

HOUSTON EXPLORATION CO
Form 4
June 08, 2007

FORM 4

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

OMB APPROVAL

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Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5 obligations may continue. See Instruction 1(b).

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF SECURITIES

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

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person *
Ray Robert T

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol
HOUSTON EXPLORATION CO
[THX]

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

(Check all applicable)

(Last) (First) (Middle)
1100 LOUISIANA ST., SUITE 2000

(Street)

3. Date of Earliest Transaction
(Month/Day/Year)
06/06/2007

____ Director _____ 10% Owner
 Officer (give title below) _____ Other (specify below)
Sr. VP & C.F.O.

HOUSTON, TX 77002

(City) (State) (Zip)

4. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year)

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line)
 Form filed by One Reporting Person
 Form filed by More than One Reporting Person

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

1. Title of Security (Instr. 3)	2. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	2A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year)	3. Transaction Code (Instr. 8)	4. Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5)	5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4)	6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4)	7. Nature of Ownership (Instr. 4)	
				(A) or (D)	Price			
common stock (\$0.01 par value)	06/06/2007		D	10,664	D	<u>1</u>	0	D

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

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(9-02)

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received by each of the Company's stockholders will be determined by stockholder elections, subject to proration. As a result of the proration procedures that have not yet been completed as of the date of this filing, it

- Pursuant to the Merger Agreement, at the Merger I Effective Time, each non-qualified stock option became immediately and fully vested
- (2) and was cancelled and converted into the right to receive a cash amount equal to the excess of \$60.02 over the option exercise price multiplied by the number of shares subject to such option.

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, *see* Instruction 6 for procedure.

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