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BEAR STEARNS COMPANIES INC

Form 424B3 May 18, 2001

PRICING SUPPLEMENT NO. 46 Rule 424(b)(3)

DATED: May 15, 2001 File No. 333-52902

(To Prospectus dated January 11, 2001,

and Prospectus Supplement dated January 11, 2001)

\$9,015,893,162
THE BEAR STEARNS COMPANIES INC.
MEDIUM-TERM NOTES, SERIES B

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

Original Issue Date: 5/18/2001 Fixed Rate Notes [] Certificated Notes []

Maturity Date: 5/17/2002 CUSIP#: 073928UD3

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

 $[x] \quad \text{Federal Funds Rate} \qquad \qquad \text{Interest Reset Date(s): Daily}$

[] Treasury Rate Interest Reset Period: Daily

[] LIBOR Reuters Interest Payment Date(s): *

[] LIBOR Telerate

[] Prime Rate

[] CMT Rate

Initial Interest Rate: 4.2625% Interest Payment Period: Quarterly

Index Maturity: N/A

Spread (plus or minus): + 0.20%

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* On the 17th of each August, November, February and at Maturity.

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