

SAEXPLORATION HOLDINGS, INC.

Reported by
ABNEY RYAN

FORM 4

(Statement of Changes in Beneficial Ownership)

Filed 08/01/17 for the Period Ending 07/27/17

Address	1160 DAIRY ASHFORD RD. SUITE 160 HOUSTON, TX 77079
Telephone	281-258-4400
CIK	0001514732
Symbol	SAEX
SIC Code	1382 - Oil and Gas Field Exploration Services
Industry	Oil Related Services and Equipment
Sector	Energy
Fiscal Year	12/31

FORM 4

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

OMB APPROVAL
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STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF SECURITIES

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 or
Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person * Abney Ryan (Last) (First) (Middle) 1160 DAIRY ASHFORD RD., SUITE 160 (Street) HOUSTON, TX 77079 (City) (State) (Zip)	2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol SAExploration Holdings, Inc. [SAEX]	5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable) <input type="checkbox"/> Director _____ 10% Owner <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> X Officer (give title below) _____ Other (specify below) VP - Finance
3. Date of Earliest Transaction (MM/DD/YYYY) <p align="center">7/27/2017</p>		6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing (Check Applicable Line) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Form filed by One Reporting Person <input type="checkbox"/> Form filed by More than One Reporting Person
4. If Amendment, Date Original Filed (MM/DD/YYYY)		

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

1. Title of Security (Instr. 3)	2. Trans. Date	2A. Deemed Execution Date, if any	3. Trans. 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 Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4)
			Code	V	Amount	(A) or (D)	Price			
Common Stock	7/27/2017		M		5192	A	\$0 (1)	5253 (2)	D	
Common Stock	7/27/2017		F		1374	D	\$2.98	3879 (3)	D	
Common Stock	7/27/2017		J (4)		14000	A	\$0	14000 (5)	D	

Table II - Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned (e.g. , puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)

1. Title of Derivate Security (Instr. 3)	2. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security	3. Trans. Date	3A. Deemed Execution Date, if any	4. Trans. 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		7. Title and Amount of Securities Underlying Derivative Security (Instr. 3 and 4)		8. Price of Derivative Security (Instr. 5)	9. Number of derivative Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 4)	10. Ownership Form of Derivative Security: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4)	11. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4)
				Code	V	(A)	(D)	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of Shares				
Restricted Stock Units (1)	(1)	7/27/2017		M		5192		(6)	(6)	Common Stock	5192.0	\$0	10382	D	
Stock Option (Right to Buy) (7)	\$10.19 (8)							(9)	9/26/2026	Common Stock	15574.0		15574	D	

Explanation of Responses:

- (1) The restricted stock units were issued pursuant to the SAExploration Holdings, Inc. (the "Company") 2016 Long Term Incentive Plan on September 26, 2016. The 2016 Long Term Incentive Plan was amended and restated effective as of May 30, 2017 (as amended, the "LTIP"). Each restricted stock unit issued pursuant to the LTIP represents the right to receive, upon the applicable vesting date, either (i) a share of Common Stock of the Company or (ii) an amount of cash equal in value to the value of a share of the Company's Common Stock on the date of transfer. The Reporting Person elected to receive shares of Common Stock of the Company in lieu of an amount of cash equal to the value of such Common Stock of the Company.
- (2) Amount includes (a) 61 shares previously owned by Reporting Person, and (b) 1,374 shares to be withheld to cover tax obligations incident to the vesting of the Common Stock.
- (3) Amount includes 61 shares previously owned by Reporting Person.
- (4) Distribution from Speculative Seismic Investments, LLC, of which the Reporting Person is a non-managing member.
- (5) The aggregate amount of securities beneficially owned by Reporting Person is the amount in Note 3 plus the amount in this Note 5.
- (6) The restricted stock units will vest as follows: (i) 1/3 on the earliest to occur of certain events as defined in the LTIP; (ii) 1/3 on the second anniversary of the Closing Date, as defined in the LTIP; and (iii) the remaining 1/3 on the third anniversary of the Closing Date, as defined in the LTIP.
- (7) The non-qualified stock options were issued pursuant to the Company's LTIP on September 26, 2016.
- (8) The Exercise Price of the option is \$10.19 per share, which is equal to the VWAP per common share for the 30-day period that ends on the Grant Date, all terms as defined in the Company's 2016 Long Term Incentive Plan (the "LTIP").
- (9) The stock option becomes exercisable as follows: (i) 1/3 of the Option on the earliest to occur of certain events as defined in the LTIP, (ii) 1/3 of the Option on the second anniversary of the Closing Date, as defined in the LTIP; and (iii) the remaining 1/3 of the Option on the third anniversary of the Closing Date, as defined in the LTIP.

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships			
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other
Abney Ryan 1160 DAIRY ASHFORD RD., SUITE 160 HOUSTON, TX 77079			VP - Finance	

Signatures/s/ Ryan Abney7/31/2017

**Signature of Reporting Person

Date

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

* 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).

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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