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Rule 424(b)(3)

BEAR STEARNS COMPANIES INC Form 424B3

March 29, 2001

PRICING SUPPLEMENT NO. 31 File No. 333-52902 DATED: March 28, 2001 (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: \$25,000,000 Floating Rate Notes [x] Book Entry Notes [x] Original Issue Date: 4/2/2001 Fixed Rate Notes [] Certificated Notes [] CUSIP#: 073928TN3 Maturity Date: 4/2/2002 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 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 [x] Federal Funds Rate Interest Reset Date(s): Daily Interest Reset Period: Daily [] Treasury Rate [] LIBOR Reuters Interest Payment Date(s): * [] LIBOR Telerate [] Prime Rate [] CMT Rate Initial Interest Rate: TBA% Interest Payment Period: Quarterly

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Index Maturity: N/A

Spread (plus or minus): + 0.18%

* On the 2nd of July, October, January and at Maturity.

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