

HOUSTON EXPLORATION CO

Form 8-K

November 24, 2004

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**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): **November 24, 2004**

THE HOUSTON EXPLORATION COMPANY

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware
(State or other jurisdiction of
incorporation)

001-11899
(Commission File No.)

22-2674487
(IRS Employer Identification No.)

**1100 Louisiana Street, Suite 2000
Houston, Texas**
(Address of principal executive offices)

77002-5215
(Zip Code)

(713) 830-6800
(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

Not Applicable
(Former names 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 8.01. Other Events.

Item 9.01. Financial Statements and Exhibits.

SIGNATURE

EXHIBIT INDEX

Press Release dated November 24, 2004

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Item 8.01. Other Events.

On November 24, 2004, we issued a press release announcing the closing of an offering by KeySpan Corporation of its remaining 6,580,392 shares of the Company's common stock in a public offering under our shelf registration statement on Form S-3, effective March 31, 2004 (No. 333-113659). A copy of the press release is attached hereto as Exhibit 99.1 and is incorporated herein by reference.

Item 9.01. Financial Statements and Exhibits.

(c) Exhibits

99.1 Press Release of The Houston Exploration Company dated November 24, 2004

[The remainder of this page is intentionally left blank.]

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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.

Date: November 24, 2004

THE HOUSTON EXPLORATION
COMPANY

By: /s/ James F. Westmoreland
James F. Westmoreland
Vice President and Chief Accounting
Officer

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EXHIBIT INDEX

<u>Exhibit No.</u>	<u>Description</u>
99.1	Press Release of The Houston Exploration Company dated November 24, 2004