Federal Funds Rate Interest Reset Date(s):  
 [ ] Treasury Rate Interest Reset Period:  
 [ ] LIBOR Reuters Interest Payment Date(s):  
 [ ] LIBOR Telerate  
 [ ] Prime Rate  
 [ ] CMT Rate

Initial Interest Rate: Interest Payment Period:

Index Maturity:

Spread (plus or minus):

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- \* Commencing May 24, 2004 and on the interest payment dates thereafter until Maturity, the Notes may be called in whole at par at the option of the Company on ten calendar days notice.
- \*\* Commencing November 24, 2001 and on the 24th of each May and November thereafter until Maturity or until the Notes are called.

The distribution of Notes will conform to the requirements set forth in Rule 2720 of the NASD Conduct Rules.