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BEAR STEARNS COMPANIES INC

Index Maturity:

Form 424B3 April 03, 2001

> PRICING SUPPLEMENT NO. 33 Rule 424(b)(3) DATED: April 2, 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: \$8,000,000 Floating Rate Notes [] Book Entry Notes [x] Original Issue Date: 4/3/2001 Fixed Rate Notes [x] Certificated Notes [] CUSIP#: 073928T06 Maturity Date: 4/1/2002 Option to Extend Maturity: No [x] Yes [] Final Maturity Date: Optional Optional
> Repayment Repayment
> Date(s) Price(s) Redemption
> Price(s) Redeemable On Price(s) _____ N/A N/A N/A N/A Applicable Only to Fixed Rate Notes: _____ Interest Rate: 4.60% 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):

* On October 1, 2001 and at Maturity.

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