

BEAR STEARNS COMPANIES INC  
 Form 4  
 May 12, 2008

**FORM 4**

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

OMB APPROVAL

OMB Number: 3235-0287  
 Expires: January 31, 2005  
 Estimated average burden hours per response... 0.5

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  
 (Street)

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

\_\_\_\_ Director  
 \_\_\_\_ Officer (give title below)  
 10% Owner  
 \_\_\_\_ Other (specify below)

NEW YORK, NY 10017  
 (City) (State) (Zip)

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

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

**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 or Price (A) or (D)		
Common Stock	05/08/2008		X		900 A \$ 70	(1)	D
Common Stock	05/08/2008		X		100 A \$ 100	(1)	D
Common Stock	05/09/2008		X		400 A \$ 100	(1)	D

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

**Persons who respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB control**

SEC 1474  
 (9-02)

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. Potential persons who are to respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB number.