FORM 4

UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

| Check this b | ox if no longer subject to |
|---------------|----------------------------|
| Section 16. | Form 4 or Form 5 |
| obligations r | nay continue. See |
| Instruction 1 | (b). |

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP

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

| OMB APPRO | JVAL |
|------------------------|-----------|
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| 1. Name and Address of Reporting Person [*] O'Brien Dana C. | | on* | 2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol <u>CENTERPOINT ENERGY INC</u> [CNP] | | tionship of Reporting Pers all applicable) Director | 10% Owner |
|---|---------------|----------------|---|------------------------|--|------------------------------------|
| (Last) 1111 LOUISIAI | (First) NA | (Middle) | 3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year) 02/28/2019 | X | Officer (give title below) SVP & Gen Co | Other (specify below) ounsel |
| (Street) HOUSTON (City) | TX (State) | 77002 (Zip) | 4. If Amendment, Date of Original Filed (Month/Day/Year) | 6. Indiv Line) X | ridual or Joint/Group Filing Form filed by One Rep Form filed by More that Person | orting Person |

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) | Transaction Code (Instr. | | | | | 5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported | 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 | Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4) | | (1150.4) |
| Common Stock | 02/28/2019 | | Α | | 35 , 443 ⁽¹⁾ | Α | \$0.00 | 90,754 | D | |
| Common Stock | 02/28/2019 | | F | | 10,499(2) | D | \$30.14 | 80,255 ⁽³⁾ | D | |

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. Transa Code (8) | | of Ext Derivative Securites Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5) Dat | | 6. Date Exerc Expiration Da (Month/Day/Y | ate | 7. Title and Amount of Securities Underlying Derivative Security (Instr. 3 and 4) Amount or Number of Shares | | Security Sec (Instr. 5) Ben Own Foll Rep Trar | 9. Number of derivative Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 4) | Ownership Form: Direct (D) | 11. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4) |
|---|---|--|---|------------------------------|---|--|--|--|--------------------|---|--|--|--|----------------------------------|--|
| | | | | Code | v | | | Date Exercisable | Expiration Date | | | | | | |

Explanation of Responses:

1. Vesting of performance shares awarded in 2016 under the Issuer's Long-term Incentive Plan.

2. Shares withheld for taxes upon vesting of performance shares

3. Total includes (i) 8,737 time-based restricted stock units ("RSUs") previously awarded under the Issuer's Long-term Incentive Plan (the "Plan") and vesting in February 2020, (ii) 9,248 RSUs previously awarded under the Plan and vesting in February 2022. The award to vest in 2020 shall vest if the Reporting Person continues to be an employee of Issuer from grant date through vesting date and on a pro-rata basis in the event of her earlier retirement, disability or death. The above awards to vest in 2021 and 2022 shall vest (i) if she continues to be an employee of Issuer from grant date through vesting date and (ii) in the event of her earlier retirement, disability or death. The above awards to vest in 2021 and 2022 shall vest (i) if she continues to be an employee of Issuer from grant date through vesting date and (ii) in the event of her disability or death. Also, the above awards to vest in 2021 and 2022 shall vest on a pro-rata basis in the event of her retirement unless she satisfies various conditions for full vesting.

Remarks:

Vincent A. Mercaldi, Attorneyin-Fact 03/04/2019

** 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.

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 Number.