

BEAR STEARNS COMPANIES INC
 Form 4
 May 12, 2008

FORM 4

**UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
 Washington, D.C. 20549**

OMB APPROVAL

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Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5 obligations may continue. See Instruction 1(b).

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF SECURITIES

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, Section 17(a) of the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935 or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person *
 J P MORGAN CHASE & CO

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol
 BEAR STEARNS COMPANIES INC [BSC]

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

(Check all applicable)

(Last) (First) (Middle)
 270 PARK AVENUE

3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)
 05/08/2008

____ Director
 ____ Officer (give title below)
 ___X___ 10% Owner
 ____ Other (specify below)

(Street)
 NEW YORK, NY 10017

4. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year)

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line)
 ___X___ Form filed by One Reporting Person
 ____ Form filed by More than One Reporting Person

(City) (State) (Zip)

Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned

| 1. Title of Security (Instr. 3) | 2. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year) | 2A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year) | 3. Transaction Code (Instr. 8) | 4. Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5) | 5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4) | 6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4) | 7. Nature of Ownership (Instr. 4) |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|---|--|-----------------------------------|
| | | | Code | V Amount (A) or (D) Price | | | |
| Common Stock | 05/08/2008 | | X | 900 A \$ 70 | 119,048,575 (1) | D | |
| Common Stock | 05/08/2008 | | X | 100 A \$ 100 | 119,048,675 (1) | D | |
| Common Stock | 05/09/2008 | | X | 400 A \$ 100 | 119,049,075 (1) | D | |

Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially owned directly or indirectly.

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number.

Table II - Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned
(e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)

| 1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 3) | 2. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security | 3. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year) | 3A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year) | 4. Transaction Code (Instr. 8) | 5. Number of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5) | 6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year) | 7. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities (Instr. 3 and 4) | 8. Amount or Number of Shares |
|---|--|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|--|---|-------------------------------|
| Options to Sell Common Stock (Short Position) | \$ 70 | 05/08/2008 | | X | 900 | 04/07/2008 01/16/2009 | Common Stock | 900 |
| Options to Sell Common Stock (Short Position) | \$ 100 | 05/08/2008 | | X | 100 | 04/07/2008 01/16/2009 | Common Stock | 100 |
| Options to Sell Common Stock (Short Position) | \$ 100 | 05/09/2008 | | X | 400 | 04/07/2008 01/16/2009 | Common Stock | 400 |

Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address | Relationships | | | |
|--|---------------|-----------|---------|-------|
| | Director | 10% Owner | Officer | Other |
| J P MORGAN CHASE & CO 270 PARK AVENUE NEW YORK, NY 10017 | | X | | |

Signatures

/s/ Anthony J.
Horan

05/12/2008

__Signature of
Reporting Person

Date

Explanation of Responses:

- * If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, *see* Instruction 4(b)(v).
- ** Intentional misstatements or omissions of facts constitute Federal Criminal Violations. *See* 18 U.S.C. 1001 and 15 U.S.C. 78ff(a).
- (1) Includes the indirect beneficial ownership of 48,700 shares owned by J.P. Morgan Whitefriars Inc., a wholly owned subsidiary of the Reporting Person.

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, *see* Instruction 6 for procedure.
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