

HOUSTON EXPLORATION CO

Form 4

June 08, 2007

**FORM 4****UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
Washington, D.C. 20549**

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

## OMB APPROVAL

OMB  
Number: 3235-0287  
Expires: January 31,  
2005  
Estimated average  
burden hours per  
response... 0.5

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person \*  
JANA PARTNERS LLC

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)  
200 PARK AVENUE, SUITE 3300

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

\_\_\_\_ Director \_\_\_\_X\_\_\_\_ 10% Owner  
\_\_\_\_ Officer (give title below) \_\_\_\_ Other (specify below)

(Street)

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

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

NEW YORK, NY 10166

(City) (State) (Zip)

**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)
			Code	V	Amount	(A) or (D)	Price
Common Stock	06/06/2007		U		4,130,900	D	<u>11</u> 0

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

**Persons who respond to the collection of  
information contained in this form are not  
required to respond unless the form  
displays a currently valid OMB control  
number.**

SEC 1474  
(9-02)

**Table II - Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned  
(e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)**

# Edgar Filing: HOUSTON EXPLORATION CO - Form 4

1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 3)	2. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security	3. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	3A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year)	4. Transaction Code (Instr. 8)	5. Number of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5)	6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year)	7. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities (Instr. 3 and 4)	8. Price of Derivative Security (Instr. 5)	9. Nu Deriv Secur Bene Own Follo Repo Trans (Instr
				Code	V (A) (D)	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of Shares

## Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships			
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other
JANA PARTNERS LLC 200 PARK AVENUE, SUITE 3300 NEW YORK, NY 10166		X		

## Signatures

/s/ JANA Partners LLC by Charles Penner, General Counsel

06/08/2007

\_\_Signature of Reporting Person

Date

## Explanation of Responses:

\* If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, *see* Instruction 4(b)(v).

\*\* Intentional misstatements or omissions of facts constitute Federal Criminal Violations. *See* 18 U.S.C. 1001 and 15 U.S.C. 78ff(a).

Each of the shares reported herein was exchanged pursuant to a merger agreement, dated as of January 7, 2007, by and among Forest Oil Corporation, a New York corporation ("Forest Oil"), MJCO Corporation, a wholly owned subsidiary of Forest Oil, and the Issuer (the "Merger Agreement"). The Reporting Person elected to exchange its shares for the right to receive 0.84 shares of Forest Oil common (1) stock and \$26.25 in cash, representing a \$60.02 per share of consideration based on the average closing price of Forest Oil shares during the ten-day valuation period specified in the Merger Agreement. Due to stock over-subscription, the exact allocation of the stock merger consideration will not, however, be known until the final results of the election process are determined following the expiration of the guaranteed delivery period, which will expire at 5:00 p.m., New York City time, on June 8, 2007.

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, *see* Instruction 6 for procedure. Potential persons who are to respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB number.