

SCHWARTZ THOMAS E

Form 4

March 08, 2005

FORM 4**UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549**

OMB APPROVAL

OMB
Number: 3235-0287
Expires: January 31,
2005
Estimated average
burden hours per
response... 0.5

Check this box
if no longer
subject to
Section 16.
Form 4 or
Form 5
obligations
may continue.
See Instruction
1(b).

**STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF
SECURITIES**

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934,
Section 17(a) of the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935 or Section
30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person *
SCHWARTZ THOMAS E

2. Issuer Name **and** Ticker or Trading
Symbol
HOUSTON EXPLORATION CO
[THX]

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to
Issuer

(Check all applicable)

(Last) (First) (Middle)

THE HOUSTON EXPLORATION
COMPANY, 1100 LOUISIANS ST.,
SUITE 2000

3. Date of Earliest Transaction
(Month/Day/Year)
03/04/2005

____ Director ____ 10% Owner
____X____ Officer (give title ____ Other (specify
below) below)
VP - Geophysics

(Street)

4. If Amendment, Date Original
Filed(Month/Day/Year)

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check
Applicable Line)
____X____ Form filed by One Reporting Person
____ Form filed by More than One Reporting
Person

HOUSTON, TX 77002-5215

(City) (State) (Zip)

Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned

1. Title of Security (Instr. 3)	2. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	2A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year)	3. Transaction Code (Instr. 8)	4. Securities Acquired or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5)	5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4)	6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4)	7. Nature of Ownership (Instr. 4)
			Code	V	Amount	(A) or (D)	Price
common stock (\$0.01 par value)	03/04/2005		S		19,524	D	\$ 59.5
					3,000	D	

Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially owned directly or indirectly.

**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.**

SEC 1474
(9-02)

Edgar Filing: SCHWARTZ THOMAS E - Form 4

Table II - Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned
(e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)

1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 3)	2. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security	3. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	3A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year)	4. Transaction Code (Instr. 8)	5. Number of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5)	6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year)	7. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities (Instr. 3 and 4)
				Code	V (A) (D)	Date Exercisable Expiration Date	Title Amount or Number of Shares
employee stock options (right to buy)	\$ 18.625	03/04/2005		X	3,200	10/26/2000 ⁽¹⁾ 10/26/2009 ⁽¹⁾	common stock 3,200
employee stock options (right to buy)	\$ 36.875	03/04/2005		X	4,324	01/25/2002 ⁽¹⁾ 01/25/2011 ⁽¹⁾	common stock 4,324
employee stock options (right to buy)	\$ 25.48	03/04/2005		X	5,200	09/20/2002 ⁽¹⁾ 09/20/2011 ⁽¹⁾	common stock 5,200
employee stock options (right to buy)	\$ 30.1	03/04/2005		X	4,000	10/16/2003 ⁽¹⁾ 10/16/2012 ⁽¹⁾	common stock 4,000
employee stock options (right to buy)	\$ 35.62	03/04/2005		X	2,800	10/21/2004 ⁽¹⁾ 10/21/2013 ⁽¹⁾	common stock 2,800

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships
	Director 10% Owner Officer Other
SCHWARTZ THOMAS E THE HOUSTON EXPLORATION COMPANY	VP - Geophysics

1100 LOUISIANS ST., SUITE 2000
HOUSTON, TX 77002-5215

Signatures

/s/ Thomas E.
Schwartz

03/08/2005

Signature of Reporting
Person

Date

Explanation of Responses:

- * If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, *see* Instruction 4(b)(v).
- ** Intentional misstatements or omissions of facts constitute Federal Criminal Violations. *See* 18 U.S.C. 1001 and 15 U.S.C. 78ff(a).
- (1) Employee stock options vest in five equal annual installments beginning on the first anniversary of the grant date and expire 10 years from the grant date.

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, *see* Instruction 6 for procedure.
Potential persons who are to respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB number.