

HOUSTON EXPLORATION CO
Form 8-K
October 17, 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):

October 17, 2005

The Houston Exploration Company

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware

001-11899

22-2674487

(State or other jurisdiction
of incorporation)

(Commission
File Number)

(I.R.S. Employer
Identification No.)

1100 Louisiana Street, Suite 2000, Houston,
Texas

77002-5215

(Address of principal executive offices)

(Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code:

713-830-6800

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))

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Item 7.01 Regulation FD Disclosure.

On October 17, 2005, The Houston Exploration Company (the "Company") issued a press release to update information regarding the impact of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita on production volume and to revise 2005 production guidance. The press release is furnished as Exhibit 99.1 to this Current Report and incorporated by reference herein.

The information in this report shall not be deemed "filed" for purposes of Section 18 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, nor shall it be deemed incorporated by reference in any filing under the Securities Act of 1933 or the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, unless expressly set forth by specific reference in such a filing.

Item 9.01 Financial Statements and Exhibits.

(c) Exhibits

99.1 Press release issued by Houston Exploration on October 17, 2005 updating the impact of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita on production volume and revising 2005 production guidance.

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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.

The Houston Exploration Company

October 17, 2005

By: */s/ James F. Westmoreland*

Name: James F. Westmoreland

Title: Vice President and Chief Accounting Officer

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Exhibit Index

| Exhibit No. | Description |
|--------------------|--|
| 99.1 | Press release issued by Houston Exploration on October 17, 2005 updating the impact of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita on production volume and revising 2005 production guidance. |