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HOUSTON EXPLORATION CO
Form 8-K
July 18, 2003

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): July 17, 2003

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)

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

NOT APPLICABLE
(Former name or former address, if changed since last report)

ITEM 5. OTHER EVENTS AND REGULATION FD DISCLOSURE.

On July 17, 2003, we issued a press release announcing that we completed the redemption of all our \$100 million 8 5/8% senior subordinated notes due January 2008. The redemption was funded with a portion of the net proceeds received from our private placement of \$175 million 7% senior subordinated notes due June 2013 that was completed on June 10, 2003. Please see Exhibit 99.1 for a copy of the press release which is incorporated herein by reference.

ITEM 7. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND EXHIBITS

99.1 Press release announcing the completion of the redemption for our \$100 million 8 5/8% senior subordinated notes due January 2008.

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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

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By: /s/ James F. Westmoreland

James F. Westmoreland
Vice President, Chief Accounting Officer and Secretary

Dated: July 17, 2003

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EXHIBIT INDEX

Exhibit Number	Description
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99.1	Press release announcing the completion of the redemption for our \$100 million 8 5/8% senior subordinated notes due January 2008.