FORM 4

## UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

## STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP

| OMB APPROVAL          |           |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|-----------------------|-----------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| OMB Number:           | 3235-0287 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Estimated average but | rden      |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
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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).

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

| 1. Name and Address of Reporting Person*  WHITLOCK GARY L |  |        |               |      |                | 2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol  CENTERPOINT ENERGY INC [ CNP ] |   |      |   |                             |  |   |                 |                      |  | all app                                      | licable)   | 1   | Person(s) to Issuer  10% Owner Other (specify |  |
|---|--|--------|---------------|------|----------------|---|---|------|---|-----------------------------|--|---|-----------------|----------------------|--|--|--|---|---|--|
| (Last)<br>1111 LOU  | (Fii<br>UISIANA  | rst) ( | Middle)       |      |                | 3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year) 02/26/2014                 |   |      |   |                             |  |   |                 |                      |  |  |  |   | elow)   |  |
| (Street) HOUSTO   |  |        | 77002<br>Zip) |      | 4. If          | 4. If Amendment, Date of Original Filed (Month/Day/Year)                    |   |      |   |                             |  |   |                 |                      | 5. Indiv<br>_ine)<br>X                         | •  |  |   |   |  |
|   | Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned   |        |               |      |                |   |   |      |   |                             |  |   |                 |                      |  |  |  |   |   |  |
| 1. Title of Security (Instr. 3)  2. Transa Date (Month/E  |  |        |               |      | eay/Year) if a |   | A. Deemed<br>kecution Date,<br>any<br>lonth/Day/Year) |      | 3.<br>Transaction<br>Code (Instr.<br>8) |                             | 4. Securities Acquired (A)<br>Disposed Of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 |   |                 |                      | 4 and 5) Secu<br>Bene<br>Own                   |  | cially<br>I Following  | 6. Ownership<br>Form: Direct<br>(D) or Indirect<br>(I) (Instr. 4) |   | 7. Nature<br>of Indirect<br>Beneficial<br>Ownership<br>(Instr. 4)  |
|   |  |        |               |      |                |   |   | Code | v                                       | Amount                      |  | (A) or<br>(D)   | Price           |                      | Reported<br>Transaction(s)<br>(Instr. 3 and 4) |  |  |   | (1130.4)                                      |  |
| Common Stock 02/2   |  |        |               |      |                | 2014  |   |      |   |                             | 46,578 <sup>0</sup>  | (1)   | A               | (2)                  |  | 385,850                                      |  | D   |   |  |
| Common Stock  |  |        |               |      | 02/26/2014     |   |   |      | F                                       |                             | 17,400   | (3)   | D               | D \$23.55            |  | 368,450                                      |  | D   |   |  |
| Common  |  |        |               |      |                |   |   |      |   |                             |  | 42,752  |                 | I                    |  | By<br>Savings<br>Plan <sup>(4)</sup>         |  |   |   |  |
|   | Table II - Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned (e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities) |        |               |      |                |   |   |      |   |                             |  |   |                 |                      |  |  |  |   |   |  |
| 1. Title of<br>Derivative<br>Security<br>(Instr. 3)       | Conversion   Date   Execution Date, or Exercise   (Month/Day/Year)   if any  |        |               |      |                | Transaction<br>Code (Instr.   |   | of   |   | Exerci:<br>on Dat<br>Day/Ye |  | 7. Title and<br>Amount of<br>Securities<br>Underlying<br>Derivative<br>Security (Inst<br>and 4) |                 | str. 3               | Deriv  | Price of<br>erivative<br>ecurity<br>nstr. 5) | 9. Number of<br>derivative<br>Securities<br>Beneficially<br>Owned<br>Following<br>Reported<br>Transaction(<br>(Instr. 4) | Ownership<br>Form:<br>Direct (D)<br>or Indirect<br>(I) (Instr. 4) | D)<br>ect                                     | 11. Nature<br>of Indirect<br>Beneficial<br>Ownership<br>(Instr. 4) |
|   |  |        |               | Code |                | v   | (A)   | (D)  | Date<br>Exercisa                        |                             | Expiration<br>Date   | Titl  | or<br>Nur<br>of | ount<br>nber<br>ıres | er   |  |  |   |   |  |

## **Explanation of Responses:**

- 1. Vesting of performance shares awarded in 2011 under Long Term Incentive Plan.
- 2. Price is not applicable.
- 3. Shares withheld for taxes upon vesting of performance shares.
- 4. Equivalent Shares held in CenterPoint Energy, Inc. Savings Plan as of 02/01/2014.

## Remarks:

Richard B. Dauphin Attorney in Fact

02/28/2014

\*\* 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.

CENTERPOINT ENERGY, INC. Power of Attorney

WHEREAS, the undersigned, in his or her capacity as a director or officer or both, as the case may be, of CenterPoint Energy, Inc., a Texas corporation (the "Company"), may be required to file with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "Commission") under Section 16 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, and the rules and regulations promulgated thereunder (collectively, the "Exchange Act"), Forms 3, 4 and 5 or other reports ("Forms") relating to the undersigned's holdings of and transactions in securities of the Company;

NOW, THEREFORE, the undersigned, in his or her capacity as a director or officer or both, as the case may be, of the Company, does hereby appoint Scott E. Rozzell, Rufus S. Scott, Douglas H. Darrow and Richard B. Dauphin, and each of them severally, as his or her true and lawful attorney-in-fact or attorneys-in-fact and agent or agents with power to act with or without the other and with full power of substitution and resubstitution, to execute in his or her name, place and stead, in his or her capacity as a director or officer or both, as the case may be, of the Company, Forms and any and all amendments thereto and any and all instruments necessary or incidental in connection therewith, if any, and to file the same with the Commission and any stock exchange or similar authority. Each said attorney-in-fact and agent shall have full power and authority to do and perform in the name and on behalf of the undersigned in any and all capacities, every act whatsoever necessary or desirable to be done in the premises, as fully and to all intents and purposes as the undersigned might or could do in person, the undersigned hereby ratifying and approving the acts of said attorney. The powers and authority of each said attorney-in-fact and agent herein granted shall remain in full force and effect until the undersigned is no longer required to file Forms under the Exchange Act, unless earlier revoked by the undersigned by giving written notice of such revocation to the Company. The undersigned acknowledges that the said attorneys-in-fact, in serving in such capacity at the request of the undersigned, are not assuming, nor is the Company assuming, any of the undersigned's responsibilities to comply with Section 16 of the Exchange Act.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned has executed this instrument this 12th day of February, 2003.

Name: Gary L. Whitlock