

HOUSTON EXPLORATION CO

Form 8-K

August 03, 2006

**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): August 3, 2006**

**THE HOUSTON EXPLORATION COMPANY**  
(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

**Delaware**  
(State or other jurisdiction of  
incorporation)

**001-11899**  
(Commission File Number)

**22-2674487**  
(I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)

**1100 Louisiana, Suite 2000**  
**Houston, Texas**  
(Address of principal executive  
offices)

**77002-5215**  
(Zip Code)

**(713) 830-6800**  
(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

**Not Applicable**

(Former names 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))
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**Item 2.02. Results of Operations and Financial Condition.**

On August 3, 2006, The Houston Exploration Company (the Company ) issued a press release to report its financial and operational results for the three-month and six-month periods ended June 30, 2006, update guidance for 2006, and affirm 2007 guidance. The press release is furnished as Exhibit 99.1 to this Current Report and incorporated by reference herein.

In accordance with SEC Release No. 33-8176, the information contained in such press release shall not be deemed filed for purposes of Section 18 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, nor shall it be deemed incorporated by reference in any filing under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, except as shall be expressly set forth by specific reference in such filing.

Following the issuance of the press release and the filing of this Current Report on Form 8-K, the Company will hold its second quarter 2006 earnings conference call on Thursday, August 3, 2006, at 8:00 A.M. Central Time, which is open to the public, to further review financial and operational results. This scheduled conference call was previously announced on July 20, 2006. To access the call, dial (800) 230-1074 prior to start and provide the confirmation code 829798. In addition, a listen-only webcast of the call can be accessed at <http://www.houstonexploration.com>. A replay of the call and an archive of the webcast will be available for one week beginning at approximately 12:00 P.M. Central Time on August 3, 2006. Dial (800) 475-6701 and provide the confirmation code 829798, or access the Company s website for either of these services.

**Item 9.01. Financial Statements and Exhibits**

(c) Exhibits

99.1 Press release issued by Houston Exploration on August 3, 2006, reporting financial and operational results for the three-month and six-month periods ended June 30, 2006.

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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 hereunto duly authorized.

Date: August 3, 2006

**THE HOUSTON EXPLORATION COMPANY**

By: /s/ James F. Westmoreland

James F. Westmoreland  
Vice President and Chief Accounting Officer

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**EXHIBIT INDEX**

**Exhibit  
Number**

**Description**

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