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BEAR STEARNS COMPANIES INC

Form 424B3

April 15, 2002

PRICING SUPPLEMENT NO. 19 Rule 424(b)(3) DATED: April 9, 2002 File No. 333-76894 (To Prospectus dated January 25, 2002,

and Prospectus Supplement dated January 25, 2002)

\$10,006,693,162 THE BEAR STEARNS COMPANIES INC. Medium-Term Notes, Series B

Principal Amount: \$25,000,000 Floating Rate Notes [x] Book Entry Notes [x] Original Issue Date: 4/15/2002 Fixed Rate Notes [] Certificated Notes []

CUSIP#: 073928WZ2 Maturity Date: 4/15/2004

Option to Extend Maturity: No [x]

Yes [] Final Maturity Date:

Optional Optional
Repayment Repayment
Date(s) Price(s) Redemption Price(s) Redeemable On -----_____ _____ _____ 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): **

LIBOR Telerate [x]

[] Prime Rate

[] CMT Rate

Initial Interest Rate: 2.20% Interest Payment Period: Quarterly

Index Maturity: Three Months

Spread (plus or minus): +0.22%

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- * On the 15th of each July, October, January and April prior to Maturity.
- $\ensuremath{^{**}}$ On the 15th of each July, October, January and April, including the maturity date.

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