

Edgar Filing: BEAR STEARNS COMPANIES INC - Form 8-K

BEAR STEARNS COMPANIES INC  
Form 8-K  
January 26, 2004

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM 8-K  
Current Report

Pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of  
The Securities Exchange Act of 1934

Date of Report (Date of earliest event reported) January 21, 2004  
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THE BEAR STEARNS COMPANIES INC.  
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(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

DELAWARE  
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File No. 1-8989  
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13-3286161  
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(State or other  
jurisdiction of  
incorporation)

(Commission File Number)

(IRS Employer  
Identification Number)

383 Madison Avenue, New York, New York

10179  
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(Address of principal executive offices)

(zip code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: (212) 272-2000  
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Not Applicable  
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(former name or former address, if changed since last report)

Item 5. Other Events and Required FD Disclosure.

Bear Wagner Specialists LLC ("Bear Wagner"), an indirect subsidiary of The Bear Stearns Companies Inc., has received a "Wells Notice" from the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "Commission") that the staff of the Commission's Northeast Regional Office is considering recommending that the Commission bring civil enforcement proceedings against Bear Wagner for alleged violations of Sections 10(b) and 11 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and regulations promulgated thereunder, Section 17(a) of the Securities Act of 1933 and New York Stock Exchange ("NYSE") Rules 92, 104, 123B, 342, 401, 440 and 476, arising from specialist trading activity. Bear Wagner has also received notification from the NYSE that the staff of the NYSE's Division of Enforcement intends to bring formal disciplinary action against Bear Wagner for alleged violations of Sections 10(b), 11 and 17(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, regulations promulgated thereunder and the above-described NYSE Rules. Bear Wagner is cooperating fully with the inquiries.

Item 7. Financial Statements, Pro Forma Financial Information and Exhibits.

(a) Financial Statements of Businesses Acquired:

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Not applicable.

(b) Pro Forma Financial Information:

Not applicable.

(c) Exhibits:

Not applicable.

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SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned thereunto duly authorized.

THE BEAR STEARNS COMPANIES INC.

By: /s/ Samuel L. Molinaro Jr.

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Samuel L. Molinaro Jr.  
Executive Vice President  
and Chief Financial Officer

Dated: January 26, 2004

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