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BEAR STEARNS COMPANIES INC

Form 8-K

December 15, 2005

UNITED STATES 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) December 9, 2005

THE BEAR STEARNS COMPANIES INC.

(Exact Name of Registrant as Specified in its Charter)

of Incorporation)

DELAWARE File No. 1-8989 13-3286161
(State or Other (Commission File Number) (IRS Employer Identification Number)

383 Madison Avenue, New York, New York 10179 _____ (Address of Principal Executive Offices) (Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: (212) 272-2000

Not Applicable

(Former Name or Former Address, if Changed Since Last Report)

Check the appropriate box below if the Form 8-K filing is intended to simultaneously satisfy the filing obligation of the registrant under any of the following provisions:

- |_| Written communications pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act (17 CFR 230.425)
- $|_|$ Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14a-12)
- |_| Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d-2(b) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14d-2(b))
- |_| Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13e-4(c) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.13e-4(c))

Item 1.01. Entry into a Material Definitive Agreement

On December 9, 2005, the Compensation Committee of the Board of Directors of The Bear Stearns Companies Inc. amended The Bear Stearns Companies Inc.

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Performance Compensation Plan (the "Plan") to increase base salary from \$200,000 to \$250,000 for each Senior Managing Director deemed to be a participant in the Plan, effective December 1, 2005.

Signature

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/ Jeffrey M. Farber

Jeffrey M. Farber Controller

(Principal Accounting Officer)

Dated: December 14, 2005