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BEAR STEARNS COMPANIES INC Form 424B3

January 07, 2005

PRICING SUPPLEMENT NO. 45

DATED: January 4, 2005

Rule 424(b)(3)

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

Original Issue Date: 1/7/2005 Fixed Rate Notes [x] Certificated Notes []

Maturity Date: 1/7/2010 CUSIP#: 073928J38

Option to Extend Maturity: No [x]

Yes [] Final Maturity Date:

Applicable Only to Fixed Rate Notes:

Interest Rate: 4.245%

Interest Payment Date(s): *

Applicable Only to Floating Rate Notes:

Interest Rate Basis: Maximum Interest Rate:

[] Commercial Paper Rate Minimum Interest Rate:

[] Federal Funds Effective Rate

[] Federal Funds Open Rate Interest Reset Date(s):

[] Treasury Rate Interest Reset Period:

[] LIBOR Telerate

[] Prime Rate

[] CMT Rate

Initial Interest Rate: Interest Payment Period:

Index Maturity:

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Spread (plus or minus):

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