

HOUSTON EXPLORATION CO

Form 8-K

May 09, 2007

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**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): May 9, 2007

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 May 9, 2007, The Houston Exploration Company (the Company) issued a press release to report its financial and operational results for the three-month period ended March 31, 2007. The press release is furnished as Exhibit 99.1 to this Current Report and incorporated by reference herein. As a result of the pending merger with Forest Oil Corporation, Houston Exploration will not host a conference call or webcast regarding its results for the first quarter of 2007.

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.

Item 9.01. Financial Statements and Exhibits

(c) Exhibits

99.1 Press release issued by Houston Exploration on May 9, 2007, reporting financial and operational results for the three-month period ended March 31, 2007.

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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: May 9, 2007

**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

99.1	Press release issued by Houston Exploration on May 9, 2007, reporting financial and operational results for the three-month period ended March 31, 2007.
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