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BEAR STEARNS COMPANIES INC

Form 424B3

February 22, 2005

PRICING SUPPLEMENT NO. 3 Rule 424(b)(3) DATED: February 16, 2005 File No. 333-121744 (To Prospectus dated February 2, 2005, and Prospectus Supplement dated February 2, 2005) \$12,410,781,162 THE BEAR STEARNS COMPANIES INC. Medium-Term Notes, Series B Principal Amount: \$15,000,000 Floating Rate Notes [x] Book Entry Notes [x] Original Issue Date: 2/22/2005 Fixed Rate Notes [] Certificated Notes [] Maturity Date: 2/16/2012 CUSIP#: 073928K28 Option to Extend Maturity: No [x] Yes [] Final Maturity Date: Optional Optional 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): * Interest Reset Period: Monthly [] Treasury Rate [] LIBOR Reuters Interest Payment Date(s): ** [x] LIBOR Telerate [] Prime Rate [] CMT Rate Initial Interest Rate: 2.918% Interest Payment Period: Monthly Index Maturity: One Month

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Spread (plus or minus): +0.32%

- * Commencing March 16, 2005 and on the 16th of each month thereafter prior to Maturity.
- ** Commencing March 16, 2005 and on the 16th of each month thereafter, including the maturity date.

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