The Order censures Bear Stearns and requires Bear Stearns (1) to cease and desist from committing or causing any violations and any future violations of Section 17(a)(2) of the Securities Act; (2) within 10 days of the entry of this Order, to pay a civil money penalty in the amount of $1,500,000 to the United States Treasury; (3) to make certain disclosures regarding its material auction practices and procedures; and (4) not later than 6 months after the date of this order, unless otherwise extended by the staff of the Commission for good cause shown, have its chief executive officer or general counsel certify in writing to the staff of the Commission that Bear Stearns has implemented procedures that are reasonably designed to prevent and detect failures by Bear Stearns to conduct the auction process in accordance with the auction procedures disclosed in the disclosure documents and any supplemental disclosures and that the Respondent is in compliance with Section IV.E. of the Order.

The safe harbor provisions of Section 27A(c) of the Securities Act and Section 21E(c) of the Exchange Act are not available for any forward looking statement that is “made with respect to the business or operations of an issuer, if the issuer . . . during the 3-year period preceding the date on which the statement was first made . . . has been made the subject of an . . . administrative decree or order arising out of a governmental action that (I) prohibits future violations of the antifraud provisions of the federal securities laws; (II) requires that the issuer cease and desist from violating the antifraud provisions of the securities laws; or (III) determines that the issuer violated the antifraud provisions of the securities laws[.]” Section 27A(b)(1)(A)(ii) of the Securities Act and Section 21E(b)(1)(A)(ii) of the Exchange Act. The disqualifications may be waived “to the extent otherwise specifically provided by rule, regulation, or order of the Commission.” Section 27A(b) of the Securities Act and Section 21E(b) of the Exchange Act.

Based on the representations set forth in Bear Stearns’ letter, the Commission has determined that, under the circumstances, the request for a waiver of the disqualifications resulting from the entry of the Order is appropriate and should be granted.

Accordingly, IT IS ORDERED, pursuant to Section 27A(b) of the Securities Act and Section 27E(b) of the Exchange Act, that a waiver from the disqualification provisions of Section 27A(b)(1)(A)(ii) of the Securities Act and Section 21E(b)(1)(A)(ii) of the Exchange Act as to Bear Stearns and its affiliates resulting from the entry of the Order is hereby granted.

By the Commission.

Nancy M. Morris
Secretary