

HOUSTON EXPLORATION CO  
Form 15-12B  
June 06, 2007

**UNITED STATES  
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE  
COMMISSION  
Washington, D.C. 20549  
FORM 15**

OMB APPROVAL  
OMB Number: 3235-0167  
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**CERTIFICATION AND NOTICE OF TERMINATION OF REGISTRATION UNDER SECTION 12(g) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934 OR SUSPENSION OF DUTY TO FILE REPORTS UNDER SECTIONS 13 AND 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934.**

Commission File Number **001-11899**

**The Houston Exploration Company**

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

**1100 Louisiana, Suite 2000, Houston, Texas 77002-5215 (713) 830-6800**

(Address, including zip code, and telephone number, including area code, of registrant's principal executive offices)

**Common Stock, Series A Junior Participating Preferred Stock,  
\$0.01 par value**

(Title of each class of securities covered by this Form)

**None**

(Titles of all other classes of securities for which a duty to file reports under section 13(a) or 15(d) remains)

Please place an X in the box(es) to designate the appropriate rule provision(s) relied upon to terminate or suspend the duty to file reports:

Rule 12g-4(a)(1)(i)	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	Rule 12h-3(b)(1)(i)	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Rule 12g-4(a)(1)(ii)	<input type="radio"/>	Rule 12h-3(b)(1)(ii)	<input type="radio"/>
Rule 12g-4(a)(2)(i)	<input type="radio"/>	Rule 12h-3(b)(2)(i)	<input type="radio"/>
Rule 12g-4(a)(2)(ii)	<input type="radio"/>	Rule 12h-3(b)(2)(ii)	<input type="radio"/>
		Rule 15d-6	<input type="radio"/>

Approximate number of holders of record as of the certification or notice date: One

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, *The Houston Exploration Company* has caused this certification/notice to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned duly authorized person.

Date: **June 6, 2007**

By: **/s/ Cyrus D. Marter IV**  
Cyrus D. Marter IV  
Vice President and Secretary of The Houston  
Exploration Company

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Instruction: This form is required by Rules 12g-4, 12h-3 and 15d-6 of the General Rules and Regulations under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. The registrant shall file with the Commission three copies of Form 15, one of which shall be manually signed. It may be signed by an officer of the registrant, by counsel or by any other duly authorized person. The name and title of the person signing the form shall be typed or printed under the signature.

SEC 2069 (12-04) **Persons who respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB control number.**

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