

BEAR STEARNS COMPANIES INC
Form 425
March 20, 2008

UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, DC 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): March 16, 2008

JPMORGAN CHASE & CO.

(Exact Name of Registrant
as Specified in Charter)

DELAWARE

(State or Other Jurisdiction of Incorporation)

001-05805

(Commission File Number)

13-2624428

(IRS Employer Identification No.)

270 Park Avenue,
New York, NY

(Address of Principal Executive Offices)

10017

(Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: **(212) 270-6000**

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 (see General Instruction A.2. below):

- ☒ 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))
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Item 1.01. Entry into a Material Definitive Agreement.

Agreement and Plan of Merger

On March 16, 2008, JPMorgan Chase & Co. (JPMorgan Chase) and The Bear Stearns Companies Inc. (Bear Stearns) entered into an Agreement and Plan of Merger (the Merger Agreement). The Merger Agreement provides that, upon the terms and subject to the conditions set forth in the Merger Agreement, a wholly-owned subsidiary of JPMorgan Chase will merge with and into Bear Stearns with Bear Stearns continuing as the surviving corporation and as a wholly-owned subsidiary of JPMorgan Chase. The Merger Agreement is filed as Exhibit 2.1 hereto, and is incorporated into this report by reference.

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Guaranty Agreement

On March 16, 2008, JPMorgan Chase, in connection with the Merger Agreement, entered into a guaranty agreement in favor of Bear Stearns and certain of its subsidiaries (the Guaranty). The Guaranty is filed as Exhibit 99.1 hereto, and is incorporated into this report by reference.

Stock Option Agreement

On March 16, 2008, JPMorgan Chase and Bear Stearns, in connection with the Merger Agreement, entered into a stock option agreement (the Stock Option Agreement). The Stock Option Agreement is filed as Exhibit 99.2 hereto, and is incorporated into this report by reference.

Forward-Looking Statements

This filing contains forward-looking statements within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. Such statements include, but are not limited to, statements about the benefits of the merger between JPMorgan Chase & Co. and The Bear Stearns Companies Inc., including future financial and operating results, the combined company's plans, objectives, expectations and intentions and other statements that are not historical facts. Such statements are based upon the current beliefs and expectations of JPMorgan Chase's management and are subject to significant risks and uncertainties. Actual results may differ from those set forth in the forward-looking statements.

The following factors, among others, could cause actual results to differ from those set forth in the forward-looking statements: the ability to obtain governmental and self-regulatory organization approvals of the merger on the proposed terms and schedule, and any changes to regulatory agencies' outlook on, responses to and actions and commitments taken in connection with the merger and the agreements and arrangements related thereto; the extent and duration of continued economic and market disruptions; adverse developments in the business and operations of Bear Stearns, including the loss of client, employee, counterparty and other business relationships; the failure of Bear Stearns stockholders to approve the merger; the risk that the businesses will not be integrated successfully; the risk that the cost savings and any other synergies from the merger may not be fully realized or may take longer to realize than expected; disruption from the merger making it more difficult to maintain business and operational relationships; increased competition and its effect on pricing, spending, third-party relationships and revenues; the risk of new and changing regulation in the U.S. and internationally and the exposure to litigation and/or regulatory actions. Additional factors that could cause JPMorgan Chase's results to differ materially from those described in

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the forward-looking statements can be found in the firm's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2007, filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission and available at the Securities and Exchange Commission's Internet site (<http://www.sec.gov>).

Additional Information

In connection with the proposed merger, JPMorgan Chase, will file with the SEC a Registration Statement on Form S-4 that will include a proxy statement of Bear Stearns that also constitutes a prospectus of JPMorgan Chase. Bear Stearns will mail the proxy statement/prospectus to its stockholders. JPMorgan Chase and Bear Stearns urge investors and security holders to read the proxy statement/prospectus regarding the proposed merger when it becomes available because it will contain important information. You may obtain copies of all documents filed with the SEC regarding this transaction, free of charge, at the SEC's website (www.sec.gov). You may also obtain these documents, free of charge, from JPMorgan Chase's website (www.jpmorganchase.com) under the tab Investor Relations and then under the heading Financial Information then under the item SEC Filings. You may also obtain these documents, free of charge, from Bear Stearns's website (www.bearstearns.com) under the heading Investor Relations and then under the tab SEC Filings.

JPMorgan Chase, Bear Stearns and their respective directors, executive officers and certain other members of management and employees may be soliciting proxies from Bear Stearns stockholders in favor of the merger. Information regarding the persons who may, under the rules of the SEC, be deemed participants in the solicitation of the Bear Stearns stockholders in connection with the proposed merger will be set forth in the proxy statement/prospectus when it is filed with the SEC. You can find information about JPMorgan Chase's executive officers and directors in its definitive proxy statement filed with the SEC on March 30, 2007. You can find information about Bear Stearns's executive officers and directors in definitive proxy statement filed with the SEC on March 27, 2007. You can obtain free copies of these documents from JPMorgan Chase and Bear Stearns using the contact information above.

Item 9.01. Financial Statements and Exhibits

(d) Exhibits

Exhibit No.	Description
2.1	Agreement and Plan of Merger, dated as of March 16, 2008, by and between The Bear Stearns Companies Inc. and JPMorgan Chase & Co.
99.1	Guaranty Agreement, dated as of March 16, 2008
99.2	Stock Option Agreement, dated as of March 16, 2008

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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 hereunto duly authorized.

JPMORGAN CHASE & CO.
(Registrant)

By: /s/ Anthony J. Horan

Name: Anthony J. Horan
Title: Corporate Secretary

Dated: March 20, 2008

EXHIBIT INDEX

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