

HOUSTON EXPLORATION CO

Form 8-K

February 27, 2007

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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): February 27, 2007**

**THE HOUSTON EXPLORATION COMPANY**  
(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

**Delaware**

(State or other jurisdiction of  
incorporation)

**001-11899**

(Commission File Number)

**22-2674487**

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

**1100 Louisiana, 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 2.02. Results of Operations and Financial Condition.**

On February 27, 2007, The Houston Exploration Company (the Company ) issued a press release to report its financial and operational results for the three-month and twelve-month periods ended December 31, 2006. The press release is furnished as Exhibit 99.1 to this Current Report and incorporated by reference herein. As a result of the pending merger with Forest Oil Corporation, Houston Exploration will not host a conference call or webcast regarding its 2006 results.

In accordance with SEC Release No. 33-8176, the information contained in such press release shall not be deemed filed for purposes of Section 18 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, nor shall it be deemed incorporated by reference in any filing under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, except as shall be expressly set forth by specific reference in such filing.

**Item 9.01. Financial Statements and Exhibits**

(c) Exhibits

99.1 Press release issued by Houston Exploration on February 27, 2007, reporting financial and operational results for the three-month and twelve-month periods ended December 31, 2006.

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**SIGNATURES**

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: February 27, 2007

THE HOUSTON EXPLORATION COMPANY

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

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**EXHIBIT INDEX**

| <b>Exhibit<br/>Number</b> | <b>Description</b>  |
|---------------------------|---|
| 99.1                      | Press release issued by Houston Exploration on February 27, 2007, reporting financial and operational results for the three-month and twelve-month periods ended December 31, 2006. |