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BEAR STEARNS COMPANIES INC

Form 424B3

May 22, 2003

PRICING SUPPLEMENT NO. 5

DATED: May 19, 2003

Rule 424(b)(3)

File No. 333-104455

(To Prospectus dated April 24, 2003,

and Prospectus Supplement dated April 24, 2003)

\$10,227,293,162
THE BEAR STEARNS COMPANIES INC.
MEDIUM-TERM NOTES, SERIES B

Principal Amount: \$50,000,000 Floating Rate Notes [x] Book Entry Notes [x]

Original Issue Date: 5/22/2003 Fixed Rate Notes [] Certificated Notes []

Maturity Date: 5/22/2006 CUSIP#: 073928ZM8

Option to Extend Maturity: No [x]

Yes [] Final Maturity Date:

| | | Optional | Optional |
|---------------|------------|-----------|-----------|
| | Redemption | Repayment | 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

[] Federal Funds Effective Rate

[] Treasury Rate Interest Reset Period: Quarterly

[x] LIBOR Telerate

[] Prime Rate

[] CMT Rate

Initial Interest Rate: 1.5% Interest Payment Period: Quarterly

Index Maturity: Three Months

Spread (plus or minus): +0.22%

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- \star On the 22nd of each August, November, February and May prior to Maturity.
- ** On the 22nd of each August, November, February and May, including the maturity date.

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