HOUSTON EXPLORATION CO

Form 4 June 01, 2007

FORM 4

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

OMB APPROVAL

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

Form 4 or Form 5 obligations may continue. See Instruction

Check this box

if no longer

subject to

Section 16.

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

1(b).

(Last)

(City)

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person *

CLARKE JOHN U

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading

Symbol

HOUSTON EXPLORATION CO

[THX]

(Middle)

(Zip)

3. Date of Earliest Transaction

(Month/Day/Year) 05/30/2007

X_ Director 10% Owner

(Check all applicable)

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to

Officer (give title Other (specify below)

2950 NORTH LOOP WEST, SUITE

(State)

(First)

750

(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

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

Issuer

HOUSTON, TX 77092

1. Title of 2. Transaction Date 2A. Deemed Security (Month/Day/Year) Execution Date, if (Instr. 3) (Month/Day/Year)

3. 4. Securities TransactionAcquired (A) or Code Disposed of (D) (Instr. 8) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5) 5. Amount of Securities Beneficially (D) or Owned **Following**

6. Ownership 7. Nature of Form: Direct Indirect Beneficial Ownership Indirect (I) (Instr. 4) (Instr. 4)

Reported (A) Transaction(s) or (Instr. 3 and 4)

Price V Amount (D)

common

value)

stock 05/30/2007 (\$0.01 par

V 1,500 \$0 D

D

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

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9.288

SEC 1474 (9-02)

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

1. Title of	2.	3. Transaction Date		4.	5.	6. Date Exer		7. Title		8. Price of	9. Nu
Derivative	Conversion	(Month/Day/Year)	Execution Date, if	TransactionNumber		Expiration D	ate Amou		nt of	Derivative	Deriv
Security	or Exercise		any	Code	of	(Month/Day/	Year)	Under	lying	Security	Secur
(Instr. 3)	Price of		(Month/Day/Year)	(Instr. 8) Derivative		e		Securi	ties	(Instr. 5)	Bene
	Derivative				Securities			(Instr.	3 and 4)		Own
	Security				Acquired (A) or						Follo
											Repo
					Disposed						Trans
					of (D)						(Instr
					(Instr. 3, 4, and 5)						
									Amount		
						Date Expir Exercisable Date	Expiration		or		
							*	Title	Number		
							Date		of		
				Code V	(A) (D)				Shares		

Reporting Owners

Relationships Reporting Owner Name / Address

10% Owner Officer Other Director

CLARKE JOHN U 2950 NORTH LOOP WEST, SUITE 750 X HOUSTON, TX 77092

Signatures

Karol L. Adams by Power of Attorney for John U. 06/01/2007 Clarke

> **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).

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.

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