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BEAR STEARNS COMPANIES INC

Form 424B3

December 14, 2004

PRICING SUPPLEMENT NO. 41 Rule 424(b)(3) DATED: December 9, 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: \$20,000,000 Floating Rate Notes [x] Book Entry Notes [x] Original Issue Date: 12/14/2004 Fixed Rate Notes [] Certificated Notes [] Maturity Date: 12/8/2006 CUSIP#: 073928H63 Option to Extend Maturity: No [x] Yes [] Final Maturity Date: Redemption Repayment Repayment
Redeemable On Price(s) Date(s) Price(s)

N/A 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

ee Months

Interest Payment Period: Quarterly

Index Maturity: Three Months

Initial Interest Rate: 2.48%

[] Prime Rate

[] CMT Rate

Spread (plus or minus): N/A

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- * Commencing March 8, 2005 and on the 8th of each June, September, December and March thereafter prior to Maturity.
- ** Commencing March 8, 2005 and on the 8th of each June, September, December and March thereafter, including the maturity date.

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