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BEAR STEARNS COMPANIES INC

Form 424B3

March 05, 2003

PRICING SUPPLEMENT NO. 61

DATED: March 3, 2003

Rule 424(b)(3)

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: \$100,000,000 Floating Rate Notes [x] Book Entry Notes [x]

Original Issue Date: 3/6/2003 Fixed Rate Notes [] Certificated Notes []

Maturity Date: 3/7/2005 CUSIP#: 073928YV9

Option to Extend Maturity: No [x]

Yes [] Final Maturity Date:

Redeemable On	Redemption Price(s)	Optional Repayment Date(s)	Optional Repayment Price(s)
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:

Interest Rate Basis: Maximum Interest Rate: N/A

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

[] Federal Funds Effective Rate

[] Federal Funds Open Rate Interest Reset Date(s): *

[] Treasury Rate Interest Reset Period: Quarterly

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

[x] LIBOR Telerate

[] Prime Rate

[] CMT Rate

Initial Interest Rate: 1.56063% Interest Payment Period: Quarterly

Index Maturity: Three Months

Spread (plus or minus): +0.23%

^{*} On the 7th of each June, September, December and March prior to Maturity.

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 ** On the 7th of each June, September, December and March, including the maturity date.

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