Edgar Filing: BEAR STEARNS COMPANIES INC - Form 424B3

BEAR STEARNS COMPANIES INC

Index Maturity: Three Months

Spread (plus or minus): +0.14%

Form 424B3

March 01, 2004

PRICING SUPPLEMENT NO. 17 Rule 424(b)(3) DATED: February 19, 2004 File No. 333-109793 (To Prospectus dated November 17, 2003, and Prospectus Supplement dated November 17, 2003) \$10,668,950,162 THE BEAR STEARNS COMPANIES INC. Medium-Term Notes, Series B Principal Amount: \$214,000,000 Floating Rate Notes [x] Book Entry Notes [x] Original Issue Date: 3/1/2004 Fixed Rate Notes [] Certificated Notes [] Maturity Date: 2/15/2007 CUSIP#: 073928E41 Option to Extend Maturity: No [x] Yes [] Final Maturity Date: Redemption Repayment
Price(s) Date(s) Optional Optional Repayment
Date(s) Repayment Redeemable On 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 [] Federal Funds Effective Rate [] Federal Funds Open Rate Interest Reset Date(s): * [] Treasury Rate Interest Reset Period: Quarterly [] LIBOR Reuters Interest Payment Date(s): ** [x] LIBOR Telerate [] Prime Rate [] CMT Rate Initial Interest Rate: 1.26% Interest Payment Period: Quarterly

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- * Commencing May 15, 2004 and on the 15th of each August, November, February and May thereafter prior to Maturity.
- ** Commencing May 15, 2004 and on the 15th of each August, November, February and May thereafter, including the maturity date.

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