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BEAR STEARNS COMPANIES INC

Form 424B3

November 20, 2001

PRICING SUPPLEMENT NO. 81 Rule 424(b)(3) DATED: November 15, 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: \$200,000,000 Floating Rate Notes [] Book Entry Notes [x] Original Issue Date: 11/20/2001 Fixed Rate Notes [x] Certificated Notes [] CUSIP#: 073928VR1 Maturity Date: 12/20/2002 Option to Extend Maturity: No [x] Yes [] Final Maturity Date: Optional Optional
Repayment Repayment
Date(s) Price(s) Redemption
Redeemable On Price(s) N/A N/A N/A N/A Applicable Only to Fixed Rate Notes: Interest Rate: 2.425% Interest Payment Dates: * Applicable Only to Floating Rate Notes: _____ Interest Rate Basis: Maximum Interest Rate: [] Commercial Paper Rate Minimum Interest Rate: [] Federal Funds Effective Rate [] Federal Funds Open 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: Index Maturity: Spread (plus or minus):

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 \star On June 20, 2002 and at Maturity.

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