HOUSTON EXPLORATION CO Form 8-K June 24, 2004

# 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): **June 23, 2004** 

#### THE HOUSTON EXPLORATION COMPANY

(Exact name of registrant as specified in charter)

#### **Delaware**

(State of Incorporation)

001-11899

22-2674487

(Commission File No.)

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

#### 1000 Louisiana Street, Suite 2000, Houston, Texas 77002-5215

(Address of Principal Executive Offices, including Zip code)

#### (713) 830-6800

(Registrant s telephone number, including area code)

#### Not Applicable

(Former name or former address, if changed since last report)

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Item 5. Other Events.

<u>Item 7. Financial Statements, Pro Forma Financial Information and Exhibits.</u>

**SIGNATURE** 

**EXHIBIT INDEX** 

Press Release dated June 23, 2004

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#### Item 5. Other Events.

On June 23, 2004, we issued a press release announcing the closing of the sale of an additional 620,000 shares of our common stock at a public offering price of \$48.00 per share in connection with the exercise of the over-allotment option granted to the underwriters of our recent offering of 6,200,000 shares of our common stock under our shelf registration statement on Form S-3, effective March 31, 2004 (File No. 333-113659). A copy of the press release is attached hereto as Exhibit 99.1 and is incorporated herein by reference.

#### Item 7. Financial Statements, Pro Forma Financial Information and Exhibits.

(c) Exhibits.

99.1 Press Release of The Houston Exploration Company dated June 23, 2004

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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.

# THE HOUSTON EXPLORATION COMPANY

Dated: June 23, 2004 By: /s/ James F. Westmoreland

James F. Westmoreland

Vice President and Chief Accounting

Officer

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# **EXHIBIT INDEX**

Exhibit No.	Description
99.1	Press Release of The Houston Exploration Company dated June 23, 2004