

Edgar Filing: BEAR STEARNS COMPANIES INC - Form 424B3

BEAR STEARNS COMPANIES INC  
 Form 424B3  
 December 13, 2004

THE BEAR STEARNS COMPANIES INC.  
 IncomeNotes (SM)  
 With Maturities of Nine Months or More from Date of Issue

Registration No. 333-109793  
 Filed Pursuant to Rule 424(b) (3)  
 Pricing Supplement No. 51  
 (To Prospectus dated November 17, 2003,  
 and Prospectus Supplement dated November 17, 2003)  
 Trade Date: December 13, 2004  
 Issue Date: December 16, 2004  
 The date of this Pricing Supplement is December 13, 2004

Fixed Rate Notes

| CUSIP#    | Interest Rate | Maturity Date | Price to Public | Discounts & Commissions |
|-----------|---------------|---------------|-----------------|-------------------------|
| 07387EGR2 | 5.60%         | 12/15/2029    | 100.00%         | 2.50%                   |

Subject to Redemption

| First Interest Payment Date | First Interest Payment Amount | Survivor's Option | Yes/No | Date and Terms of Redemption  |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------|--------|---|
| 6/15/2005                   | \$27.84                       | Yes               | Yes    | Commencing on 12/15/2009 and on the 15th month thereafter until Maturity, the Note called in whole at par at the option of Company on ten calendar days notice. |

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