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BEAR STEARNS COMPANIES INC

Spread (plus or minus):

Form 424B3

December 17, 2001

PRICING SUPPLEMENT NO. 86A Rule 424(b)(3) DATED: December 10, 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: \$60,000,000 Floating Rate Notes [] Book Entry Notes [x] Original Issue Date: 12/21/2001 Fixed Rate Notes [x] Certificated Notes [] CUSIP#: 073928VV2 Maturity Date: 12/21/2021 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 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: [] 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:

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- * Commencing December 21, 2005 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 ten calendar days notice.
- ** Commencing January 21, 2002 and on the 21st of each month 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.