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BEAR STEARNS COMPANIES INC

Form 424B3

January 10, 2006

PRICING SUPPLEMENT NO. 18

DATED: January 5, 2006
(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: \$200,000,000 Floating Rate Notes [x] Book Entry Notes [x]

Original Issue Date: 01/10/2006 Fixed Rate Notes [] Certificated Notes []

Maturity Date: 01/10/2008 CUSIP#: 073928N33

Option to Extend Maturity: No [x]
Yes [] Final Maturity Date:

Minimum Denominations: \$100,000, increased in multiples of \$10,000

		Optional	Optional
	Redemption	Repayment	Repayment
Redeemable On	Price(s)	Date(s)	Price(s)
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

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

[] Treasury Rate Interest Reset Period: Daily

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

[] LIBOR Telerate

[] Prime Rate

[] CMT Rate +

Interest Rate: 4.39% Interest Payment Period: Quarterly

Index Maturity: N/A

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Spread (plus or minus): +0.14%

 \star Commencing April 10, 2006 and on the 10th of each July, October, January and April thereafter, up to and including the maturity date.

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