

MCCLANAHAN DAVID M
 Form 4
 May 24, 2011

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 *
 MCCLANAHAN DAVID M

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol
 CENTERPOINT ENERGY INC
 [CNP]

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

(Check all applicable)

(Last) (First) (Middle)
 1111 LOUISIANA
 (Street)

3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)
 05/23/2011

Director 10% Owner
 Officer (give title below) Other (specify below)
 President and CEO

HOUSTON, TX 77002

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 Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4) |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|---|--|---|
| | | | Code | V | Amount | (A) or (D) | Price |
| Common Stock | 05/23/2011 | | M | | 100,000 | A | \$ 6.4378 768,172 |
| Common Stock | 05/23/2011 | | S | | 100,000 | D | \$ 18.7528 668,172 |
| Common Stock | | | | | | | 38,134 |
| | | | | | | I | By Savings Plan ⁽²⁾ |

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

SEC 1474 (9-02)

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

| 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 Number Shares |
| Employee Stock Option (right to buy) | \$ 6.4378 | 05/23/2011 | | M | 100,000 | ⁽³⁾ | 03/04/2012 | Common Stock | 100,000 |

Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address | Relationships | | | |
|---|---------------|-----------|-------------------|-------|
| | Director | 10% Owner | Officer | Other |
| MCCLANAHAN DAVID M 1111 LOUISIANA HOUSTON, TX 77002 | X | | President and CEO | |

Signatures

David M.
McClanahan 05/24/2011

**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 price reported in Column 4 is a weighted average price. These shares were sold in multiple transactions at prices ranging from \$18.72 to \$18.7811, inclusive. The reporting person undertakes to provide to CenterPoint Energy, Inc., any security holder of CenterPoint Energy, Inc., or the staff of the Securities and Exchange Commission, upon request, full information regarding the number of shares sold at each separate price within the ranges set forth in this footnote (1).
 - (2) Equivalent Shares held in CenterPoint Energy, Inc. Savings Plan as of 05/01/2011.
 - (3) Options awarded in 2002 which vested in three equal installments on March 5, 2003, 2004 and 2005.
 - (4) Price is not applicable.

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.