

FORM 4

UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP

Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5 obligations may continue. See Instruction 1(b).

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 APPROVAL | |
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|---|---|---|
| 1. Name and Address of Reporting Person* <u>Fitzgerald Walter L.</u> (Last) (First) (Middle) <u>P.O. BOX 4567</u> (Street) <u>HOUSTON TX 77210</u> (City) (State) (Zip) | 2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol <u>CENTERPOINT ENERGY INC [CNP]</u> 3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year) <u>01/21/2010</u> 4. If Amendment, Date of Original Filed (Month/Day/Year) | 5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable) Director 10% Owner X Officer (give title below) Other (specify below) <u>Sr VP and CAO</u> 6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing (Check Applicable Line) X Form filed by One Reporting Person Form filed by More than One Reporting 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) | 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 | 01/21/2010 | | A | | 2,600 ⁽¹⁾ | A | (2) | 34,446 | D | |
| Common Stock | | | | | | | | 5,368 | I | By Savings Plan ⁽³⁾ |

| 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 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: 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 | | | |

Explanation of Responses:

1. Gross number of shares of time-based stock (with performance goal) awarded for 2007-2009 cycle under Long Term Incentive Plan.
2. Price is not applicable.
3. Equivalent Shares held in CenterPoint Energy, Inc. Savings Plan as of 01/01/2010.

Remarks:

Walter L. Fitzgerald 01/25/2010
** 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.