

SAExploration Holdings, Inc.
 Form 4
 September 28, 2016

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 *
 Abney Ryan

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol
 SAExploration Holdings, Inc.
 [SAEX]

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer
 (Check all applicable)

(Last) (First) (Middle)
 1160 DAIRY ASHFORD RD., SUITE 160
 (Street)

3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)
 09/26/2016

____ Director ____ 10% Owner
 Officer (give title below) ____ Other (specify below)
 VP - Capital Markets & IR

HOUSTON, TX 77079

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

(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)
Common Stock				(A) or (D)	61	D	

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

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SEC 1474 (9-02)

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

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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)				
				Code	V	(A)	(D)	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of Shares
Restricted Stock Units ⁽¹⁾	(2)	09/26/2016		A		15,574		(3)	09/26/2019	Common Stock	15,574
Stock Option (Right to Buy) ⁽⁴⁾	\$ 10.19 ⁽⁵⁾	09/26/2016		A		15,574		(6)	09/26/2026	Common Stock	15,574

Reporting Owners

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

Signatures

/s/ Ryan Abney 09/28/2016

**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).
- (1) The restricted stock units were issued pursuant to the SAExploration Holdings, Inc. (the "Company") 2016 Long Term Incentive Plan (the "LTIP") on September 26, 2016.

Each restricted stock unit issued pursuant to the LTIP represents the right to receive, upon the applicable vesting date, either (i) a share of
- (2) 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 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
- (3) 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.
- (4) The non-qualified stock options were issued pursuant to the Company's LTIP on September 26, 2016.
- (5) 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 LTIP.

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- 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) (6) 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.

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.