

CenterPoint Energy Reports Fourth Quarter and Full Year 2006 Earnings

HOUSTON, Feb 28, 2007 /PRNewswire-FirstCall via COMTEX News Network/ -- CenterPoint Energy, Inc. (NYSE: CNP) today reported net income and income from continuing operations of \$67 million, or \$0.20 per diluted share, for the fourth quarter of 2006 compared to \$81 million, or \$0.25 per diluted share, for the same period of 2005. Results for the fourth quarter of 2006 were reduced by \$12 million, or \$0.04 per diluted share, related to a final agreement with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) as described below.

Net income for the year 2006 was \$432 million, or \$1.33 per diluted share, compared to \$252 million, or \$0.75 per diluted share, for 2005. Income from continuing operations before extraordinary item for 2006 was also \$432 million, or \$1.33 per diluted share, compared to \$225 million, or \$0.67 per diluted share, for 2005.

Results for the year 2006 included the impact of the resolution of two issues relating to prior years. The first was an agreement with the Appeals Division of the IRS regarding the tax treatment of the company's Zero Premium Exchangeable Subordinated Notes (ZENS) and its former Automatic Common Exchange Securities. As a result of that agreement, in the second quarter of 2006 the company reduced its previously accrued tax and related interest reserves, adding \$119 million (\$0.37 per diluted share) to income. In the fourth quarter of 2006, the company increased these reserves, reducing income by \$12 million, or \$0.04 per diluted share, to reflect the final agreement as approved by the Joint Committee on Taxation of the U.S. Congress. A second issue resolved in 2006 was the remand to the Texas Public Utility Commission of the company's 2001 unbundled cost of service order (UCOS). As a result of the agreement, which settled all issues, the company reduced income by \$21 million after-tax, or \$0.06 per diluted share in the second quarter of 2006. Excluding all impacts related to the ZENS tax issue and the UCOS, earnings for the fourth quarter of 2006 and for the year 2006 would have been \$0.24 and \$1.11 per diluted share, respectively.

Net income for the year 2005, included an extraordinary gain of \$30 million, or \$0.09 per diluted share, reflecting an adjustment to the extraordinary loss recorded in the second half of 2004 to write down generation-related regulatory assets. In addition, net income for 2005 included a loss of \$3 million, or \$0.01 per diluted share, from discontinued operations.

"I am very pleased with the overall results that we are reporting today," said David M. McClanahan, president and chief executive officer of CenterPoint Energy. "Our interstate pipelines, field services and competitive natural gas marketing businesses turned in strong performances. However, mild weather and decreased usage led to disappointing results in our natural gas utilities. We have taken a number of steps to better position our company going forward, and I am optimistic about our future."

OPERATING INCOME BY SEGMENT DETAILED

Electric Transmission & Distribution

The electric transmission & distribution segment reported operating income of \$96 million in the fourth quarter of 2006, consisting of \$66 million for the regulated electric transmission & distribution utility (TDU) (including \$11 million for the competition transition charge (CTC)) and \$30 million related to the transition bonds. Operating income for the fourth quarter of 2005 totaled \$102 million, consisting of \$90 million for the TDU (including \$16 million for the CTC) and \$12 million related to the transition bonds.

The TDU recorded lower revenues in the fourth quarter of 2006 compared to the same period of 2005 primarily due to the reduction in base rates implemented in October of 2006, a lower CTC amount resulting from the reduction in the allowed rate of return, milder weather and decreased usage. The TDU's revenues continued to benefit from solid customer growth, with over 37,000 metered customers added during 2006, ending the year with 1.98 million metered customers. Operation and maintenance expenses increased slightly primarily due to increased spending on low income assistance and energy efficiency programs.

Operating income for the year 2006 was \$576 million, consisting of \$450 million for the TDU (including \$55 million for the CTC) and \$126 million related to the transition bonds. Operating income for 2005 totaled \$487 million, consisting of \$448 million for the TDU (including \$19 million for the CTC) and \$39 million related to the transition bonds. Operating income increased due to customer growth, a higher CTC amount collected in 2006, higher revenues from ancillarly services and proceeds from land sales. These increases were partially offset by milder weather and decreased usage, the implementation of reduced base rates and increased spending on low income assistance and energy efficiency programs. In addition, the TDU's operating income for

2006 included the \$32 million adverse impact of the resolution of the 2001 UCOS order recorded in the second guarter.

Natural Gas Distribution

The natural gas distribution segment reported operating income of \$34 million for the fourth quarter of 2006 compared to \$59 million for the same period of 2005. Results for the fourth quarter of 2006 included a \$21 million write-off for purchased natural gas costs for periods prior to July 2004. The Minnesota Public Utilities Commission denied recovery of these costs. Operating income was also adversely affected by milder weather and increased costs associated with staff reductions and higher employee-related expenses. Operation and maintenance expenses for 2005 included an \$11 million increase in litigation reserves.

Operating income for the year 2006 was \$124 million compared to \$175 million for 2005. In addition to the factors noted above, higher revenues from rate increases and customer growth were more than offset by decreased usage and higher bad debt and other expenses.

Competitive Natural Gas Sales and Services

The competitive natural gas sales and services segment reported operating income of \$33 million for the fourth quarter of 2006 compared to \$30 million for the same period of 2005. The increase was primarily driven by increased sales of gas from inventory, partially offset by a \$10 million year-end write- down of natural gas inventory to the lower of average cost or market. The company purchases and stores natural gas to meet certain future sales requirements and enters into derivative contracts to hedge the economic value of the future sales.

Operating income for the year 2006 was \$77 million compared to \$60 million for 2005. The increase in operating income for 2006 was driven primarily by improved margins resulting from seasonal price differentials, increased sales of gas from inventory and favorable basis differentials over the pipeline capacity that the company controls. In addition, results for 2006 reflect a \$37 million favorable change in unrealized gains resulting from mark-to-market accounting for non-trading financial derivatives, and \$66 million of write- downs of natural gas inventory.

Interstate Pipelines

Beginning with the fourth quarter of 2006, the company separated the "pipelines and field services" segment into two reporting segments, "interstate pipelines" and "field services". All prior period segment information has been recast to conform to the 2006 presentation.

The interstate pipelines segment reported operating income of \$44 million for the fourth quarter of 2006 compared to \$46 million for the same period of 2005. Higher operating income from the sale of excess gas no longer required following improvements to a storage facility was more than offset by a write- off of expenses associated with the Mid-Continent Crossing pipeline project that was discontinued.

Operating income for the year 2006 was \$181 million compared to \$165 million for 2005. In addition to the factors noted above, operating income for 2006 benefited from increased transportation and ancillary services and reduced litigation reserves, partially offset by increased operating expenses.

Field Services

The field services segment reported operating income of \$23 million for the fourth quarter of 2006 compared to \$21 million for the same period of 2005. The increase was driven by increased gas gathering and ancillary services, which reflect contributions from new facilities placed in service, partially offset by lower commodity prices occurring in the fourth quarter of 2006 and increased operating expenses.

Operating income for the year 2006 was \$89 million compared to \$70 million for 2005. The increase in operating income was due to the same factors noted above. Equity income from the company's 50 percent interest in a jointly- owned gas processing plant was \$6 million for each of the years 2006 and 2005. These amounts are included in Other -- net under the Other Income (Expense) caption.

DIVIDEND DECLARATION

On February 1, 2007, CenterPoint Energy's board of directors declared a regular quarterly cash dividend of \$0.17 per share of common stock payable on March 9, 2007, to shareholders of record as of the close of business on February 16, 2007.

CenterPoint Energy expects 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-K FOR CENTERPOINT ENERGY, INC.

Today, CenterPoint Energy, Inc. filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) its Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2006. A copy of that report is available on the company's web site, www.CenterPointEnergy.com, under the "Investors" section. Other filings the company makes at the SEC and other documents relating to its corporate governance can also be found at that site.

WEBCAST OF EARNINGS CONFERENCE CALL

CenterPoint Energy's management will host an earnings conference call on Wednesday, February 28, 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 http://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 http://www.CenterPointEnergy.com.

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 Form 10- K for the period ended December 31, 2006, and other fillings with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Statements of Consolidated Income (Millions of Dollars)
(Unaudited)

	Quarter Ended December 31,			
	2005	2005 2006		2006
Revenues:				
Electric Transmission &				
Distribution	\$401	\$407	\$1,644	\$1,781
Natural Gas Distribution	1,441	1,079	3,846	3,593
Competitive Natural Gas Sales and				
Services	1,346	908	4,129	3,651
Interstate Pipelines	104	89	386	388
Field Services	31	36	120	150
Other Operations	4	3	19	15
Eliminations	(115)	(58)	(422)	(259)
Total	3,212	2,464	9,722	9,319

Expenses:

Natural gas	2,348	1,623	6,509	5,909
Operation and maintenance	384	381	1,358	1,399
Depreciation and amortization	130	147	541	599
Taxes other than income taxes	98	78	375	367
Total	2,960	2,229	8,783	8,274
Operating Income	252	235	939	1,045
Other Income (Expense):				
Gain (Loss) on Time Warner investment	(15)	77	(44)	94
Gain (Loss) on indexed debt securities	s 15	(67)	49	(80)
Interest and other finance charges	(149)	(117)	(670)	(470)
Interest on transition bonds	(13)	(32)	(40)	(130)
Return on true-up balance	17		121	
Other net	5	8	23	35
Total	(140)	(131)	(561)	(551)
Income from Continuing Operations Before	e			
Income Taxes and Extraordinary Item	112	104	378	494
Income Tax Expense	(31)	(37)	(153)	(62)
Income from Continuing Operations Before Extraordinary Item	e 81	67	225	432
Discontinued Operations:				
Income from Texas Genco, net of tax Loss on Disposal of Texas Genco, net			11	
of tax Total			(14)	
Income Before Extraordinary Item	81	67	222	432
Extraordinary Item, net of tax			30	
Net Income	\$81	\$67	\$252	\$432

Quarter Ended December 31,		Twelve Months Ended December 31,	
2005	2006	2005	2006
\$0.26	\$0.21	\$0.72	\$1.39
		(0.01)	
		0.10	
\$0.26	\$0.21	\$0.81	\$1.39
\$0.25	\$0.20	\$0.67	\$1.33
		(0.01)	
	December 2005 \$0.26 \$0.26	December 31,	Quarter Ended Ended December 31, December 2005 2006 2005 \$0.26 \$0.21 \$0.72 (0.01) 0.10 \$0.26 \$0.21 \$0.81 \$0.25 \$0.20 \$0.67

Extraordinary item, net of tax Net Income	 \$0.25	 \$0.20	0.09 \$0.75	 \$1.33
Dividends Declared per Common Share	\$0.06	\$0.15	\$0.40	\$0.60
Weighted Average Common Shares Outstanding (000): Basic Diluted	310,147 320,351	•	309,349 346,028	•
Operating Income (Loss) by Segment				
Electric Transmission & Distribution	:			
Transmission & Distribution				
Operations	\$90	\$66		\$450
Transition Bond Companies	12	30	39	126
Total Electric Transmission &				
Distribution	102	96	487	
Natural Gas Distribution	59	34	175	124
Competitive Natural Gas Sales and				
Services	30	33	60	77
Interstate Pipelines	46	44	165	181
Field Services	21	23	70	89
Other Operations	(6)	5	(18)	(2)
Total	\$252	\$235	\$939	\$1,045

Electric Transmission & Distribution

	Quarter E	31,	% Diff	Twelve M End Decemb	.ed	; f f
			*		2006 Fav/(
Results of						
Operations:						
Revenues:						
Electric						
transmission and						
distribution						
utility	\$374	\$346	(7%)	\$1,538	\$1,516	(1%)
Transition bond						
companies	27		126%		265	150%
Total	401	407	1%	1,644	1,781	8%
Expenses:						
Operation and						
maintenance	172	175	(2%)	618	611	1%
Depreciation and						
amortization	61	61		258	243	6%
Taxes other than						
income taxes	51	44	14%	214	212	1%

Transition bond companies Total Operating Income	15 299 \$102	311	(107%) (4%) (6%)	67 1,157 \$487	139 (107%) 1,205 (4%) \$576 18%
Operating Income Electric transmissic and distribution utility	on 90	66	(27%)	448	450
Operating Income Transition bond	1.0	20	1500	20	106 0020
companies Total Segment	12	30	150%	39	126 223%
Operating Income	\$102	\$96	(6%)	\$487	\$576 18%
	317,080	4,637,585 16,638,022			23,954,745 (4%) 75,876,929 2%
Weather (average for service area): Percentage of normal	:				
Cooling degree days Heating degree days		116% 81%	(12%) (10%)	112% 82%	106% (6%) 68% (14%)
	704,690 936,685		2% 2%	1,683,100	1,732,656 3%
1,912,346 1,968,114	3%				

Natural Gas Distribution

	Quarter En		% Diff	Twelve Mo Ended December	d	% Diff
			Fav/			Fav/
	2005	2006	(Unfav)	2005	2006	(Unfav)
Results of						
Operations:						
Revenues	\$1,441	\$1,079	(25%)	\$3,846	\$3,593	(7%)
Expenses:						
Natural gas	1,148	811	29%	2,841	2,598	9%
Operation and						
maintenance	158	165	(4%)	551	594	(8%)
Depreciation and						
amortization	37	39	(5%)	152	152	
Taxes other than						
income taxes	39	30	23%	127	125	2%
Total	1,382	1,045	24%	3,671	3,469	6%
Operating Income						
(Loss)	\$59	\$34	(42%)	\$175	\$124	(29%)

Natural Gas Distribution

Operating Data:						
Throughput data in	BCF					
Residential	53	54	2%	160	152	(5%)
Commercial and						
Industrial	57	64	12%	215	224	4%
Total Throughp	ut 110	118	7%	375	376	
Weather (average for service area) Percentage of norm						
Heating degree d	ays 94%	85%	(9%)	91%	84%	(7%)
Average number of customers:						
Residential 2,839,947 2,883,927 Commercial and	2,860,032 2%	2,909,673	2%			
Industrial Total	· ·	244,030 3,153,703		244,782 3,084,729	•	(1%) 1%

Competitive Natural Gas Sales and Services

	Ouarte	er Ended					
	Decemb	er 31,	Dec		ber 31,		
				v) 2005 2006			
Results of Operations:							
Revenues	\$1,346	\$908	(33%)	\$4,129	\$3,651	(12%)	
Expenses: Natural gas Operation and	1,305	867	34%	4,033	3,540	12%	
maintenance		7	22%	30	30		
Depreciation and amortization Taxes other than	1			2	1	50%	
income taxes		1		4	3	25%	
Total	1,316	875	34%	4,069	3,574	12%	
Operating Income	\$30	\$33	10%	\$60	\$77	28%	
Competitive Natural Gas Sales and Serv Operating Data: Throughput data in	rices						
Wholesale third parties Wholesale	69	84	22%	304	335	10%	
affiliates	4	9	125%	27	36	33%	
Retail	44	39	(11%)	156	149	(4%)	
Pipeline	10	7	(30%)	51	35	(31%)	

Total Throughput	127	139	9%	538	555	3%
Average number of customers:						
Wholesale	121	140	16%	138	140	1%
Retail	6,616	6,561	(1%)	6,328	6,452	2%
Pipeline	135	136	1%	142	138	(3%)
Total	6,872	6,837	(1%)	6,608	6,730	2%

Interstate Pipelines

	Quarter Ended December 31,			Twelve Months Ended December 31,			
	2005	2006				Fav/(Unfav)	
Results of							
Operations:							
Revenues	\$104	\$89	(14%)	\$386	\$388	1%	
Expenses:							
Natural gas	13	8	38%	47	31	34%	
Operation and							
maintenance	31	23	26%	121	120	1%	
Depreciation and	0	0		2.6	2.17	(20)	
amortization	9	9		36	37	(3%)	
Taxes other than	-	-		1.0	1.0	(100)	
income taxes	5	5				(12%)	
Total	58	45	22%				
Operating Income	\$46	\$44	(4%)	\$105	\$181	10%	
Pipelines Operating Data:							
Throughput data in BO	CF						
Natural Gas Sales	2	4	(100%)	6	7	17%	
Transportation		221	3%	914	939	3%	
Elimination		(4)		(4)	(6)	(50%)	
Total Throughput	216	221	2%	916	940	3%	

Reference is made to the Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements contained in the Annual Report on Form 10-K of CenterPoint Energy, Inc.

Field Services

				Twelve Months						
	Quarter	Ended		ded						
	Decemb	per 31,	December 31,							
			% Diff			% Diff				
	2005	2006	Fav/(Unfav)	2005	2006	Fav/(Unfav)				
Results of Operations:										
Revenues Expenses:	\$31	\$36	16%	\$120	\$150	25%				

Natural gas	(5)	(6)	(20%)	(10)	(10)	
Operation and maintenance	13	17	(31%)	49	59	(20%)
Depreciation and amortization Taxes other than	2	2		9	10	(11%)
income taxes				2	2	
Total	10	13	(30%)	50	61	(22%)
Operating Income	\$21	\$23	10%	\$70	\$89	27%
Field Services Operating Data: Throughput data in BCF						
Gathering	91	96	5%	353	375	6%
Total Throughput	91	96	5%	353	375	6%

Other Operations

		- 1 1		Twelve		
	Quarter	Ended		Enc	aea	
	December 31,		December 31,			
			% Diff			% Diff
	2005	2006	Fav/(Unfav	7) 2005	2006	Fav/(Unfav)
Results of Operations	s:					
Revenues	\$4	\$3	(25%)	\$19	\$15	(21%)
Expenses	10	(2)	120%	37	17	54%
Operating Income						
(Loss)	\$(6)	\$5	(183%)	\$(18)	\$(2)	89%

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

	Quarter Ended December 31,			nths Ended ber 31,
	2005	2006	2005	2006
Capital Expenditures				
by Segment				
Electric Transmission				
& Distribution	\$82	\$111	\$281	\$389
Natural Gas Distribution	80	54	249	187
Competitive Natural Gas				
Sales and Services	8	4	12	18
Interstate Pipelines	37	259	118	437
Field Services	11	24	38	65
Other Operations	4	7	21	25
Total	\$222	\$459	\$719	\$1,121

	Quarter Ended December 31,				
			Twelve Months Ended December 31,		
	2005	2006	2005	2006	
Interest Expense Detail Amortization of					
Deferred Financing Cost Capitalization of	\$17	\$13	\$75	\$53	
Interest Cost Transition Bond Interest	(1)	(4)	(4)	(10)	
Expense	13	32	40	130	
Other Interest Expense	133	108	599	427	
Interest Expense Incurred by Discontinued	l				
Operations Total Interest			1		
Expense	\$162	\$149	\$711	\$600	

	December 31, 2005	December 31, 2006
ASSETS		
Current Assets:		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$74	\$127
Other current assets	2,817	2,868
Total current assets	2,891	2,995
Property, Plant and Equipment, net	8,492	9,204
Other Assets:		
Goodwill	1,709	1,709
Regulatory assets	2,955	3,290
Other non-current assets	1,069	435
Total other assets	5,733	5,434
Total Assets	\$17,116	\$17,633
LIABILITIES AND SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY		
Current Liabilities:		
Short-term borrowings	\$	\$187
Current portion of transition bond		
long-term debt	73	147
Current portion of other long-term debt	266	1,051
Other current liabilities	2,675	2,836
Total current liabilities	3,014	4,221

Other Liabilities:

Accumulated deferred income taxes,

net and investment tax credit Regulatory liabilities Other non-current liabilities	2,520 728 990	2,362 792 900
Total other liabilities	4,238	4,054
Long-term Debt:		
Transition bond	2,407	2,260
Other	6,161	5,542
Total long-term debt	8,568	7,802
Shareholders' Equity	1,296	1,556
Total Liabilities and Shareholders' Equity	\$17,116	\$17,633

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

	Twelve Months Ended	December 31,
	2005	2006
Clark Flows from Operating Astimities:		
Cash Flows from Operating Activities: Net income	\$252	\$432
Discontinued operations, net of tax	3	9 - 52
Extraordinary item, net of tax	(30)	
Income from continuing operations	225	432
Adjustments to reconcile income from	223	432
continuing operations to net cash		
provided by operating activities:	61.0	655
Depreciation and amortization	618	655
Deferred income taxes and investment	0.0.4	(041)
tax credit	224	(241)
Tax and interest reserves reductions		(4.0-)
related to ZENS and ACES settlement		(107)
Write-down of natural gas inventory		66
Changes in net regulatory assets	(192)	79
Changes in other assets and liabilities		108
Other, net	18	(1)
Net Cash Provided by Operating Activities		
of Continuing Operations	101	991
Net Cash Used in Operating Activities		
of Discontinued Operations	(38)	
Net Cash Provided by Operating Activities	63	991
Net Cash Provided by (Used in)		
Investing Activities	17	(1,056)
Net Cash Provided by (Used in)		
Financing Activities	(171)	118
Net Increase (Decrease) in Cash and		
Cash Equivalents	(91)	53
Cash and Cash Equivalents at Beginning		
of Period	165	74

SOURCE CenterPoint Energy, Inc.

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