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HOUSTON EXPLORATION CO  
Form 15-15D  
July 18, 2003

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

FORM 15

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 333-50235

The Houston Exploration Company

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(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

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

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

85/8% Senior Subordinated Notes due 2008

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

Common Stock, \$.01 par value

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

Approximate number of holders of record as of the certification or notice  
date: 0

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: July 17, 2003

By: /s/ James F. Westmoreland

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Name: James F. Westmoreland  
Title: Vice President and Chief  
Accounting Officer