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

## FORM 8-K

CURRENT REPORT
Pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the
Securities Exchange Act of 1934

Date of Report (Date of earliest event reported): May 4, 2007

## CENTERPOINT ENERGY, INC.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Texas
(State or other jurisdiction of incorporation)

1-31447 (Commission File Number) 74-0694415 (IRS Employer Identification No.)

1111 Louisiana Houston, Texas

(Address of principal executive offices)

77002 (Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: (713) 207-1111

Check the appropriate box below if the Form 8-K filing is intended to simultaneously satisfy the filing obligation of the registrant under any of the following provisions (*see* General Instruction A.2. below):

- o Written communications pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act (17 CFR 230.425)
- o Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14a-12)
- o Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d-2(b) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14d-2(b))
- o Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13e-4(c) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.13e-4(c))

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#### ITEM 2.02. RESULTS OF OPERATIONS AND FINANCIAL CONDITION.

On May 4, 2007, CenterPoint Energy, Inc. ("CenterPoint Energy") reported first quarter 2007 earnings. For additional information regarding CenterPoint Energy's first quarter 2007 earnings, please refer to CenterPoint Energy's press release attached to this report as Exhibit 99.1 (the "Press Release"), which Press Release is incorporated by reference herein. The information in the Press Release is being furnished, not filed, pursuant to Item 2.02. Accordingly, the information in the Press Release will not be incorporated by reference into any registration statement filed by CenterPoint Energy under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, unless specifically identified therein as being incorporated therein by reference.

#### ITEM 9.01. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND EXHIBITS.

The exhibit listed below is furnished pursuant to Item 2.02 of this Form 8-K.

- (d) Exhibits.
- 99.1 Press Release issued May 4, 2007 regarding CenterPoint Energy, Inc.'s first quarter 2007 earnings.

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Date: May 4, 2007

## SIGNATURE

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned hereunto duly authorized.

CENTERPOINT ENERGY, INC.

By: /s/ James S. Brian

James S. Brian Senior Vice President and Chief Accounting Officer

## EXHIBIT INDEX

EXHIBIT NUMBER	EXHIBIT DESCRIPTION
99.1	Press Release issued May 4, 2007 regarding CenterPoint Energy, Inc.'s first quarter 2007 earnings



Media: Leticia Lowe Phone 713.207.7702

Investors: Marianne Paulsen Phone 713.207.6500

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#### CENTERPOINT ENERGY REPORTS FIRST QUARTER 2007 EARNINGS

**Houston, TX** — **May 4, 2007** - CenterPoint Energy, Inc. (NYSE: CNP) today reported net income of \$130 million, or \$0.38 per diluted share, for the first quarter of 2007 compared to \$88 million, or \$0.28 per diluted share, for the same period of 2006. The first quarter of 2006 included an addition to the tax reserve related to the company's Zero Premium Exchangeable Subordinated Notes, which reduced net income by \$14 million, or \$0.04 per diluted share.

"I am very pleased with our overall results for the quarter," said David M. McClanahan, president and chief executive officer of CenterPoint Energy. "Our businesses benefited from continued operational improvements, as well as a return to more normal winter weather compared to milder weather last year. I am especially pleased with the performance of our natural gas LDCs this quarter as we are beginning to realize the benefits of our efforts to improve the operating model in these businesses."

#### OPERATING INCOME BY SEGMENT DETAILED

#### **Electric Transmission & Distribution**

The electric transmission & distribution segment reported operating income of \$104 million in the first quarter of 2007, consisting of \$73 million for the regulated electric transmission & distribution utility (TDU) (including \$11 million for the competition transition charge (CTC)) and \$31 million related to the transition bonds. Operating income for the first quarter of 2006 totaled \$110 million, consisting of \$78 million for the TDU (including \$16 million for the CTC) and \$32 million related to the transition bonds.

The decrease in operating income for the TDU was primarily due to the reduction in the allowed rate of return on the un-recovered CTC balance. Increases in operating income from higher usage primarily due to colder weather and customer growth of nearly 39,000 metered customers since March of 2006, more than offset the impact of the base rate reduction and settlement implemented in October of 2006. In addition, operating income for the first quarter of 2006 benefited from a gain on the sale of land.

#### **Natural Gas Distribution**

The natural gas distribution segment reported operating income of \$129 million for the first quarter of 2007 compared to \$103 million for the same period of 2006. The increase in operating income was driven by increased usage primarily due to a return to normal weather,

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Media: Leticia Lowe Phone 713.207.7702 Investors:

Marianne Paulsen Phone 713.207.6500

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customer growth of nearly 48,000 customers since March of 2006, and labor and benefit savings associated with staff reductions in 2006. These increases were partially offset by lower final base rates in Minnesota compared to interim rates accrued in the first quarter of 2006, higher expenses associated with improvements to customer service and increased bad debt expense.

#### **Competitive Natural Gas Sales and Services**

The competitive natural gas sales and services segment reported operating income of \$56 million for the first quarter of 2007 compared to \$25 million for the same period of 2006. The increase was primarily driven by a \$28 million gain on sales of gas from inventory partially offset by a \$14 million unfavorable change resulting from mark-to-market accounting for non-trading financial derivatives. In addition, the first quarter of 2006 included a \$13 million write-down of natural gas inventory to the lower of average cost or market.

#### **Interstate Pipelines**

The interstate pipelines segment reported operating income of \$44 million for the first quarter of 2007 compared to \$49 million for the same period of 2006. The decrease in operating income was primarily due to an increase in operating expenses and the absence of a favorable natural gas storage adjustment recorded in the first quarter of 2006.

#### **Field Services**

The field services segment reported operating income of \$22 million for the first quarter of 2007 compared to \$24 million for the same period of 2006. Continued increased demands for gas gathering and ancillary services were more than offset by lower commodity prices occurring in the first quarter of 2007 and increased operating expenses. In addition, this segment recorded equity income of \$2 million in each of the first quarters of 2006 and 2007 from its 50 percent interest in a jointly-owned gas processing plant. These amounts are included in Other — net under the Other Income (Expense) caption.

### DIVIDEND DECLARATION

On April 26, 2007, CenterPoint Energy's board of directors declared a regular quarterly cash dividend of \$0.17 per share of common stock payable on June 8, 2007, to shareholders of record as of the close of business on May 16, 2007.

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Media: Leticia Lowe Phone 713.207.7702 Investors:

Marianne Paulsen Phone 713.207.6500

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#### **OUTLOOK FOR 2007**

CenterPoint Energy continues to expect diluted earnings per share for 2007 to be in the range of \$1.02 to \$1.12. This guidance takes into consideration various economic and operational assumptions related to the business segments in which the company operates. The company has made certain assumptions regarding the impact to earnings of various regulatory proceedings, but cannot predict the ultimate outcome of any of those proceedings. In providing this guidance, the company has not projected the impact of any changes in accounting standards, any impact from acquisitions or divestitures, or the outcome of the TDU's true-up appeal.

#### FILING OF FORM 10-Q FOR CENTERPOINT ENERGY, INC.

Today, CenterPoint Energy, Inc. filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) its Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the period ended March 31, 2007. A copy of that report is available on the company's web site, <a href="www.CenterPointEnergy.com">www.CenterPointEnergy.com</a>, under the "Investors" section. Other filings the company makes at the SEC and other documents relating to its corporate governance can also be found on that site.

#### WEBCAST OF EARNINGS CONFERENCE CALL

CenterPoint Energy's management will host an earnings conference call on Friday, May 4, 2007, at 10:30 a.m. Central time or 11:30 a.m. Eastern time. Interested parties may listen to a live audio broadcast of the conference call at www.CenterPointEnergy.com/investors/events. A replay of the call can be accessed approximately two hours after the completion of the call and will be archived on the web site for at least one year.

CenterPoint Energy, Inc., headquartered in Houston, Texas, is a domestic energy delivery company that includes electric transmission & distribution, natural gas distribution, competitive natural gas sales and services, interstate pipelines and field services operations. The company serves more than five million metered customers primarily in Arkansas, Louisiana, Minnesota, Mississippi, Oklahoma, and Texas. Assets total over \$17 billion. With about 8,600 employees, CenterPoint Energy and its predecessor companies have been in business for more than 130 years. For more information, visit the Web site at <a href="https://www.CenterPointEnergy.com">www.CenterPointEnergy.com</a>.

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Media: Leticia Lowe Phone 713.207.7702 Investors:

Marianne Paulsen Phone 713.207.6500

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This news release includes forward-looking statements. Actual events and results may differ materially from those projected. The statements in this news release regarding future financial performance and results of operations and other statements that are not historical facts are forward-looking statements. Factors that could affect actual results include the timing and outcome of appeals from the true-up proceedings, the timing and impact of future regulatory, legislative and IRS decisions, effects of competition, weather variations, changes in CenterPoint Energy's or its subsidiaries' business plans, financial market conditions, the timing and extent of changes in commodity prices, particularly natural gas, the impact of unplanned facility outages, and other factors discussed in CenterPoint Energy's and its subsidiaries' Form 10-Ks for the period ended December 31, 2006, CenterPoint Energy's Form 10-Q for the period ended March 31, 2007, and other filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

###

## CenterPoint Energy, Inc. and Subsidiaries Statements of Consolidated Income (Millions of Dollars) (Unaudited)

		nded March 31,
	2006	2007
D.		
Revenues: Electric Transmission & Distribution	\$ 385	\$ 406
Natural Gas Distribution		•
Competitive Natural Gas Sales and Services	1,480	1,567
Interstate Pipelines	1,163 89	1,064 90
Field Services	41	39
Other Operations	4	2
Eliminations	(85)	(62)
Total	3,077	
Total		3,106
P		
Expenses:	2,193	2 150
Natural gas Operation and maintenance	331	2,150 352
Depreciation and amortization	140	145
Taxes other than income taxes	140	106
Total	2,771	2,753
Operating Income	306	353
Other Income (Expense):		
Loss on Time Warner investment	(14)	(44)
Gain on indexed debt securities	10	41
Interest and other finance charges	(115)	(123)
Interest on transition bonds	(33)	(31)
Other — net	6	6
Total	(146)	(151)
Income from Before		
Income Taxes	160	202
Income Tax Expense	<u>(72)</u>	(72)
Net Income	<u>\$ 88</u>	\$ 130

## CenterPoint Energy, Inc. and Subsidiaries Selected Data From Statements of Consolidated Income (Millions of Dollars, Except Share and Per Share Amounts) (Unaudited)

		rter Ended Iarch 31,
	2006	2007
Basic Earnings Per Common Share:		
Net Income	<u>\$ 0.28</u>	\$ 0.41
Diluted Earnings Per Common Share:	Φ 0.20	Φ 0.20
Net Income	\$ 0.28	\$ 0.38
Dividends Declared per Common Share	\$ 0.15	\$ 0.17
Weighted Average Common Shares Outstanding (000):		
- Basic	310,846	318,060
- Diluted	318,593	340,103
Operating Income (Loss) by Segment		
Electric Transmission & Distribution:		
Transmission & Distribution Operations	\$ 78	\$ 73
Transition Bond Companies	32	31
Total Electric Transmission & Distribution	110	104
Natural Gas Distribution	103	129
Competitive Natural Gas Sales and Services	25	56
Interstate Pipelines	49	44
Field Services	24	22
Other Operations	(5)	(2)
Total	\$ 306	\$ 353
	<del>\$ 300</del>	Ψ 200

## CenterPoint Energy, Inc. and Subsidiaries Results of Operations by Segment (Millions of Dollars) (Unaudited)

		Electric Transmission & Distribution Ouarter Ended				
	200	March			% Diff Fav/(Unfav)	
Results of Operations:		<u> </u>		007	<u>rav/(Uniav)</u>	
Revenues:						
Electric transmission and distribution utility	\$	331	\$	347	5%	
Transition bond companies		54		59	9%	
Total		385	<u> </u>	406	5%	
Expenses:						
Operation and maintenance		134		154	(15%	
Depreciation and amortization		63		63	_	
Taxes other than income taxes		56		57	(2%	
Transition bond companies		22		28	(27%	
Total		275		302	(10%	
Operating Income	\$	110	\$	104	(5%	
		70		72	(60/	
Operating Income — Electric transmission and distribution utility		78		73	(6%	
Operating Income — Transition bond companies		32	_	31	(3%	
Total Segment Operating Income	\$	110	\$	104	(5%	
Electric Transmission & Distribution						
Operating Data:						
Actual MWH Delivered						
Residential	3,980	*		558,059	17%	
Total	15,980	5,880	16,6	559,914	4%	
Weather (average for service area):						
Percentage of normal:						
Cooling degree days		137%		113%	(24%	
Heating degree days		63%		110%	47%	
Average number of metered customers:						
Residential	1,71	7,836	1,7	752,264	2%	
Total	1,950	),829		989,744	2%	
		Quarter		Distribution		
	20	2006		2007	% Diff Fav/(Unfav)	
Results of Operations:		<u> </u>		2007	rav/(Omav)	
Revenues	\$	1,480	\$	1,567	6%	
Expenses:						
Natural gas		1,146		1,212	(6%	
Operation and maintenance		150		147	2%	
Depreciation and amortization		38		38	_	
Taxes other than income taxes		43		41	5%	
Total		1,377		1,438	(4%	
Operating Income (Loss)	\$	103	\$	129	25%	
N. I.G. P. C. C. C. P.						
Natural Gas Distribution Operating Data:						
Throughput data in BCF Residential		67		86	28%	
Commercial and Industrial		72		81	13%	
		139		167		
Total Throughput		139		10/	20%	
Weather (average for service area)						
Percentage of normal:						
Heating degree days		84%		98%	14%	
Average number of customers:						
Residential	2. 89	6,766	2.9	946,203	2%	
Commercial and Industrial		5,766		245,576		
Total		2,532		91,779	2%	
	3,17	_,002		5, 17	2/0	

## CenterPoint Energy, Inc. and Subsidiaries Results of Operations by Segment (Millions of Dollars) (Unaudited)

		Competitive Natural Gas Sales a Ouarter Ended		
		ch 31,	% Diff	
	2006	2007	Fav/(Unfav)	
Results of Operations:				
Revenues	\$ 1,163	\$ 1,064	(9%	
Expenses:				
Natural gas	1,129	998	12%	
Operation and maintenance	8	9	(13%	
Depreciation and amortization	<del></del>	_	_	
Taxes other than income taxes	1	1	_	
Total	1,138	1,008	11%	
Operating Income	<u>\$ 25</u>	<u>\$ 56</u>	124%	
Competitive Natural Gas Sales and Services Operating Data:				
Throughput data in BCF				
Wholesale — third parties	89	94	6%	
Wholesale — affiliates	11	3	(73%	
Retail & Pipeline	58	58	_	
Total Throughput	158	155	(2%	
Average number of customers:				
Wholesale	145	223	54%	
Retail & Pipeline	6,664	6,764	2%	
Total	6,809	6,987	3%	
	Mar	er Ended ch 31,	% Diff	
Results of Operations:	2006	2007	Fav/(Unfav)	
Revenues	\$ 89	\$ 90	1%	
Expenses:				
Natural gas	(2)	4	300%	
Operation and maintenance	27	27	_	
Depreciation and amortization	10	10	_	
Taxes other than income taxes	5	5	_	
Total	40	46	(15%	
Operating Income	\$ 49	\$ 44	(10%	
Pipelines Operating Data:				
Throughput data in BCF				
Transportation	274	294	7%	
Total Throughput	274	294	7%	
			,,,	

## CenterPoint Energy, Inc. and Subsidiaries Results of Operations by Segment (Millions of Dollars) (Unaudited)

Field Services

Quarter Ended

	Quarter Ended March 31,		% Diff		
	2	006	2	007	Fav/(Unfav)
Results of Operations:					
Revenues	\$	41	\$	39	(5%)
Expenses:					
Natural gas		1		(3)	400%
Operation and maintenance		13		16	(23%)
Depreciation and amortization		3		3	
Taxes other than income taxes				1	_
Total		17		17	_
Operating Income	\$	24	\$	22	(8%)
Field Services Operating Data: Throughput data in BCF					
Gathering		88		93	6%
Total Throughput		88		93	6%
	Other Operations Quarter Ended March 31,		% Diff		
P 1 10 1	2	006	2	007	Fav/(Unfav)
Results of Operations:	Ф		Ф	2	(500/)
Revenues	\$	4	\$	2	(50%)
Expenses	_	9	_	4	56%
Operating Loss	\$	(5)	\$	(2)	(60%)

## Capital Expenditures by Segment (Millions of Dollars) (Unaudited)

Capital Expenditures by Segment	Quarter Ended March 31,		2007	
Electric Transmission & Distribution	\$	79	\$ 110	
Natural Gas Distribution		40	 33	
Competitive Natural Gas Sales and Services		6	2	
Interstate Pipelines		19	154	
Field Services		11	27	
Other Operations		10	11	
Total	\$	165	\$ 337	

## Interest Expense Detail (Millions of Dollars) (Unaudited)

		March 31,		
	2	006	200	
Interest Expense Detail				
Amortization of Deferred Financing Cost	\$	13	\$	19
Capitalization of Interest Cost		(1)		(8)
Transition Bond Interest Expense		33		31
Other Interest Expense		103		112
Total Interest Expense	\$	148	\$	154

## CenterPoint Energy, Inc. and Subsidiaries Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheets (Millions of Dollars) (Unaudited)

	December 31, 2006	March 31, 2007
		2007
ASSETS		
Current Assets:		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 127	\$ 60
Other current assets	2,868	2,373
Total current assets	2,995	2,433
Property, Plant and Equipment, net	9,204	9,424
Other Assets:		
Goodwill	1,709	1,709
Regulatory assets	3,290	3,248
Other non-current assets	435	392
Total other assets	5,434	5,349
Total Assets	\$ 17,633	\$ 17,206
LIABILITIES AND SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY		
EMBERTIES AND SIMILATION EQUITY		
Current Liabilities:		
Short-term borrowings	\$ 187	\$ 337
Current portion of transition bond long-term debt	147	152
Current portion of other long-term debt	1,051	993
Other current liabilities	2,836	2,284
Total current liabilities	4,221	3,766
Other Liabilities:		
Accumulated deferred income taxes, net and investment tax credit	2,362	2,271
Regulatory liabilities	792	809
Other non-current liabilities	900	895
Total other liabilities	4,054	3,975
Total other machines		
Long-term Debt:		
Transition bond	2,260	2,183
Other	5,542	5,635
Total long-term debt	7,802	7,818
Shareholders' Equity	1,556	1,647
Total Liabilities and Shareholders' Equity	\$ 17,633	\$ 17,206
Istal Elabinites and Sharensiders Equity	\$ 17,033	φ 17,200

## CenterPoint Energy, Inc. and Subsidiaries Condensed Statements of Consolidated Cash Flows (Millions of Dollars) (Unaudited)

	Three Months 1	Ended December 31, 2007
Cash Flows from Operating Activities:		
Net income	\$ 88	\$ 130
Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash provided by operating activities:		
Depreciation and amortization	154	164
Deferred income taxes and investment tax credit	4	(13)
Changes in net regulatory assets	23	22
Changes in other assets and liabilities	23	(56)
Other, net	23	17
Net Cash Provided by Operating Activities	315	264
Net Cash Used in Investing Activities	(201)	(403)
Net Cash Provided by (Used in) Financing Activities	(75)	72
Net Increase (Decrease) in Cash and Cash Equivalents	39	(67)
Cash and Cash Equivalents at Beginning of Period	74	127
Cash and Cash Equivalents at End of Period	<u>\$ 113</u>	\$ 60