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BEAR STEARNS COMPANIES INC

Index Maturity:

Form 424B3 March 23, 2001

> PRICING SUPPLEMENT NO. 27 Rule 424(b)(3) DATED: March 21, 2001 File No. 333-52902 (To Prospectus dated January 11, 2001, and Prospectus Supplement dated January 11, 2001) \$9,015,893,162 THE BEAR STEARNS COMPANIES INC. MEDIUM-TERM NOTES, SERIES B Principal Amount: Floating Rate Notes [] Book Entry Notes [x] \$25,000,000 Original Issue Date: Fixed Rate Notes [x] Certificated Notes [] 4/11/2001 Maturity Date: 4/11/2016 CUSIP#: 073928TJ2 Option to Extend Maturity: No [x] Yes [] Final Maturity Date: Redeemable On Price(s) Date(s) Price(s) Optional Repayment Redeemable On Price(s) Date(s) Price(s) N/A N/A N/A Applicable Only to Fixed Rate Notes: Interest Rate: 7.00% 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 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:

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Spread (plus or minus):

- *Commencing April 11, 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 eight calendar days notice.
- **Commencing October 11, 2001 and on the 11th of each April and October 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.