

HOUSTON EXPLORATION CO

Form 8-K

June 24, 2004

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Item 5. Other Events.

Item 7. Financial Statements, Pro Forma Financial Information and Exhibits.

SIGNATURE

EXHIBIT INDEX

Press Release dated June 23, 2004

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Item 5. Other Events.

On June 23, 2004, we issued a press release announcing the closing of the sale of an additional 620,000 shares of our common stock at a public offering price of \$48.00 per share in connection with the exercise of the over-allotment option granted to the underwriters of our recent offering of 6,200,000 shares of our common stock under our shelf registration statement on Form S-3, effective March 31, 2004 (File No. 333-113659). A copy of the press release is attached hereto as Exhibit 99.1 and is incorporated herein by reference.

Item 7. Financial Statements, Pro Forma Financial Information and Exhibits.

(c) Exhibits.

99.1 Press Release of The Houston Exploration Company dated June 23, 2004

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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.

**THE HOUSTON EXPLORATION
COMPANY**

Dated: June 23, 2004

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 June 23, 2004