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BEAR STEARNS COMPANIES INC

Form 424B3

January 15, 2003

PRICING SUPPLEMENT NO. 49 Rule 424(b)(3) DATED: January 13, 2003 File No. 333-76894

(To Prospectus dated January 25, 2002,

and Prospectus Supplement dated January 25, 2002)

\$10,006,693,162 THE BEAR STEARNS COMPANIES INC. Medium-Term Notes, Series B

Principal Amount: Floating Rate Notes [x] Book Entry Notes [x]

\$175,000,000

Original Issue Date: Fixed Rate Notes [] Certificated Notes []

1/16/2003

Maturity Date: 2/13/2004 CUSIP#: 073928YG2

Option to Extend Maturity: No [x]

Yes [] Final Maturity Date:

Optional Optional
Repayment Repayment
Date(s) Price(s) Redemption Price(s) Redeemable On -----_____ N/A N/A N/A N/A

Applicable Only to Fixed Rate Notes:

Interest Rate:

Interest Payment Dates:

Applicable Only to Floating Rate Notes:

Maximum Interest Rate: N/A Interest Rate Basis: [] Commercial Paper Rate Minimum Interest Rate: N/A

[] LIBOR Reuters Interest Payment Date(s): *

[] LIBOR Telerate [x] Prime Rate +

[] CMT Rate

Initial Interest Rate: TBA% Interest Payment Period: Quarterly

Index Maturity: N/A

Spread (plus or minus): -2.86%

- Prime Rate as reported on Telerate Page 5 under the heading "Bank Rates/Prime."
- On the 13th of February, May, August, November and at Maturity.

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