

# Energy for what matters most



# 2023 Annual Report

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***“Energy for  
what matters most...”***

represents our commitment to the stakeholders  
we serve — our customers, neighbors,  
employees and shareholders.”



**Jason P. Wells**  
President and Chief Executive Officer  
CenterPoint Energy

Dear Fellow Shareholders,

At CenterPoint Energy, we believe success is achieved when those we serve succeed. *Energy for what matters most* speaks volumes about the services we provide, fueling everyday comfort and productivity through our Electric Business and Natural Gas Business to more than 7 million metered customers across our service territory. *Energy for what matters most* reflects the strong sense of pride our nearly 9,000 employees take in what they do and how they do it, while representing our commitment to the stakeholders we serve — our customers, neighbors, employees and shareholders. What matters to them matters to us, inspiring us to do more and to be more.

Before I reflect upon 2023, I would like to thank my predecessor, Dave Lesar, for his leadership and accomplishments at CenterPoint Energy as we advanced our long-term growth strategy for the benefit of our customers, stakeholders and communities. I am humbled and honored to follow Dave in the role of President and CEO.

Over the last three-plus years, we have acted decisively to strengthen CenterPoint Energy's financial condition and introduce one of the most tangible long-term growth strategies in our industry. Together with our diverse and

experienced Board of Directors, we are maintaining our utility-focused strategy to further unlock the potential of our company. We have performed with determination to address our immediate challenges and established a strategy to seize new opportunities and realize new levels of sustainable growth.

None of these accomplishments would have been possible without the contributions of our workforce. Our employees have been and always will be the driving force behind our performance. I would like to express my appreciation to all our field employees who helped deliver on our commitments to our customers during a year of difficult weather conditions, including record-breaking heat in parts of our service area.

There are many reasons to be proud of our performance in 2023. We achieved another outstanding year of executing on our industry-leading growth plan through 2030. We invested more than \$4 billion in new projects across our jurisdictions to modernize our electric and natural gas systems. We also experienced strong and consistent customer growth in our Electric Business and Natural Gas Business, primarily driven by robust economic development and steady population increases in the Greater Houston region.



2023 was not without its headwinds. Severe weather in the spring brought destructive storms to Texas and Indiana, damaging our electric transmission and distribution infrastructure in both areas. Our teams answered the call to reduce the number and duration of outages our customers experienced and repair the damages to our system.

In Texas, we experienced the hottest summer on record, with Houston and surrounding communities registering 45 days of triple-digit temperatures and extreme drought conditions. From a macroeconomic perspective, persistent inflation, higher interest rates and the state of the overall economy created prolonged uncertainty in the financial markets.

I am proud of the way our team stepped up to address these challenges. We stayed nimble in response to adverse conditions, putting us in a position to weather the economic issues, while preserving our ability to create long-term value. Over the course of 2023, we announced incremental increases to our capital plan totaling an additional \$1.5 billion of funding through 2030, resulting in \$44.5 billion of investments anticipated over the 10-year period ending in 2030. The investments made through this plan underscore our dedication to the communities we are privileged to serve, as they will help support safety, growth, reliability and resiliency.



## Notable Highlights

- Reported full-year 2023 earnings of \$1.37 per diluted share on a GAAP basis;
- Non-GAAP earnings per diluted share (“non-GAAP EPS”) was \$1.50 for full-year 2023; a 9% increase over 2022 full-year non-GAAP EPS of \$1.38;
- Increased our customer-driven 10-year capital plan through 2030 to nearly \$44.5 billion, an increase of approximately \$600 million through 2030; this includes \$100 million already deployed in 2023 with the remaining \$500 million to be invested over the remainder of the decade;
- Achieved three consecutive years of meeting or exceeding expectations, establishing our position among the top two valuations relative to our premium utility peers based on price-to-earnings ratio ending 2023;
- Increased dividends paid in 2023 by 10% as compared to 2022, one of the top dividend paid growth rates in the sector;
- Maintained annual customer charge increases in our Houston Electric business at or below the historical level of inflation of 2% over the past 10 years;
- Made additional progress on our net zero goals for our Scope 1 and certain Scope 2 emissions by 2035, advanced our carbon reduction initiatives and will not operate any coal-fired generation beyond December 2027; and
- Maintained a strong balance sheet, while targeting long-term funds from Operations/Debt of 14%-15% through 2030.

**Note:** Disclaimers regarding forward-looking statements, our net zero and carbon emissions reduction goals and non-GAAP financial metrics, including a reconciliation of non-GAAP measures to the nearest GAAP metric, are found in the Investor Information section of the report.



Furthermore in 2023, we upheld our goal of reducing operations and maintenance costs by 1-2% annually on average over our current 10-year plan to help maintain customer affordability. Our expense management discipline and strong organic customer growth, especially in our Greater Houston service territory, have helped us keep our Houston Electric customers' average monthly charges nearly flat since 2014.

For both our electric and natural gas utilities, customer expectations for exceptional around-the-clock service will continue to be catalysts for our investments in CenterPoint Energy's customer experience. While we are an industry leader in customer satisfaction and helping our customers save money through energy efficiency, we are continuously improving in these areas. In fact, we are enhancing our customer experience with technology focused on self-service through mobile applications, improved call handling and digital assistance tools.



By the end of 2023, more than 1.1 million customers across Texas and southwestern Indiana had enrolled in our award-winning Power Alert Service. This tool leverages our electric smart meter network to notify participating customers of power outages, restoration activities and other timely updates regarding their service. The alerts eliminate the need to contact CenterPoint Energy's customer service and help reduce our operating costs. Power Alert Service is one example of how our service innovations are producing positive outcomes for our customers and our company.

# Electric Business

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CenterPoint Energy's Electric Business has more than 2.9 million installed meters and serves millions of homes and businesses across the Greater Houston area and southwestern Indiana, as well as 700 megawatts (MWs) of electric generation capacity in Indiana. We are proud to provide reliable, affordable and cleaner energy to our customers in these regions, with nearly \$27 billion of investments planned through 2030 in new and more resilient infrastructure for our growing communities. Notable accomplishments in our Electric Business in 2023 included:

- Added nearly 58,000 metered customers, an increase of more than 2% from 2022;
- Completed the installation of more than 170 miles of transmission and distribution hardening and reliability projects, including the installation of more than 10,000 composite and iron poles that offer greater resiliency against severe weather and environmental factors and a longer lifespan compared to traditional wood poles;
- Installed 975 automated reclosers and switching devices, as well as implemented automation, monitoring and communication capabilities via fiberoptic cables in underground facilities, to enhance reliability;
- Added access to 1,722 MWs of new power generation, including 1,359 MWs that directly transport renewable sources, such as wind and solar;
- Experienced an all-time system peak load for Houston Electric of 21,890 MWs resulting from the record-breaking heat; the load exceeded the record set in 2022 by 12%; and
- Completed and filed Indiana Electric's initial seven-year transmission and distribution modernization plan and received approval to extend the plan for another five years, including an additional \$454 million in proposed capital investments across seven program areas addressing infrastructure in distribution, transmission and substations.



Serves more than

**2.9 million**  
homes and  
businesses



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We also unveiled the details of our latest Integrated Resource Plan for our Indiana Electric business. The plan, which details our approach to providing sufficient electric generation for our customers over the next two decades, was the culmination of a year-long process, including in-depth analysis and extensive input from the public. It outlines the ongoing planned transition of coal-powered thermal generation to a cleaner portfolio utilizing a mix of natural gas and renewable energy sources to produce electricity for the region.

The plan is expected to provide aggregate savings of \$80 million to our customers and reduce carbon emissions by as much as 95% over the next 20 years, while striving to maintain reliable electric service. We expect to have approximately 1,000 MWs of power generation in Indiana from renewables available by 2026.

To advance this initiative, we have transitioned 635 MWs of coal-fired generation with the closures of A.B. Brown Units 1 and 2 and the exit of our joint ownership agreement in the Warrick Unit. We developed plans to transition the remaining coal-fired generation with the retirement of F.B. Culley Unit 2 in 2025 and the conversion of F.B. Culley Unit 3 to natural gas-fired combustion turbines by 2027. CenterPoint Energy also began construction of a solar facility in Posey County, Indiana, consisting of more than 30,000 panels.

To further demonstrate our commitments to sustainability and the well-being of our communities, we continue to identify and execute on additional opportunities to integrate cleaner energy into our business. Our corporate fleet goals include transitioning 100% of company sedans and SUVs to electric vehicles by 2030. We have also seen a 53% increase in commercial and residential electric vehicle use across our service territory over the past year.

An aerial photograph of a solar farm. The solar panels are arranged in a grid pattern. A worker in a safety vest and hard hat is visible near the bottom right of the panel array. A white pickup truck with a rack on the back is parked in the foreground. The truck has "CenterPoint Energy" and the number "25016" on it. The entire image has a blue tint.

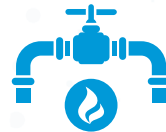
Committed to  
a cleaner  
energy future



# Natural Gas Business

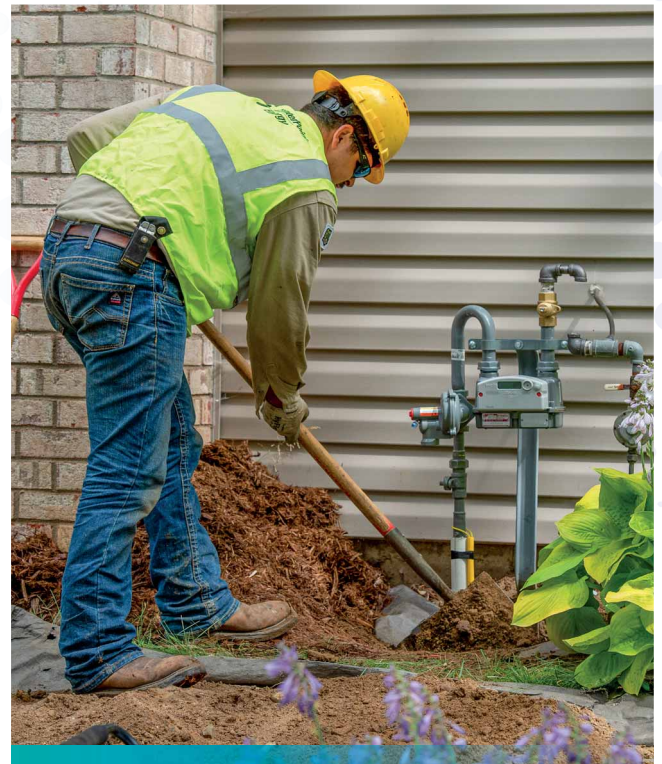
Our Natural Gas Business serves more than 4.3 million commercial and residential customers in Indiana, Louisiana, Minnesota, Mississippi, Ohio and Texas. We prioritize providing safe and reliable services to our customers through innovative technology, pipeline modernization and sustainability efforts. Our current capital investment plan of \$16 billion through 2030 is expected to fund pipeline modernization, smart metering technology and customer growth. Accomplishments in our Natural Gas Business included:

- Installed more than 600,000 residential Itron Intelis natural gas meters in our service territory since 2019 and expect to install more than 4 million meters by 2032; each meter features a safety valve that can shut off automatically if the meter detects an abnormally high flow of natural gas or high temperature conditions;
- Entered into an agreement to connect our distribution system to a landfill in Conroe, Texas, to receive and transport renewable natural gas;
- Replaced more than 150 miles of natural gas mains and service lines across our Indiana and Ohio service area; the work conducted through our bare steel and cast-iron replacement and modernization projects helps us provide a safer distribution infrastructure for our customers by installing pipes that are more resistant to corrosion and leakage; additionally, more than 3,400 indoor natural gas meters were relocated to permanent outdoor locations to help reduce the potential risks from an unexpected natural gas leak;
- Executed our comprehensive and well-tested emergency operations plan when a wildfire, exacerbated by drought conditions, impacted the community of Tiger Island near Merryville, Louisiana, in late August; our team collaborated with local authorities and first responders to monitor and assess conditions during the evacuation of nearly 250 residents; technicians monitored and assessed conditions and proactively suspended natural gas service to the area to help prevent potential leaks; once the fire was contained, we worked safely with officials to restore service to our customers; and



Serves more than

**4.3 million**  
commercial and  
residential customers



- Proposed to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (MPUC) a five-year, \$106 million plan that includes a wide-ranging set of innovative projects to reduce carbon emissions and advance a cleaner energy future; the innovation plan was submitted under a recent landmark Minnesota state energy law, the Natural Gas Innovation Act, which creates a new regulatory framework for natural gas utilities to invest in renewable energy resources and innovative technologies that help reduce the state's greenhouse gas emissions.





If approved, our proposal would be expected to deliver significant benefits to Minnesota, including reducing or avoiding an estimated 1.2 million tons of carbon emissions over the lifetime of the projects — equal to the annual energy use of about 150,000 homes or 14% of total emissions from natural gas supplied to our customers in the state each year. In addition, the proposal is expected to create approximately 3,000 full-time equivalent jobs over the lifetime of the projects and leverage \$17 million or more in federal clean energy incentives and support for Minnesota.

The filed proposal is subject to a supplemental comment period through mid-May 2024, following which the MPUC will hold a hearing to determine its outcome. The proposal includes 18 pilot projects and seven smaller research and development projects. Key pilot projects in the proposal include:

- Made-in-Minnesota natural gas alternatives – Low-carbon, zero-carbon and even carbon-negative energy resources that can supplement or replace conventional natural gas, including renewable natural gas;
- Networked geothermal system – A networked geothermal system to provide heating and cooling to a neighborhood that uses a network of wells, water, pipes and pumps to pull heat out of the ground to deliver warmth to buildings in the winter and pump heat back into the ground to provide cooling in the summer;

- Hybrid heating – Incentives to homeowners and business owners to install hybrid heating systems that use electric heat pumps with natural gas backup heating for the coldest weather; and
- Industrial decarbonization – Incentives to industrial customers to improve efficiency and reduce emissions for high-heat processes, such as glassmaking, concrete production and metal foundries.

In February 2024, we announced the sale of our Louisiana and Mississippi natural gas assets to Bernhard Capital Partners for \$1.2 billion. The sales price represents approximately 32 multiple of 2023 earnings for these local distribution businesses.

The transaction will allow us to optimize our portfolio of utility operations and efficiently recycle approximately \$1 billion in after-tax cash proceeds into our service territory where we have both electric and natural gas operations or where we have a larger presence at a valuation that is more efficient than issuing common equity. The sale will also enable us to redeploy approximately \$1 billion of future capital expenditures intended for Louisiana and Mississippi into jurisdictions with interim mechanisms that have less regulatory lag, thereby enhancing the ongoing earnings power of the company. Closing is expected toward the end of the first quarter of 2025.

# People, Purpose and Values

Our longstanding commitment to our communities is demonstrated through our exceptional volunteer activities and charitable giving. For nearly 160 years, we have had a deep sense of duty to the places where we live and work.



The CenterPoint Energy Foundation provided more than 450 grants last year, totaling approximately \$15 million in support for nonprofit organizations and causes across our service territory. Through our foundation's giving pillars of community vitality and education, we invest in affordable, energy-efficient housing and quality-of-place projects that bolster thriving communities. We also champion literacy, science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) education and workforce development programs that provide credentials and skills for good careers.

Beyond the CenterPoint Energy Foundation, being a good neighbor has always been core to what we do. Our employees donated more than 90,000 hours of their time in 2023, giving tirelessly of themselves through personal and team volunteer events for organizations spanning causes from hunger and housing to education and the environment.

We are also committed to making CenterPoint Energy a great place to work. Our employees reflect the diversity of the communities we serve, and we celebrate the unique perspectives, experiences and backgrounds each of us brings to our roles. We recognize delivering electricity and natural gas to millions of customers across our operating footprint takes the energy of everyone in a diverse, equitable and inclusive environment where we respect, understand and appreciate each other, those we serve and the people around us.

As we continue to position CenterPoint Energy for growth, we recognize the importance of aligning each of us around our company's *why*. In 2023, our leaders and employees collaborated to define our purpose and create an even stronger purpose-driven company. Through a process that included insights and input from employees across all levels and locations, we developed a purpose statement that reflects how our work makes an impact on others:

***We enable everyday life  
and the pursuit of possibilities.***

The shared recognition and appreciation of our purpose help inspire us all to do more for our stakeholders and each other. We work daily to make this belief a part of the cultural fabric of CenterPoint Energy and as essential to who we are as our values of Safety, Integrity, Accountability, Initiative and Respect. It is important that we not only recognize *what* we do each day, but also maintain an awareness of *why* and *how* we work for the benefit of our stakeholders — all while providing the energy for what matters most.

On behalf of all of us at CenterPoint Energy, I would like to thank our customers, shareholders and communities for your trust and confidence in us. We believe we delivered on our commitments to you in 2023, and we will work hard as a team to do the same in 2024.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Jason P. Wells'.

**Jason P. Wells**  
President and Chief Executive Officer

# Investor Information

## Reconciliation of Consolidated income (loss) available to common shareholders and diluted earnings (loss) per share (GAAP) to non-GAAP income and non-GAAP diluted earnings per share

|   | Year-to-Date<br>Ended December 31, 2023 |                            |
|---|---|----------------------------|
|   | Dollars in millions                     | Diluted EPS <sup>(1)</sup> |
| <b>Consolidated income (loss) available to common shareholders and diluted EPS</b>                | \$ 867                                  | \$ 1.37                    |
| <b>ZENS-related mark-to-market (gains) losses:</b>  |   |                            |
| Equity securities (net of taxes of \$7) <sup>(2) (3)</sup>  | (25)                                    | (0.04)                     |
| Indexed debt securities (net of taxes of \$6) <sup>(2)</sup>                                      | 21                                      | 0.03                       |
| <b>Impacts associated with mergers and divestitures (net of taxes of \$64) <sup>(2) (4)</sup></b> | 89                                      | 0.14                       |
| <b>Consolidated on a non-GAAP basis</b>   | <b>\$ 952</b>                           | <b>\$ 1.50</b>             |

<sup>(1)</sup> Quarterly diluted EPS on both a GAAP and non-GAAP basis are based on the weighted average number of shares of common stock outstanding during the quarter, and the sum of the quarters may not equal year-to-date diluted EPS.

<sup>(2)</sup> Taxes are computed based on the impact removing such item would have on tax expense. Taxes related to the operating results of Energy Systems Group, as well as cash taxes payable and other tax impacts related to the sale of Energy Systems Group, are excluded from non-GAAP EPS.

<sup>(3)</sup> Comprised of common stock of AT&T Inc., Charter Communications, Inc., and Warner Bros. Discovery, Inc.

<sup>(4)</sup> Includes \$4.4 million of pre-tax operating loss related to Energy Systems Group, a divested non-regulated business, as well as the \$13 million loss on sale and approximately \$2 million of other indirect-related transaction costs associated with the divestiture.

## Reconciliation of Consolidated income (loss) available to common shareholders and diluted earnings (loss) per share (GAAP) to non-GAAP income and non-GAAP diluted earnings per share

|  | Year-to-Date<br>Ended December 31, 2022 |                            |
|--|---|----------------------------|
|  | Dollars in millions                     | Diluted EPS <sup>(1)</sup> |
| <b>Consolidated income (loss) available to common shareholders and diluted EPS</b>                 | \$ 1,008                                | \$ 1.59                    |
| <b>ZENS-related mark-to-market (gains) losses:</b>   |   |                            |
| Equity securities (net of taxes of \$66) <sup>(2) (3)</sup>  | 247                                     | 0.39                       |
| Indexed debt securities (net of taxes of \$68) <sup>(2)</sup>                                      | (256)                                   | (0.40)                     |
| <b>Midstream-related earnings (net of taxes of \$2) <sup>(2) (4)</sup></b>                         | (46)                                    | (0.07)                     |
| <b>Impacts associated with mergers and divestitures (net of taxes of \$165) <sup>(2) (5)</sup></b> | (80)                                    | (0.13)                     |
| <b>Consolidated on a non-GAAP basis</b>  | <b>\$ 873</b>                           | <b>\$ 1.38</b>             |

<sup>(1)</sup> Quarterly diluted EPS on both a GAAP and non-GAAP basis are based on the weighted average number of shares of common stock outstanding during the quarter, and the sum of the quarters may not equal year-to-date diluted EPS.

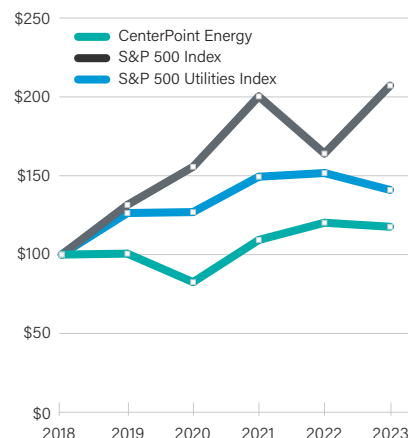
<sup>(2)</sup> Taxes are computed based on the impact removing such item would have on tax expense.

<sup>(3)</sup> Comprised of common stock of AT&T Inc., Charter Communications, Inc. and Warner Bros. Discovery, Inc.

<sup>(4)</sup> Includes earnings and expenses related to ownership and disposal of Energy Transfer units, a corresponding amount of debt related to the units and an allocation of associated corporate overhead. Includes costs associated with early extinguishment of \$600 million debt at CenterPoint Energy, Inc. of approximately \$35 million, net of taxes.

<sup>(5)</sup> Includes a settlement charge of \$35 million, net of tax, related to CenterPoint Energy pension plan's purchase of a group annuity contract in December 2022 to transfer benefit obligations of CenterPoint Energy's previously divested businesses to an insurance company.

## Five-Year Cumulative Total Return Comparison for the Fiscal Years Ended December 31 <sup>(1) (2)</sup>



<sup>(1)</sup> Assumes that the value of the investment in the Common Stock and each index was \$100 on December 31, 2017, and that all dividends were reinvested.

<sup>(2)</sup> Historical stock performance is not necessarily indicative of future stock performance.

## Cautionary Statement and Risk Factors

Certain disclosures in this annual report may be considered "forward-looking statements" within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995, including statements regarding our capital investments (including with respect to incremental capital opportunities, deployment of capital, renewables projects and our generation transition), the timing and expected benefits from hardening our infrastructure and capital investments, customer charges, operations and maintenance expense reductions, projects and benefits, including number of jobs created and anticipated emissions reductions, included in CenterPoint Energy's Natural Gas Innovation Plans, the pending sale of our natural gas businesses in Louisiana and Mississippi, the timing and anticipated benefits of our generation transition plan, including our exit from coal and our 10-year capital plan, future financial performance and results of operations, including with respect to regulatory actions and recoverability of capital investments, customer rate affordability, value creation, opportunities and expectations, and sustainability strategy, including transition to net zero and any other statement that is not historical fact. The "cautionary statement" on page viii and "certain factors affecting future earnings" beginning on page 48 of CenterPoint Energy's Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2023, and the disclosure referenced therein, should be read in conjunction with the forward-looking statements. Our business is subject to risk and uncertainty. Please refer to our risk factors beginning on page 18 of our Form 10-K.

Continued on next page

## Net Zero Disclaimer

Our Scope 1 emissions estimates are calculated from emissions that directly come from our operations. Our Scope 2 emissions estimates are calculated from emissions that indirectly come from our energy usage, but because Texas is in an unregulated market, our Scope 2 estimates do not take into account Texas electric transmission and distribution assets in the line loss calculation and exclude emissions related to purchased power between 2024E-2026E. Our Scope 3 emissions estimates are based on the total natural gas supply delivered to residential and commercial customers as reported in the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA) Form EIA-176 reports and do not take into account the emissions of transport customers and emissions related to upstream extraction. While we believe that we have a clear path toward achieving our net zero emissions (Scope 1 and Scope 2) by 2035 goals, our analysis and path forward required us to make a number of assumptions. These goals and underlying assumptions involve risks and uncertainties and are not guarantees. Should one or more of our underlying assumptions prove incorrect, our actual results and ability to achieve net zero emissions by 2035 could differ materially from our expectations. For more information regarding the assumptions and risks associated with our net zero and carbon emission goals, see page 26 of CenterPoint Energy's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2023. Please also review the section entitled "Cautionary Statement and Risk Factors" above.

## Use of Non-GAAP Financial Measures

In addition to presenting its financial results in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles ("GAAP"), including presentation of income (loss) available to common shareholders and diluted earnings (loss) per share, CenterPoint Energy presents non-GAAP income and non-GAAP diluted earnings per share ("non-GAAP EPS"), as well as non-GAAP funds from operations / non-GAAP rating agency adjusted debt ("FFO/Debt") which are non-GAAP financial measures. Generally, a non-GAAP financial measure is a numerical measure of a company's historical or future financial performance that excludes or includes amounts that are not normally excluded or included in the most directly comparable GAAP financial measure.

2022 and 2023 non-GAAP income and non-GAAP EPS excludes: (a) Earnings or losses from the change in value of ZENS and related securities, (b) (for 2022) Gain and impact, including related expenses, associated with Arkansas and Oklahoma gas LDC sales, (for 2023) associated with the divestiture of Energy Systems Group, LLC, and (for 2023) associated with the Louisiana and Mississippi gas LDC sales, and (c) (for 2022) Income and expense related to ownership and disposal of Energy Transfer common and Series G preferred units, and a corresponding amount of debt related to the units. Non-GAAP income and non-GAAP EPS do not consider the items noted above and other potential impacts, such as changes in accounting standards, impairments or other unusual items, which could have a material impact on GAAP reported results for the applicable guidance period. Non-GAAP income and non-GAAP EPS also consider assumptions for certain significant variables that may impact earnings, such as customer growth and usage, including normal weather, throughput, recovery of capital invested, effective tax rates, financing activities and related interest rates, and regulatory and judicial proceedings.

Funds from operations excludes from net cash provided by operating activities accounts receivable and unbilled revenues, net, inventory, taxes receivable, accounts payable, and other current assets and liabilities, and includes certain adjustments consistent with Moody's methodology, including adjustments related to total lease costs (net of lease income), Series A preferred stock dividends, non-recurring items and defined benefit plan, as well as non-recurring Winter Storm Uri related securitization proceeds. Non-GAAP rating agency adjusted debt adds to Total Debt, net certain adjustments consistent with Moody's methodology, including adjustments related to Series A preferred stock, pension benefit obligations, and operating lease liabilities, as well as non-recurring Winter Storm Uri debt. CenterPoint Energy is unable to present a quantitative reconciliation of forward-looking FFO/Debt because certain adjustments and other unusual items are not estimable and are difficult to predict due to various factors outside of management's control.

The tables included herein provide reconciliations of non-GAAP income and non-GAAP EPS to the nearest GAAP measure. CenterPoint Energy's non-GAAP income and non-GAAP EPS financial measures should be considered as a supplement to, and not as a substitute for, or superior to, income available to common shareholders and diluted earnings per share which, respectively, are the most directly comparable GAAP financial measures. These non-GAAP financial measures also may be different than non-GAAP financial measures used by other companies.



## Annual Meeting

The 2024 Annual Meeting of Shareholders will be held on Friday, April 26, 2024, at 9 a.m. CT in the CenterPoint Energy Tower auditorium at 1111 Louisiana Street, Houston, TX. Shareholders who hold shares of CenterPoint Energy Common Stock at the close of business on March 1, 2024, will receive notice of the meeting and will be eligible to vote.

## Auditors

Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm  
Deloitte & Touche LLP  
Houston, TX

## Investor Services

If you have questions about your CenterPoint Energy investor account, please contact our Transfer Agent:  
Broadridge Corporate Issuer Solutions, Inc.  
P.O. Box 1342  
Brentwood, NY 11717  
<http://shareholder.broadridge.com/cnp>  
Toll-free: 800-231-6406

Investor Services, online tools and a list of publications can be found on the company's website at [Investors.CenterPointEnergy.com](http://Investors.CenterPointEnergy.com).

Investor Services representatives are available from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. CT, Monday through Friday, to assist with questions about CenterPoint Energy Common Stock or enrollment in the CenterPoint Energy Investor's Choice Plan.

The Investor's Choice Plan provides easy, inexpensive investment options, including direct purchase and sale of CenterPoint Energy Common Stock; dividend reinvestment; statement-based accounting; and monthly or quarterly automatic investing by electronic transfer. You can become a registered CenterPoint Energy shareholder by making an initial investment of at least \$250 through the Investor's Choice Plan.

## Information Requests

Download or call 855-305-0857 toll-free for additional copies of our: 2023 Annual Report and Form 10-K  
2024 Proxy Statement

## Dividend Payments

Common Stock dividends are generally paid quarterly in March, June, September and December. Dividends are subject to declaration by the Board of Directors, which establishes the amount of each quarterly Common Stock dividend and fixes the record and payment dates.

## Institutional Investors

Security analysts and other investment professionals should contact Jackie Richert, Senior Vice President, Corporate Planning, Investor Relations & Treasury, at 713-207-6500.

## Stock Listing

CenterPoint Energy, Inc. Common Stock is traded under the symbol CNP on the New York Stock Exchange and NYSE Chicago.

## Company Headquarters Street Address

CenterPoint Energy, Inc.  
1111 Louisiana Street  
Houston, TX 77002

## Mailing Address

P.O. Box 4567  
Houston, TX 77210-4567  
Telephone: 713-207-1111  
[CenterPointEnergy.com](http://CenterPointEnergy.com)

# UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

## Form 10-K

(Mark One)

- ANNUAL REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934  
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023
- OR
- TRANSITION REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934  
FOR THE TRANSITION PERIOD FROM \_\_\_\_\_ TO \_\_\_\_\_

| Commission file number | Registrant, State or Other Jurisdiction of Incorporation or Organization<br>Address of Principal Executive Offices, Zip Code and Telephone Number  | I.R.S. Employer Identification No. |
|------------------------|--|------------------------------------|
| 1-31447                | <b>CenterPoint Energy, Inc.</b><br>(a Texas corporation)<br>1111 Louisiana<br>Houston, Texas 77002<br>(713) 207-1111                               | 74-0694415                         |
| 1-3187                 | <b>CenterPoint Energy Houston Electric, LLC</b><br>(a Texas limited liability company)<br>1111 Louisiana<br>Houston, Texas 77002<br>(713) 207-1111 | 22-3865106                         |
| 1-13265                | <b>CenterPoint Energy Resources Corp.</b><br>(a Delaware corporation)<br>1111 Louisiana<br>Houston, Texas 77002<br>(713) 207-1111                  | 76-0511406                         |

**Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(b) of the Act:**

| <u>Registrant</u>                        | <u>Title of each class</u>            | <u>Trading symbol(s)</u> | <u>Name of each exchange on which registered</u> |
|--|---------------------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| CenterPoint Energy, Inc.                 | Common Stock, \$0.01 par value        | CNP                      | New York Stock Exchange<br>NYSE Chicago          |
| CenterPoint Energy Houston Electric, LLC | 6.95% General Mortgage Bonds due 2033 | n/a                      | New York Stock Exchange                          |
| CenterPoint Energy Resources Corp.       | 6.625% Senior Notes due 2037          | n/a                      | New York Stock Exchange                          |

**Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(g) of the Act:**

None

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is a well-known seasoned issuer, as defined in Rule 405 of the Securities Act.

|  |   |                             |
|--|---|-----------------------------|
| CenterPoint Energy, Inc.                 | Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| CenterPoint Energy Houston Electric, LLC | Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| CenterPoint Energy Resources Corp.       | Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is not required to file reports pursuant to Section 13 or Section 15(d) of the Act.

|  |                              |  |
|--|------------------------------|--|
| CenterPoint Energy, Inc.                 | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| CenterPoint Energy Houston Electric, LLC | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| CenterPoint Energy Resources Corp.       | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant: (1) has filed all reports required to be filed by Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to file such reports), and (2) has been subject to such filing requirements for the past 90 days.

|  |     |                                     |    |                          |
|--|-----|-------------------------------------|----|--------------------------|
| CenterPoint Energy, Inc.                 | Yes | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | No | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| CenterPoint Energy Houston Electric, LLC | Yes | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | No | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| CenterPoint Energy Resources Corp.       | Yes | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | No | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant has submitted electronically every Interactive Data File required to be submitted pursuant to Rule 405 of Regulation S-T (§ 232.405 of this chapter) during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to submit such files).

|  |     |                                     |    |                          |
|--|-----|-------------------------------------|----|--------------------------|
| CenterPoint Energy, Inc.                 | Yes | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | No | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| CenterPoint Energy Houston Electric, LLC | Yes | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | No | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| CenterPoint Energy Resources Corp.       | Yes | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | No | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, a non-accelerated filer, a smaller reporting company, or an emerging growth company. See the definitions of “large accelerated filer”, “accelerated filer”, “smaller reporting company”, and “emerging growth company” in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act.

|  | Large accelerated filer             | Accelerated filer        | Non-accelerated filer               | Smaller reporting company | Emerging growth company  |
|--|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| CenterPoint Energy, Inc.                 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/>  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| CenterPoint Energy Houston Electric, LLC | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| CenterPoint Energy Resources Corp.       | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>  | <input type="checkbox"/> |

If an emerging growth company, indicate by check mark if the registrant has elected not to use the extended transition period for complying with any new or revised financial accounting standards provided pursuant to Section 13(a) of the Act.

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant has filed a report on and attestation to its management’s assessment of the effectiveness of its internal control over financial reporting under Section 404(b) of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act (15 U.S.C. 7262(b)) by the registered public accounting firm that prepared or issued its audit report.

If securities are registered pursuant to Section 12(b) of the Act, indicate by check mark whether the financial statements of the registrant included in the filing reflect the correction of an error to previously issued financial statements.

|  |                          |
|--|--------------------------|
| CenterPoint Energy, Inc.                 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| CenterPoint Energy Houston Electric, LLC | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| CenterPoint Energy Resources Corp.       | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Indicate by check mark whether any of those error corrections are restatements that required a recovery analysis of incentive-based compensation received by any of the registrant’s executive officers during the relevant recovery period pursuant to §240.10D-1(b).

|  |                          |
|--|--------------------------|
| CenterPoint Energy, Inc.                 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| CenterPoint Energy Houston Electric, LLC | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| CenterPoint Energy Resources Corp.       | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a shell company (as defined in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act).

|  |     |                          |    |                                     |
|--|-----|--------------------------|----|-------------------------------------|
| CenterPoint Energy, Inc.                 | Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> | No | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| CenterPoint Energy Houston Electric, LLC | Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> | No | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| CenterPoint Energy Resources Corp.       | Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> | No | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

The aggregate market values of the voting stock held by non-affiliates of the Registrants as of June 30, 2023 are as follows:

|   |                  |
|---|------------------|
| CenterPoint Energy, Inc. (using the definition of beneficial ownership contained in Rule 13d-3 promulgated pursuant to Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and excluding shares held by directors and executive officers) | \$18,251,183,835 |
| CenterPoint Energy Houston Electric, LLC  | None             |
| CenterPoint Energy Resources Corp.  | None             |

Indicate the number of shares outstanding of each of the issuers’ classes of common stock as of February 12, 2024:

|  |             |   |
|--|-------------|---|
| CenterPoint Energy, Inc.                 | 631,594,706 | shares of common stock outstanding, excluding 166 shares held as treasury stock   |
| CenterPoint Energy Houston Electric, LLC | 1,000       | common shares outstanding, all held by Utility Holding, LLC, a wholly-owned subsidiary of CenterPoint Energy, Inc.          |
| CenterPoint Energy Resources Corp.       | 1,000       | shares of common stock outstanding, all held by Utility Holding, LLC, a wholly-owned subsidiary of CenterPoint Energy, Inc. |

CenterPoint Energy Houston Electric, LLC and CenterPoint Energy Resources Corp. meet the conditions set forth in general instruction I(1)(a) and (b) of Form 10-K and are therefore filing this Form 10-K with the reduced disclosure format specified in General Instruction I(2) of Form 10-K.

#### DOCUMENTS INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE

Portions of the definitive proxy statement relating to the 2024 Annual Meeting of Shareholders of CenterPoint Energy, which will be filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission within 120 days of December 31, 2023, are incorporated by reference in Item 10, Item 11, Item 12, Item 13 and Item 14 of Part III of this Form 10-K.

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## GLOSSARY

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>ACE</b> .....                           | Affordable Clean Energy   |
| <b>AFUDC</b> .....                         | Allowance for funds used during construction  |
| <b>AGC</b> .....                           | Alcoa Generating Corporation, a subsidiary of Alcoa, Inc.   |
| <b>AI</b> .....                            | Artificial intelligence   |
| <b>AMAs</b> .....                          | Asset Management Agreements   |
| <b>AMS</b> .....                           | Advanced Metering System  |
| <b>Arevon</b> .....                        | Arevon Energy, Inc., which was formed through the combination of Capital Dynamics, Inc.'s U.S. Clean Energy Infrastructure business unit and Arevon Asset Management  |
| <b>ARO</b> .....                           | Asset retirement obligation   |
| <b>AROK Asset Purchase Agreement</b> ..... | Asset Purchase Agreement, dated as of April 29, 2021, by and between CERC Corp. and Southern Col Midco, LLC, a Delaware limited liability company and an affiliate of Summit Utilities, Inc.  |
| <b>ARP</b> .....                           | Alternative revenue program   |
| <b>ASC</b> .....                           | Accounting Standards Codification   |
| <b>ASU</b> .....                           | Accounting Standards Update   |
| <b>AT&amp;T</b> .....                      | AT&T Inc.   |
| <b>AT&amp;T Common</b> .....               | AT&T common stock   |
| <b>ATM Forward Purchasers</b> .....        | Bank of America, N.A., Barclays Bank PLC, Citibank, N.A., Goldman Sachs & Co. LLC, JPMorgan Chase Bank, National Association, Mizuho Markets Americas LLC, MUFG Securities EMEA plc and Royal Bank of Canada                              |
| <b>ATM Forward Sellers</b> .....           | BofA Securities, Inc. Barclays Capital Inc., Citigroup Global Markets Inc., Goldman Sachs & Co. LLC, J.P. Morgan Securities LLC, Mizuho Securities USA LLC, MUFG Securities Americas Inc. and RBC Capital Markets, LLC                    |
| <b>ATM Managers</b> .....                  | BofA Securities, Inc., Barclays Capital Inc., Citigroup Global Markets Inc., Goldman Sachs & Co. LLC, J.P. Morgan Securities LLC, Mizuho Securities USA LLC, MUFG Securities Americas Inc. and RBC Capital Markets, LLC                   |
| <b>Bcf</b> .....                           | Billion cubic feet  |
| <b>Board</b> .....                         | CenterPoint Energy's Board of Directors   |
| <b>Bond Companies</b> .....                | Bond Company IV and Restoration Bond Company, each a wholly-owned, bankruptcy remote entity formed solely for the purpose of purchasing and owning transition or system restoration property through the issuance of Securitization Bonds |
| <b>Bond Company IV</b> .....               | CenterPoint Energy Transition Bond Company IV, LLC, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Houston Electric   |
| <b>BTA</b> .....                           | Build Transfer Agreement  |
| <b>CAMT</b> .....                          | Corporate Alternative Minimum Tax   |
| <b>CARES Act</b> .....                     | Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act  |
| <b>CCN</b> .....                           | Certificate of Convenience and Necessity  |
| <b>CCR</b> .....                           | Coal Combustion Residuals   |
| <b>CECA</b> .....                          | Clean Energy Cost Adjustment  |
| <b>CEIP</b> .....                          | CenterPoint Energy Intrastate Pipelines, LLC, a wholly-owned subsidiary of CERC Corp.   |
| <b>CenterPoint Energy</b> .....            | CenterPoint Energy, Inc., and its subsidiaries  |
| <b>CERC Corp.</b> .....                    | CenterPoint Energy Resources Corp.  |
| <b>CERC</b> .....                          | CERC Corp., together with its subsidiaries  |
| <b>CERCLA</b> .....                        | Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act of 1980, as amended  |
| <b>CES</b> .....                           | CenterPoint Energy Services, Inc. (now known as Symmetry Energy Solutions, LLC), previously a wholly-owned subsidiary of CERC Corp. until its divestiture on June 1, 2020   |
| <b>Charter Common</b> .....                | Charter Communications, Inc. common stock   |
| <b>CIP</b> .....                           | Conservation Improvement Program  |
| <b>CNG</b> .....                           | Compressed natural gas  |
| <b>Code</b> .....                          | The Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended   |
| <b>CODM</b> .....                          | Chief Operating Decision Maker  |
| <b>Common Stock</b> .....                  | CenterPoint Energy, Inc. common stock, par value \$0.01 per share   |
| <b>Compensation Committee</b> .....        | Compensation Committee of the Board   |



## GLOSSARY

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <i>Convertible Notes</i> .....                     | CenterPoint Energy’s 4.25% Convertible Senior Notes due 2026   |
| <i>COVID-19</i> .....                              | Novel coronavirus disease 2019, and any mutations or variants thereof, and related global outbreak that was subsequently declared a pandemic by the World Health Organization  |
| <i>CPCN</i> .....                                  | Certificate of public convenience and necessity  |
| <i>CPP</i> .....                                   | Clean Power Plan   |
| <i>CSIA</i> .....                                  | Compliance and System Improvement Adjustment   |
| <i>DCRF</i> .....                                  | Distribution Cost Recovery Factor  |
| <i>DE&amp;I Council</i> .....                      | Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Council  |
| <i>DOC</i> .....                                   | U.S. Department of Commerce  |
| <i>DOT</i> .....                                   | U.S. Department of Transportation  |
| <i>DRR</i> .....                                   | Distribution Replacement Rider   |
| <i>DSMA</i> .....                                  | Demand Side Management Adjustment  |
| <i>Dth</i> .....                                   | Dekatherms   |
| <i>ECA</i> .....                                   | Environmental Cost Adjustment  |
| <i>EDF Renewables</i> .....                        | EDF Renewables Development, Inc.   |
| <i>EDIT</i> .....                                  | Excess deferred income taxes   |
| <i>EECR</i> .....                                  | Energy Efficiency Cost Recovery  |
| <i>EECRF</i> .....                                 | Energy Efficiency Cost Recovery Factor   |
| <i>EEFC</i> .....                                  | Energy Efficiency Funding Component  |
| <i>EEFR</i> .....                                  | Energy Efficiency Funding Rider  |
| <i>ELG</i> .....                                   | Effluent Limitation Guidelines   |
| <i>EIA</i> .....                                   | U.S. Energy Information Administration   |
| <i>Elk GP Merger Sub</i> .....                     | Elk GP Merger Sub LLC, a Delaware limited liability company and a direct wholly-owned subsidiary of Energy Transfer  |
| <i>Elk Merger Sub</i> .....                        | Elk Merger Sub LLC, a Delaware limited liability company and a direct wholly-owned subsidiary of Energy Transfer   |
| <i>Enable</i> .....                                | Enable Midstream Partners, LP  |
| <i>Enable Common Units</i> .....                   | Enable common units, representing limited partnership interests in Enable  |
| <i>Enable GP</i> .....                             | Enable GP, LLC, a Delaware limited liability company and the general partner of Enable   |
| <i>Enable Merger</i> .....                         | The merger of Elk Merger Sub with and into Enable and the merger of Elk GP Merger Sub with and into Enable GP, in each case on the terms and subject to the conditions set forth in the Enable Merger Agreement, with Enable and Enable GP surviving as wholly-owned subsidiaries of Energy Transfer, which closed on December 2, 2021 |
| <i>Enable Merger Agreement</i> .....               | Agreement and Plan of Merger by and among Energy Transfer, Elk Merger Sub, Elk GP Merger Sub, Enable, Enable GP and, solely for the purposes of Section 2.1(a)(i) therein, Energy Transfer GP, and solely for the purposes of Section 1.1(b)(i) therein, CenterPoint Energy  |
| <i>Enable Series A Preferred Units</i> .....       | Enable’s 10% Series A Fixed-to-Floating Non-Cumulative Redeemable Perpetual Preferred Units, representing limited partner interests in Enable  |
| <i>Energy Services</i> .....                       | Offered competitive variable and fixed-priced physical natural gas supplies primarily to commercial and industrial customers and electric and natural gas utilities through CES and CEIP   |
| <i>Energy Services Disposal Group</i> .....        | Substantially all of the businesses within CenterPoint Energy’s and CERC’s Energy Services reporting unit that were sold under the Equity Purchase Agreement   |
| <i>Energy Systems Group</i> .....                  | Energy Systems Group, LLC, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Vectren  |
| <i>Energy Transfer</i> .....                       | Energy Transfer LP, a Delaware limited partnership   |
| <i>Energy Transfer Common Units</i> .....          | Energy Transfer common units, representing limited partner interests in Energy Transfer  |
| <i>Energy Transfer GP</i> .....                    | LE GP, LLC, a Delaware limited liability company and sole general partner of Energy Transfer   |
| <i>Energy Transfer Series G Preferred Units</i> .. | Energy Transfer Series G Fixed-Rate Reset Cumulative Redeemable Perpetual Preferred Units, representing limited partner interests in Energy Transfer   |
| <i>EPA</i> .....                                   | Environmental Protection Agency  |
| <i>Equity Distribution Agreement</i> .....         | Equity Distribution Agreement, dated as of January 10, 2024, by and between CenterPoint Energy, the ATM Managers, the ATM Forward Purchasers and the ATM Forward Sellers   |
| <i>Equity Purchase Agreement</i> .....             | Equity Purchase Agreement, dated as of May 21, 2023, by and between Vectren Energy Services and ESG Holdings Group   |

## GLOSSARY

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>ERCOT</b> .....                            | Electric Reliability Council of Texas   |
| <b>ERCOT ISO</b> .....                        | ERCOT Independent System Operator   |
| <b>ERISA</b> .....                            | Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974   |
| <b>ERG</b> .....                              | Employee Resource Group   |
| <b>ERO</b> .....                              | Electric Reliability Organization   |
| <b>ESG Holdings Group</b> .....               | ESG Holdings Group, LLC a Delaware limited liability company, and an affiliate of Oaktree Capital Management  |
| <b>FAC</b> .....                              | Fuel Adjustment Clause  |
| <b>FASB</b> .....                             | Financial Accounting Standards Board  |
| <b>February 2021 Winter Storm Event</b> ..... | The extreme and unprecedented winter weather event in February 2021 (also known as Winter Storm Uri) resulting in electricity generation supply shortages, including in Texas, and natural gas supply shortages and increased wholesale prices of natural gas in the United States, primarily due to prolonged freezing temperatures. |
| <b>FERC</b> .....                             | Federal Energy Regulatory Commission  |
| <b>Fitch</b> .....                            | Fitch Ratings, Inc.   |
| <b>Form 10-K</b> .....                        | Annual Report on Form 10-K  |
| <b>FPA</b> .....                              | Federal Power Act   |
| <b>General Mortgage</b> .....                 | General Mortgage Indenture, dated as of October 10, 2002, between CenterPoint Energy Houston Electric, LLC and JPMorgan Chase Bank, as Trustee, as supplemented   |
| <b>GHG</b> .....                              | Greenhouse gases  |
| <b>GRIP</b> .....                             | Gas Reliability Infrastructure Program  |
| <b>GWh</b> .....                              | Gigawatt-hours  |
| <b>HLPSA</b> .....                            | Hazardous Liquid Pipeline Safety Act of 1979  |
| <b>Houston Electric</b> .....                 | CenterPoint Energy Houston Electric, LLC and its subsidiaries   |
| <b>HVAC</b> .....                             | Heating, ventilation and air conditioning   |
| <b>IBEW</b> .....                             | International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers   |
| <b>ICPA</b> .....                             | Inter-Company Power Agreement   |
| <b>IDEM</b> .....                             | Indiana Department of Environmental Management  |
| <b>Indiana Electric</b> .....                 | Operations of SIGECO’s electric transmission and distribution services, and includes its power generating and wholesale power operations  |
| <b>Indiana Gas</b> .....                      | Indiana Gas Company, Inc., a wholly-owned subsidiary of CERC Corp.  |
| <b>Indiana North</b> .....                    | Gas operations of Indiana Gas   |
| <b>Indiana South</b> .....                    | Gas operations of SIGECO  |
| <b>Indiana Utilities</b> .....                | Indiana Electric, Indiana North and Indiana South, collectively   |
| <b>IRA</b> .....                              | Inflation Reduction Act of 2022   |
| <b>IRP</b> .....                              | Integrated Resource Plan  |
| <b>IRS</b> .....                              | Internal Revenue Service  |
| <b>IURC</b> .....                             | Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission   |
| <b>kV</b> .....                               | Kilovolt  |
| <b>LAMS Asset Purchase Agreement</b> .....    | Asset Purchase Agreement, dated as of February 19, 2024, by and among CERC Corp. and the LAMS Buyers  |
| <b>LAMS Buyers</b> .....                      | Delta Utilities No. LA, LLC, a Delaware limited liability company, Delta Utilities S. LA, LLC, a Delaware limited liability company, Delta Utilities MS, LLC, a Delaware limited liability company, and Delta Shared Services Co., LLC, a Delaware limited liability company  |
| <b>LDC</b> .....                              | Local Distribution Company  |
| <b>LIBOR</b> .....                            | London Interbank Offered Rate   |
| <b>LNG</b> .....                              | Liquefied natural gas   |
| <b>Load Shed</b> .....                        | Curtailing the amount of electricity a TDU can transmit and distribute to its customers   |
| <b>LPSC</b> .....                             | Louisiana Public Service Commission   |
| <b>LTIPs</b> .....                            | Long-term incentive plans   |
| <b>MCRA</b> .....                             | MISO Cost and Revenue Adjustment  |

## GLOSSARY

|                                       |   |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| <b>M&amp;DOT</b> .....                | Mortgage and Deed of Trust, dated November 1, 1944, between Houston Lighting and Power Company and Chase Bank of Texas, National Association (formerly, South Texas Commercial National Bank of Houston), as Trustee, as amended and supplemented                               |
| <b>Merger</b> .....                   | The merger of Merger Sub with and into Vectren on the terms and subject to the conditions set forth in the Merger Agreement, with Vectren continuing as the surviving corporation and as a wholly-owned subsidiary of CenterPoint Energy, Inc., which closed on the Merger Date |
| <b>Merger Agreement</b> .....         | Agreement and Plan of Merger, dated as of April 21, 2018, among CenterPoint Energy, Vectren and Merger Sub  |
| <b>Merger Date</b> .....              | February 1, 2019  |
| <b>Merger Sub</b> .....               | Pacer Merger Sub, Inc., an Indiana corporation and wholly-owned subsidiary of CenterPoint Energy  |
| <b>MES</b> .....                      | CenterPoint Energy Mobile Energy Solutions, Inc. (now known as Mobile Energy Solutions, Inc.), previously a wholly-owned subsidiary of CERC Corp.   |
| <b>MGP</b> .....                      | Manufactured gas plant  |
| <b>MISO</b> .....                     | Midcontinent Independent System Operator  |
| <b>MMBtu</b> .....                    | One million British thermal units   |
| <b>MMcf</b> .....                     | Million cubic feet  |
| <b>Moody's</b> .....                  | Moody's Investors Service, Inc.   |
| <b>MPUC</b> .....                     | Minnesota Public Utilities Commission   |
| <b>MPSC</b> .....                     | Mississippi Public Service Corporation  |
| <b>Mva</b> .....                      | Megavolt amperes  |
| <b>MW</b> .....                       | Megawatts   |
| <b>Natural Gas</b> .....              | Natural gas distribution businesses   |
| <b>NECA</b> .....                     | National Electrical Contractors Association   |
| <b>NERC</b> .....                     | North American Electric Reliability Corporation   |
| <b>NGA</b> .....                      | Natural Gas Act of 1938   |
| <b>NGLs</b> .....                     | Natural gas liquids   |
| <b>NGPA</b> .....                     | Natural Gas Policy Act of 1978  |
| <b>NGPSA</b> .....                    | Natural Gas Pipeline Safety Act of 1968   |
| <b>NOLs</b> .....                     | Net operating losses  |
| <b>NRG</b> .....                      | NRG Energy, Inc.  |
| <b>NYSE</b> .....                     | New York Stock Exchange   |
| <b>OPEIU</b> .....                    | Office & Professional Employees International Union   |
| <b>Oriden</b> .....                   | Oriden LLC  |
| <b>Origis</b> .....                   | Origis Energy USA Inc.  |
| <b>OUCC</b> .....                     | Indiana Office of Utility Consumer Counselor  |
| <b>OVEC</b> .....                     | Ohio Valley Electric Corporation  |
| <b>PHMSA</b> .....                    | Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration  |
| <b>PIPES Act</b> .....                | Protecting Our Infrastructure of Pipelines and Enhancing Safety Act of 2020   |
| <b>PPA</b> .....                      | Power purchase agreement  |
| <b>PRPs</b> .....                     | Potentially responsible parties   |
| <b>PTCs</b> .....                     | Production Tax Credits  |
| <b>PUCO</b> .....                     | Public Utilities Commission of Ohio   |
| <b>PUCT</b> .....                     | Public Utility Commission of Texas  |
| <b>Railroad Commission</b> .....      | Railroad Commission of Texas  |
| <b>RCRA</b> .....                     | Resource Conservation and Recovery Act of 1976  |
| <b>Registrants</b> .....              | CenterPoint Energy, Houston Electric and CERC, collectively   |
| <b>REP</b> .....                      | Retail electric provider  |
| <b>Restoration Bond Company</b> ..... | CenterPoint Energy Restoration Bond Company, LLC, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Houston Electric   |

## GLOSSARY

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>Restructuring</b> .....                    | CERC Corp.'s common control acquisition of Indiana Gas and VEDO from VUH on June 30, 2022  |
| <b>ROE</b> .....                              | Return on equity   |
| <b>ROU</b> .....                              | Right of use   |
| <b>RRA</b> .....                              | Rate Regulation Adjustment   |
| <b>RSP</b> .....                              | Rate Stabilization Plan  |
| <b>Scope 1 emissions</b> .....                | Direct source of emissions from a company's operations   |
| <b>Scope 2 emissions</b> .....                | Indirect source of emissions from a company's energy usage   |
| <b>Scope 3 emissions</b> .....                | Indirect source of emissions from a company's end-users  |
| <b>SEC</b> .....                              | Securities and Exchange Commission   |
| <b>Securitization Bonds</b> .....             | Transition and system restoration bonds issued by the Bond Companies and SIGECO Securitization Bonds issued by the SIGECO Securitization Subsidiary  |
| <b>Series A Preferred Stock</b> .....         | CenterPoint Energy's previously outstanding Series A Fixed-to-Floating Rate Cumulative Redeemable Perpetual Preferred Stock, par value \$0.01 per share, with a liquidation preference of \$1,000 per share  |
| <b>Series B Preferred Stock</b> .....         | CenterPoint Energy's previously outstanding 7.00% Series B Mandatory Convertible Preferred Stock, par value \$0.01 per share, with a liquidation preference of \$1,000 per share   |
| <b>Series C Preferred Stock</b> .....         | CenterPoint Energy's previously outstanding Series C Mandatory Convertible Preferred Stock, par value \$0.01 per share, with a liquidation preference of \$1,000 per share   |
| <b>SIGECO</b> .....                           | Southern Indiana Gas and Electric Company, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Vectren  |
| <b>SIGECO Securitization Bonds</b> .....      | SIGECO Securitization Subsidiary's Series 2023-A Senior Secured Securitization Bonds   |
| <b>SIGECO Securitization Subsidiary</b> ..... | SIGECO Securitization I, LLC, a direct, wholly-owned subsidiary of SIGECO  |
| <b>SOFR</b> .....                             | Secured Overnight Financing Rate   |
| <b>S&amp;P</b> .....                          | S&P Global Ratings, a division of S&P Global Inc.  |
| <b>SRC</b> .....                              | Sales Reconciliation Component   |
| <b>TBD</b> .....                              | To be determined   |
| <b>TCJA</b> .....                             | Tax reform legislation informally called the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017   |
| <b>TCOS</b> .....                             | Transmission Cost of Service   |
| <b>TCRF</b> .....                             | Transmission Cost Recovery Factor  |
| <b>TDSIC</b> .....                            | Transmission, Distribution and Storage System Improvement Charge   |
| <b>TDU</b> .....                              | Transmission and distribution utility  |
| <b>TEEEF</b> .....                            | Assets leased or costs incurred as "temporary emergency electric energy facilities" under Section 39.918 of the Public Utility Regulatory Act, also referred to as mobile generation   |
| <b>Texas RE</b> .....                         | Texas Reliability Entity   |
| <b>Topic 326</b> .....                        | Accounting Standards Update 2016-13 - Financial Instruments - Credit Losses (Topic 326): Measurement of Credit Losses on Financial Instruments   |
| <b>TSA</b> .....                              | Transportation Security Administration   |
| <b>USW</b> .....                              | United Steelworkers Union  |
| <b>UWUA</b> .....                             | Utility Workers Union of America   |
| <b>Utility Holding</b> .....                  | Utility Holding, LLC, a wholly-owned subsidiary of CenterPoint Energy  |
| <b>Vectren</b> .....                          | Vectren, LLC, which converted its corporate structure from Vectren Corporation to a limited liability company on June 30, 2022, a wholly-owned subsidiary of CenterPoint Energy as of the Merger Date, and, after the Restructuring, is held indirectly by CenterPoint Energy through Vectren Affiliated Utilities, Inc. |
| <b>Vectren Energy Services</b> .....          | Vectren Energy Services Corporation, an Indiana corporation and a wholly-owned subsidiary of CenterPoint Energy  |
| <b>VEDO</b> .....                             | Vectren Energy Delivery of Ohio, LLC, which converted its corporate structure from Vectren Energy Delivery of Ohio, Inc. to a limited liability company on June 13, 2022, formerly a wholly-owned subsidiary of Vectren, acquired by CERC on June 30, 2022   |
| <b>VIE</b> .....                              | Variable interest entity   |
| <b>Vistra Energy Corp.</b> .....              | Texas-based energy company focused on the competitive energy and power generation markets.   |
| <b>VRP</b> .....                              | Voluntary Remediation Program  |

## **GLOSSARY**

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|                                      |  |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| <b>VUH</b> .....                     | Vectren Utility Holdings, LLC, which converted its corporate structure from Vectren Utility Holdings, Inc. to a limited liability company on June 30, 2022, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Vectren                                     |
| <b>WBD Common</b> .....              | Warner Bros. Discovery, Inc. Series A common stock   |
| <b>Winter Storm Elliott</b> .....    | From December 21 to 26, 2022, a historic extratropical cyclone created winter storm conditions, including blizzards, high winds, snowfall and record cold temperatures across the majority of the United States and parts of Canada. |
| <b>ZENS</b> .....                    | 2.0% Zero-Premium Exchangeable Subordinated Notes due 2029   |
| <b>ZENS-Related Securities</b> ..... | As of December 31, 2023 and December 31, 2022, consisted of AT&T Common, Charter Common and WBD Common   |
| <b>2022 Form 10-K</b> .....          | Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2022   |
| <b>2022 Annuity Lift-Out</b> .....   | The irrevocable group annuity contract purchased in December 2022 from an insurance company to transfer \$138 million of CenterPoint Energy's pension plan's outstanding benefit obligation  |

## CAUTIONARY STATEMENT REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING INFORMATION

From time to time the Registrants make statements concerning their expectations, beliefs, plans, objectives, goals, strategies, future events or performance and underlying assumptions and other statements that are not historical facts. These statements are “forward-looking statements” within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. Actual results may differ materially from those expressed or implied by these statements. You can generally identify forward-looking statements by the words “anticipate,” “believe,” “continue,” “could,” “estimate,” “expect,” “forecast,” “goal,” “intend,” “may,” “objective,” “plan,” “potential,” “predict,” “projection,” “should,” “target,” “will” or other similar words.

The Registrants have based their forward-looking statements on management’s beliefs and assumptions based on information reasonably available to management at the time the statements are made. The Registrants caution you that assumptions, beliefs, expectations, intentions and projections about future events may and often do vary materially from actual results. Therefore, the Registrants cannot assure you that actual results will not differ materially from those expressed or implied by the Registrants’ forward-looking statements. In this Form 10-K, unless context requires otherwise, the terms “our,” “we” and “us” are used as abbreviated references to CenterPoint Energy, Inc. together with its consolidated subsidiaries, including Houston Electric, CERC and SIGECO.

Some of the factors that could cause actual results to differ from those expressed or implied by the Registrants’ forward-looking statements are described under “Risk Factors” in Item 1A and “Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations — Certain Factors Affecting Future Earnings” and “ — Liquidity and Capital Resources — Other Matters — Other Factors That Could Affect Cash Requirements” in Item 7 of Part II of this report, which discussions are incorporated herein by reference.

You should not place undue reliance on forward-looking statements. Each forward-looking statement speaks only as of the date of the particular statement, and the Registrants undertake no obligation to update or revise any forward-looking statements.

### SUMMARY OF RISK FACTORS

An investment in CenterPoint Energy’s securities involves a significant degree of risk. Below is a summary of certain risk factors to consider in evaluating CenterPoint Energy as well as its Common Stock. However, this list is not exhaustive. Before investing in CenterPoint Energy, carefully consider the risk factors discussed or referenced below and in Item 1A. “Risk Factors” of this combined report on Form 10-K. If any of the risks discussed below and in Item 1A. “Risk Factors” were actually to occur, CenterPoint Energy’s, Houston Electric’s and CERC’s business, financial condition, results of operations or cash flows could be adversely affected. In that case, CenterPoint Energy might not be able to pay dividends on its Common Stock, or the trading price of its Common Stock could decline.

#### ***Risk Factors Affecting Operations***

##### *Electric Generation, Transmission and Distribution (CenterPoint Energy and Houston Electric)*

- Disruptions at power generation facilities, generation inadequacy or directives issued by regulatory authorities could cause interruptions in Houston Electric’s and Indiana Electric’s ability to provide transmission and distribution services and adversely affect their reputation, financial condition, results of operations and cash flows.
- Houston Electric’s receivables are primarily concentrated in a small number of REPs, and any delay or default in payments of these receivables could adversely affect Houston Electric’s financial condition, results of operations and cash flows.
- Indiana Electric’s execution of its generation transition plan, including its IRP, is subject to various risks, including timely recovery of capital investments and increased costs and risks related to the timing and cost of development and/or construction of new generation facilities.
- The occurrence of extreme weather events, including winter storms and record hot temperatures, or other causes could lead to additional reforms to the Texas electric market, some measure of which, if implemented, could have an adverse impact on Houston Electric.
- Houston Electric’s use of TEEEF is subject to various risks, including failure to obtain and deploy sufficient TEEEF resources, potential performance issues and allegations about Houston Electric’s deployment of the resources (including the planning, execution and effectiveness of the same), regulatory and environmental requirements, and timely recovery of capital.

### *Natural Gas (CenterPoint Energy and CERC)*

- Access to natural gas supplies and pipeline transmission and storage capacity are essential components of reliable service for Natural Gas' customers.
- Natural Gas is subject to fluctuations in natural gas prices, which could affect the ability of its suppliers and customers to meet their obligations or may impact its operations, which could adversely affect CERC's financial condition, results of operations and cash flows.
- Natural Gas must compete with alternate energy sources, which could result in less natural gas delivered and have an adverse impact on CenterPoint Energy's and CERC's financial condition, results of operations and cash flows.

### ***Risk Factors Affecting Regulatory, Environmental and Legal Risks***

- Rate regulation of Registrants' Electric and Natural Gas businesses may delay or deny their ability to earn an expected return and fully and timely recover their costs.
- We are subject to operational and financial risks and liabilities arising from environmental laws and regulations, including regulation of CCR, climate change legislation and certain local initiatives that seek to limit fossil fuel usage.
- CenterPoint Energy is subject to operational and financial risks and liabilities associated with the implementation of and efforts to achieve its carbon emissions reduction goals.
- We are involved in numerous legal proceedings, the outcomes of which are uncertain, and resolution adverse to us could negatively affect our financial results.

### ***Risk Factors Affecting Financial, Economic and Market Risks***

- Disruptions to the global supply chain may lead to higher prices for goods and services and impact our operations, which could have an adverse impact on our ability to execute our capital plan and on our financial condition, results of operations and cash flows.
- CenterPoint Energy is a holding company that derives all of its operating income from, and holds substantially all of its assets through, its subsidiaries. As a result, CenterPoint Energy depends on the performance of and distributions from its subsidiaries to meet its payment obligations and to pay dividends on its common stock, and provisions of applicable law or contractual restrictions could limit the amount of those distributions.
- If we are unable to arrange future financings on acceptable terms, our ability to finance our capital expenditures or refinance outstanding indebtedness could be limited.
- If CenterPoint Energy redeems the ZENS prior to their maturity in 2029, its ultimate tax liability and redemption payments would result in significant cash payments, which would adversely impact its cash flows. Similarly, a significant amount of exchanges of ZENS by ZENS holders could adversely impact CenterPoint Energy's cash flows.

### ***Risk Factors Affecting Safety and Security Risks***

- The Registrants' businesses have safety risks.
- Cyberattacks, physical security breaches, acts of terrorism or other disruptions could adversely impact our reputation, financial condition, results of operations and cash flows.

### ***General and Other Risks***

- Our revenues and results of operations are seasonal.
- Climate change could adversely impact financial results from our businesses and result in more frequent and more severe weather events that could adversely affect our results of operations.
- Aging infrastructure may lead to increased costs and disruptions in operations that could negatively impact our financial results.
- Our businesses will continue to have to adapt to technological change and may not be successful or may have to incur significant expenditures to adapt to technological change.

## PART I

### Item 1. *Business*

This combined Form 10-K is filed separately by three registrants: CenterPoint Energy, Inc., CenterPoint Energy Houston Electric, LLC and CenterPoint Energy Resources Corp. Information contained herein relating to any individual registrant is filed by such registrant solely on its own behalf. Each registrant makes no representation as to information relating exclusively to the other registrants or the subsidiaries of CenterPoint Energy other than itself or its subsidiaries. Except as discussed in Note 13 to the consolidated financial statements, no registrant has an obligation in respect of any other registrant's debt securities, and holders of such debt securities should not consider the financial resources or results of operations of any registrant other than the obligor in making a decision with respect to such securities.

The discussion of CenterPoint Energy's consolidated financial information includes the financial results of Houston Electric and CERC, which, along with CenterPoint Energy, are collectively referred to as the Registrants. Where appropriate, information relating to a specific registrant has been segregated and labeled as such. Unless the context indicates otherwise, specific references to Houston Electric and CERC also pertain to CenterPoint Energy. In this Form 10-K, the terms "our," "we" and "us" are used as abbreviated references to CenterPoint Energy, Inc. together with its consolidated subsidiaries.

### OUR BUSINESS

#### *Overview*

CenterPoint Energy is a public utility holding company. CenterPoint Energy's operating subsidiaries own and operate electric transmission, distribution and generation facilities and natural gas distribution facilities.

As of December 31, 2023, CenterPoint Energy's indirect, wholly-owned subsidiaries include:

- Houston Electric, which provides electric transmission service to transmission service customers in the ERCOT region and distribution service to REPs serving the Texas gulf coast area that includes the city of Houston. Bond Companies are wholly-owned, bankruptcy remote entities formed solely for the purpose of purchasing and owning transition or system restoration property through the issuance of Securitization Bonds.
- CERC Corp., which (i) directly owns and operates natural gas distribution systems in Louisiana, Minnesota, Mississippi and Texas, (ii) indirectly, through Indiana Gas and VEDO, owns and operates natural gas distribution systems in Indiana and Ohio, respectively, and (iii) owns and operates permanent pipeline connections through interconnects with various interstate and intrastate pipeline companies through CEIP.
- SIGECO, which provides energy delivery services to electric and natural gas customers located in and near Evansville in southwestern Indiana and owns and operates electric generation assets to serve its electric customers and optimizes those assets in the wholesale power market.

As of December 31, 2023, CenterPoint Energy's reportable segments were Electric, Natural Gas and Corporate and Other. Houston Electric and CERC each consist of one reportable segment. For a description of CenterPoint Energy's reportable segments, see Note 17. For a discussion of net income by segment, see "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations — Results of Operations by Reportable Segment" in Item 7 of Part II of this report.

*Discontinued Operations.* From time to time, we consider the acquisition or the disposition of assets or businesses. For a discussion of discontinued operations and divestitures, see Note 4 to the consolidated financial statements.

*Subsequent Events.* On February 19, 2024, CenterPoint Energy, through its subsidiary CERC Corp., entered into the LAMS Asset Purchase Agreement to sell its Louisiana and Mississippi natural gas local distribution company businesses. The transaction is expected to close in the first quarter of 2025. For further information, see Note 21 to the consolidated financial statements.

The Registrants' principal executive offices are located at 1111 Louisiana, Houston, Texas 77002 (telephone number: 713-207-1111).

We make available free of charge on our Internet website our annual report on Form 10-K, quarterly reports on Form 10-Q, current reports on Form 8-K and amendments to those reports filed or furnished pursuant to Section 13(a) or 15(d) of the



Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, as soon as reasonably practicable after we electronically file such reports with, or furnish them to, the SEC. The SEC maintains an Internet website that contains reports, proxy and information statements, and other information regarding issuers that file electronically with the SEC at <http://www.sec.gov>. Additionally, we make available free of charge on our Internet website:

- our Code of Ethics for our Chief Executive Officer and Senior Financial Officers;
- our Ethics and Compliance Code;
- our Supplier Code of Conduct;
- our Corporate Governance Guidelines; and
- the charters of the audit, compensation, and governance, environmental and sustainability committees of our Board of Directors.

Any shareholder who so requests may obtain a printed copy of any of these documents from us. Changes in or waivers of our Code of Ethics for our Chief Executive Officer and Senior Financial Officers and waivers of our Ethics and Compliance Code for directors or executive officers will be posted on our Internet website within five business days of such change or waiver and maintained for at least 12 months or timely reported on Item 5.05 of Form 8-K.

Our website address is [www.centerpointenergy.com](http://www.centerpointenergy.com). Investors should also note that we announce material financial information in SEC filings, press releases and public conference calls. Based on guidance from the SEC, we may use the investor relations section of our website to communicate with our investors. It is possible that the financial and other information posted there could be deemed to be material information. Except to the extent explicitly stated herein, documents and information on our website are not incorporated by reference herein.

### ***Electric (CenterPoint Energy)***

The Electric reportable segment is comprised of Houston Electric and Indiana Electric.

For information regarding the properties of the Electric reportable segment, please read “Properties — Electric (CenterPoint Energy and Houston Electric)” in Item 2 of this report, which information is incorporated herein by reference.

### ***Houston Electric (CenterPoint Energy and Houston Electric)***

Houston Electric is a transmission and distribution electric utility that operates wholly within the state of Texas. Houston Electric does not make direct retail or wholesale sales of electric energy or own or operate any power generation generating facilities other than TEEEF.

#### ***Electric Transmission***

On behalf of REPs, Houston Electric delivers electricity from power plants to substations, from one substation to another and to retail electric customers taking power at or above 69 kV in locations throughout Houston Electric’s certificated service territory. Houston Electric constructs and maintains transmission facilities and provides transmission services under tariffs approved by the PUCT.

#### ***Electric Distribution***

Houston Electric’s distribution network receives electricity from the transmission grid through power distribution substations and delivers electricity for REPs in its certificated service area by carrying lower-voltage power from the substation to the retail electric customer through distribution feeders. Houston Electric’s operations include construction and maintenance of distribution facilities, metering services, outage response services and call center operations. Houston Electric provides distribution services under tariffs approved by the PUCT. PUCT rules and market protocols govern the commercial operations of distribution companies and other market participants. Rates for these services are established pursuant to rate proceedings conducted before municipalities that have original jurisdiction and the PUCT.

### *Bond Companies*

Houston Electric has special purpose subsidiaries consisting of the Bond Companies, which it consolidates. These consolidated special purpose subsidiaries are wholly-owned, bankruptcy remote entities that were formed solely for the purpose of purchasing and owning transition or system restoration property through the issuance of Securitization Bonds, and conducting activities incidental thereto. The Securitization Bonds issued by Bond Company IV are repaid through charges imposed on customers in Houston Electric's service territory. On August 15, 2022, Restoration Bond Company repaid in full its last outstanding system restoration bonds at maturity. For further discussion of the Securitization Bonds issued by Bond Company IV and the outstanding balances as of December 31, 2023 and 2022, see Note 13 to the consolidated financial statements.

### *Customers*

Houston Electric serves nearly all of the Houston/Galveston metropolitan area near the Texas gulf coast. Houston Electric's customers consist of REPs, which sell electricity to metered customers in Houston Electric's certificated service area, and municipalities, electric cooperatives and other distribution companies located outside Houston Electric's certificated service area. Each REP is licensed by, and must meet minimum creditworthiness criteria established by, the PUCT. Houston Electric does not have long-term contracts with any of its customers. It operates using a continuous billing cycle, with meter readings being conducted and invoices being distributed to REPs each business day. For information regarding Houston Electric's major customers, see Note 17 to the consolidated financial statements.

The table below reflects the number of REPs and metered customers in Houston Electric's service area as of December 31, 2023:

|                        | <u>REPs</u> | <u>Residential</u> | <u>Commercial/<br/>Industrial</u> | <u>Total Customers</u> |
|------------------------|-------------|--------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------|
| Texas gulf coast ..... | 65          | 2,455,309          | 308,226                           | 2,763,535              |

### *Competition*

There are no other electric transmission and distribution utilities in Houston Electric's service area. For another provider of transmission and distribution services to provide such services in Houston Electric's territory, it would be required to obtain a certificate of convenience and necessity from the PUCT and, depending on the location of the facilities, may also be required to obtain franchises from one or more municipalities. Houston Electric is not aware of any other party intending to enter this business in its service area at this time. Distributed generation (i.e., power generation located at or near the point of consumption) could result in a reduction of demand for Houston Electric's distribution services but has not been a significant factor to date.

### *Seasonality*

Houston Electric's revenues are primarily derived from rates that it collects from each REP based on the amount of electricity it delivers on behalf of that REP. Houston Electric's revenues and results of operations are subject to seasonality, weather conditions and other changes in electricity usage, with revenues generally being higher during the warmer months when more electricity is used for cooling purposes.

### *Franchises*

Houston Electric holds non-exclusive franchises from certain incorporated municipalities in its service territory. In exchange for the payment of fees, these franchises give Houston Electric the right to use the streets and public rights-of-way of these municipalities to construct, operate and maintain its transmission and distribution system and to use that system to conduct its electric delivery business and for other purposes that the franchises permit. The terms of the franchises, with various expiration dates, typically range from 30 to 40 years.

**Indiana Electric (CenterPoint Energy)**

Indiana Electric consists of SIGECO’s electric transmission and distribution services, including its power generating and wholesale power operations. As of December 31, 2023, Indiana Electric supplied electric service to the following:

|                            | Residential | Commercial/<br>Industrial | Total Customers |
|----------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|-----------------|
| Southwestern Indiana ..... | 133,201     | 19,292                    | 152,493         |

*System Load*

Total load and the related reserve margin at the time of the system summer peak on August 25, 2023, is presented below in MW, except for reserve margin at peak.

|  | 2023  |
|--|-------|
| Total load at peak .....                           | 1,020 |
| Generating capability .....                        | 1,205 |
| Purchase supply (effective capacity) (1).....      | 659   |
| Interruption contracts & direct load control ..... | 4     |
| Total power supply capacity.....                   | 1,868 |
| Reserve margin at peak.....                        | 83 %  |

- (1) Indiana Electric procured bi-lateral capacity contracts starting in the 2023-2024 MISO planning year to support the generation transition. These contracts were procured before MISO moved to a seasonal construct, which allowed several generating units to receive accreditation in the summer season that would not have received any accreditation under MISO's previous annual construct. This resulted in a reserve margin that is higher than normal in the summer, but was limited to the summer season.

The winter peak load for the 2022-2023 season of approximately 785 MW occurred on December 23, 2022.

*Solar*

Indiana Electric has entered into various PPAs to purchase solar power to meet its future generation needs as reported in the table below.

| PPA with | Location                   | Expected Date in<br>Service | Capacity<br>(MW) | Term (in Years) |
|----------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| Clenera  | Warrick County, Indiana    | 2025                        | 100              | 25              |
| Oriden   | Vermillion County, Indiana | 2025                        | 185              | 15              |
| Origis   | Knox County, Indiana       | 2025                        | 150              | 20              |
|          |                            |                             | <u>435</u>       |                 |

For further information about Indiana Electric’s solar power activities, see “Item 2. Properties” and “Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations — Liquidity and Capital Resources — Regulatory Matters” in Item 7 of Part II of this report, which discussion is incorporated herein by reference.

*Coal Purchases*

Coal for coal-fired generating stations has been supplied from operators of nearby coal mines as there are substantial coal reserves in the southern Indiana area. Major suppliers are those that account for greater than 10% of Indiana Electric’s coal purchases. For the year ended December 31, 2023, Sunrise LLC accounted for 98% of Indiana Electric’s coal purchases, with the remaining 2% being purchased from other suppliers.

The table below presents information related to coal purchases during the year ended December 31, 2023 and coal inventory as of December 31, 2023.

|   | <b>(In tons, except<br/>average cost per ton)</b> |
|---|---|
| Coal purchased for generating electricity ..... | 1,945,593   |
| Coal inventory as of December 31, 2023 .....    | 345,784   |
| Average cost of coal per ton .....              | \$55.26   |

#### *Firm Purchase Supply*

Indiana Electric enters into long-term purchase supply agreements to meet its generation needs as disclosed below:

| <b>Fuel Type</b> | <b>Provider</b>                | <b>Location</b>                               | <b>Contract<br/>Expiration</b> | <b>Capacity<br/>(MW)</b> | <b>Purchased in<br/>2023<br/>(in GWh)</b> |
|------------------|--------------------------------|---|--------------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| Coal             | OVEC (1)                       | Indiana and Ohio                              | n/a                            | 32                       | 186                                       |
| Wind             | Benton County Wind Farm, LLC   | Benton County,<br>Indiana                     | 2028                           | 30                       | 76  |
| Wind             | Fowler Ridge II Wind Farm, LLC | Benton/<br>Tippecanoe<br>Counties,<br>Indiana | 2029                           | 50                       | 116                                       |
|                  |                                |   |                                | 112                      | 378                                       |

- (1) As part of its power portfolio, Indiana Electric is a 1.5% shareholder in the OVEC. Based on its participation in the ICPA between OVEC and its shareholder companies, Indiana Electric has the right to 1.5% of OVEC's generating capacity output and shares in 1.5% of the operating expenses and debt obligations of OVEC.

#### *MISO Related Activity*

Indiana Electric is a member of the MISO, a FERC approved regional transmission organization. The MISO serves the electric transmission needs of much of the Midcontinent region and maintains operational control over Indiana Electric's electric transmission facilities as well as other utilities in the region. Indiana Electric is an active participant in the MISO energy markets, where it bids its generation into the Day Ahead and Real Time markets and procures power for its retail customers at Locational Marginal Price as determined by the MISO market. MISO-related purchase and sale transactions are recorded using settlement information provided by the MISO. These purchase and sale transactions are accounted for on at least a net hourly position.

MISO related activity for the year ended December 31, 2023 was as follows:

|                         | <b>In GWh</b> |
|-------------------------|---------------|
| Net purchases (1) ..... | 397           |
| Net sales (2) .....     | 510           |

- (1) Represents volume intervals when purchases from the MISO were in excess of generation sold to the MISO.  
(2) Represents volume intervals when sales to the MISO were in excess of purchases from the MISO.

#### *Interconnections*

As of December 31, 2023, Indiana Electric had interconnections with Louisville Gas and Electric Company, Duke Energy Shared Services, Inc., Indianapolis Power & Light Company, Hoosier Energy Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc. and Big Rivers Electric Corporation providing the ability to simultaneously interchange approximately 645 MW during peak load periods. Indiana Electric, as required as a member of the MISO, has turned over operational control of the interchange facilities and its own transmission assets to the MISO. Indiana Electric, in conjunction with the MISO, must operate the bulk electric transmission system in accordance with NERC Reliability Standards. As a result, interchange capability varies based on regional transmission system configuration, generation dispatch, seasonal facility ratings and other factors. Indiana Electric is in compliance with reliability standards promulgated by NERC.

### *SIGECO Securitization Subsidiary*

SIGECO has a special purpose subsidiary, SIGECO Securitization Subsidiary, which it consolidates. This consolidated special purpose subsidiary is a wholly-owned, bankruptcy remote entity that was formed solely for the purpose of facilitating the securitization financing of qualified costs in the second quarter of 2023 associated with the completed retirement of SIGECO's A.B. Brown coal generation facilities through the issuance of SIGECO Securitization Bonds. The obligations of the SIGECO Securitization Bonds are repaid through charges imposed on customers in Indiana Electric's service territory. For further discussion of the SIGECO Securitization Bonds and the outstanding balance as of December 31, 2023, see Note 13 to the consolidated financial statements.

### *Competition*

There are no other electric transmission and distribution utilities in Indiana Electric's service area. Indiana Electric is a vertically integrated utility that owns the generation, transmission, and distribution components of a utility.

For another provider of transmission and distribution services to provide such services in Indiana Electric's territory, it would be required to obtain IURC approval of such service territory. Indiana service territory certificates are exclusive. Distributed generation (i.e., power generation located at or near the point of consumption) could result in reduced demand for Indiana Electric's distribution services but has not been a significant factor to date.

### *Seasonality*

Indiana Electric's revenues are primarily derived from rates that it collects from customers in its service territory based on the amount of electricity it delivers. Indiana Electric's revenues and results of operations are subject to seasonality, weather conditions and other changes in electricity usage, with revenues generally being higher during the warmer months when more electricity is used for cooling purposes, and during the cooler months when more electricity is used for heating purposes.

### ***Natural Gas (CenterPoint Energy and CERC)***

CenterPoint Energy's and CERC's Natural Gas engage in regulated intrastate natural gas sales to, and natural gas transportation and storage for, residential, commercial, industrial and transportation customers. CenterPoint Energy's and CERC's Natural Gas provide permanent pipeline connections through interconnects with various interstate and intrastate pipeline companies through CEIP. CenterPoint Energy's and CERC's Natural Gas also provided services in Minnesota consisting of residential appliance repair and maintenance services along with HVAC equipment sales and home repair protection plans to natural gas customers in Indiana, Mississippi, Ohio and Texas through a third party as of December 31, 2023.

For information regarding the properties of the Natural Gas reportable segment, please read "Properties — Natural Gas (CenterPoint Energy and CERC)" in Item 2 of this report, which information is incorporated herein by reference.

On February 19, 2024, CenterPoint Energy, through its subsidiary CERC Corp., entered into the LAMS Asset Purchase Agreement to sell its Louisiana and Mississippi natural gas local distribution company businesses. The transaction is expected to close in the first quarter of 2025. For further information, see Note 21 to the consolidated financial statements.

### Customers

The table below reflects the number of CenterPoint Energy's and CERC's Natural Gas customers by state as of December 31, 2023:

|   | <u>Residential</u> | <u>Commercial/<br/>Industrial/<br/>Transportation</u> | <u>Total Customers</u> |
|---|--------------------|---|------------------------|
| Indiana (Indiana Gas).....                | 597,315            | 55,171  | 652,486                |
| Louisiana.....                            | 230,833            | 16,204  | 247,037                |
| Minnesota.....                            | 848,909            | 72,634  | 921,543                |
| Mississippi.....                          | 122,306            | 13,140  | 135,446                |
| Ohio.....                                 | 308,622            | 24,543  | 333,165                |
| Texas.....                                | 1,797,403          | 111,543   | 1,908,946              |
| Total CERC Natural Gas.....               | 3,905,388          | 293,235   | 4,198,623              |
| Indiana (SIGECO).....                     | 104,725            | 10,606  | 115,331                |
| Total CenterPoint Energy Natural Gas..... | <u>4,010,113</u>   | <u>303,841</u>  | <u>4,313,954</u>       |

The largest metropolitan areas served in each state were Houston, Texas; Minneapolis, Minnesota; Shreveport, Louisiana; Biloxi, Mississippi; Evansville, Indiana; and Dayton, Ohio.

The table below reflects the percentage of total throughput by customer type for the year ended December 31, 2023.

|   | <u>CenterPoint Energy</u> | <u>CERC</u>  |
|---|---------------------------|--------------|
| Residential.....                              | 32 %                      | 33 %         |
| Commercial/Industrial and Transportation..... | 68 %                      | 67 %         |
| Total Throughput.....                         | <u>100 %</u>              | <u>100 %</u> |

### Seasonality

The demand for natural gas sales to residential customers and natural gas sales and transportation for commercial and industrial customers is seasonal and affected by variations in weather conditions. In 2023, approximately 65% and 66%, respectively, of CenterPoint Energy's and CERC's Natural Gas total throughput occurred in the first and fourth quarters. These patterns reflect the higher demand for natural gas for heating purposes during the colder months.

### Supply and Transportation

In 2023, CenterPoint Energy's Natural Gas purchased virtually all of its natural gas supply pursuant to contracts with remaining terms varying from a few months to three-year terms. Major suppliers are those that account for greater than 10% of CenterPoint Energy's or CERC's annual natural gas supply purchases.

Major suppliers of natural gas for the year ended December 31, 2023 were as follows:

|                                      | <u>CenterPoint Energy</u> | <u>CERC</u> |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------|
| Tenaska Marketing Ventures, LLC..... | 39 %                      | 44 %        |
| Macquarie Energy, LLC.....           | 15 %                      | 19 %        |
| Koch Energy Services, LLC.....       | 8 %                       | 10 %        |
| Total of major suppliers.....        | <u>62 %</u>               | <u>73 %</u> |

Numerous other suppliers provided the remainder of CenterPoint Energy's and CERC's natural gas supply requirements.

CenterPoint Energy's and CERC's Natural Gas transports their natural gas supplies through various intrastate and interstate pipelines under contracts with remaining terms, including extensions, varying from one to ten years. CenterPoint Energy's and CERC's Natural Gas anticipates that these gas supply and transportation contracts will be renewed or replaced prior to their expiration.

CenterPoint Energy's and CERC's Natural Gas actively engage in commodity price stabilization pursuant to annual gas supply plans presented to and/or filed with each of its state regulatory authorities. These price stabilization activities include use of storage gas and contractually establishing structured prices (e.g., fixed price, costless collars and caps) with CenterPoint Energy's and CERC's Natural Gas' physical gas suppliers. Their gas supply plans generally call for 50–75% of normal winter supplies to be stabilized in some fashion.

The regulations of the states in which CenterPoint Energy's and CERC's Natural Gas operate allow them to pass through changes in the cost of natural gas, including savings and costs of financial derivatives associated with the index-priced physical supply, to their customers under purchased gas adjustment provisions in their tariffs. Depending upon the jurisdiction, the purchased gas adjustment factors are updated periodically, ranging from monthly to semi-annually. The changes in the cost of gas billed to customers are subject to review by the applicable regulatory bodies.

CenterPoint Energy's and CERC's Natural Gas use various third-party storage services or owned natural gas storage facilities to meet peak-day requirements and to manage the daily changes in demand due to changes in weather. CenterPoint Energy's and CERC's Natural Gas may also supplement contracted supplies and storage from time to time with stored LNG and propane-air plant production.

On an ongoing basis, CenterPoint Energy's and CERC's Natural Gas enter into contracts to provide sufficient supplies and pipeline capacity to meet their customer requirements. However, it is possible for limited service disruptions to occur from time to time due to weather conditions, transportation constraints and other events. As a result of these factors, supplies of natural gas may become unavailable from time to time, or prices may increase rapidly in response to temporary supply constraints or other factors.

CenterPoint Energy's and CERC's Natural Gas businesses continue to utilize AMAs associated with their utility distribution service in Indiana, Louisiana, Minnesota, Mississippi and Texas. Generally, AMAs are contracts between CenterPoint Energy's and CERC's Natural Gas and an asset manager that are intended to transfer the working capital obligation and maximize the utilization of the assets. In these agreements, CenterPoint Energy's and CERC's Natural Gas agrees to release transportation and storage capacity to other parties to manage natural gas storage, supply and delivery arrangements for CenterPoint Energy's and CERC's Natural Gas and to use the released capacity for other purposes when it is not needed for CenterPoint Energy's and CERC's Natural Gas. CenterPoint Energy's and CERC's Natural Gas may receive compensation from the asset manager through payments made over the life of the AMAs. CenterPoint Energy's and CERC's Natural Gas has an obligation to purchase their winter storage requirements that have been released to the asset manager under these AMAs. The AMAs have varying terms, the longest of which expires in 2029. Pursuant to the provisions of the agreements, CenterPoint Energy's and CERC's Natural Gas either sells natural gas to the asset manager and agrees to repurchase an equivalent amount of natural gas throughout the year at the same cost, or simply purchases its full natural gas requirements at each delivery point from the asset manager. For amounts outstanding under these AMAs, see Note 13 to the consolidated financial statements.

### *Competition*

CenterPoint Energy's and CERC's Natural Gas compete primarily with alternate energy sources such as electricity and other fuel sources. In some areas, intrastate pipelines, other gas distributors and marketers also compete directly for gas sales to end users. In addition, as a result of federal regulations affecting interstate pipelines, natural gas marketers operating on these pipelines may be able to bypass CenterPoint Energy's and CERC's Natural Gas' facilities and market, sell and/or transport natural gas directly to commercial and industrial customers.

### *Corporate and Other (CenterPoint Energy)*

CenterPoint Energy's Corporate and Other consists of corporate support operations that support CenterPoint Energy's business operations and also includes office buildings and other real estate used for business operations. CenterPoint Energy's Corporate and Other also consisted of energy performance contracting and sustainable infrastructure services by Energy Systems Group through June 30, 2023, the date of the sale of Energy Systems Group.

## **REGULATION**

The Registrants are subject to regulation by various federal, state and local governmental agencies, including the regulations described below. The following discussion is based on regulation in the Registrants' businesses as of December 31, 2023.

## **Federal Energy Regulatory Commission**

FERC has jurisdiction under the NGA and the NGPA, as amended, to regulate the transportation of natural gas in interstate commerce and natural gas sales for resale in interstate commerce that are not first sales. FERC regulates, among other things, the construction of pipeline and related facilities used in the transportation and storage of natural gas in interstate commerce, including the extension, expansion or abandonment of these facilities. FERC also regulates the transmission and wholesale sales of electricity in interstate commerce, mergers, acquisitions and corporate transactions by electricity companies, energy markets, reliability standards and the issuance of short-term debt by public utilities regulated by FERC. FERC has authority to prohibit market manipulation in connection with FERC-regulated transactions, to conduct audits and investigations, and to impose significant civil penalties (up to approximately \$1.6 million per day per violation, subject to periodic adjustment to account for inflation) for statutory violations and violations of the FERC's rules or orders.

Indiana Electric is a "public utility" under the FPA and is subject to regulation by FERC. Houston Electric is not a "public utility" under the FPA and, therefore, is not generally regulated by FERC, although certain of its transactions are subject to limited FERC jurisdiction. FERC has certain responsibilities with respect to ensuring the reliability of electric transmission service, including transmission facilities owned by Houston Electric and other utilities within ERCOT. FERC has designated NERC as the ERO to promulgate standards, under FERC oversight, for all owners, operators and users of the bulk power system. The ERO and FERC have authority to (a) impose fines and other sanctions on applicable entities that fail to comply with approved standards and (b) audit compliance with approved standards. FERC has approved the delegation by NERC of authority for reliability in ERCOT to the Texas RE and in MISO to ReliabilityFirst Corporation. Neither Houston Electric nor Indiana Electric anticipate that the reliability standards proposed by NERC and approved by FERC will have a material adverse impact on their operations. To the extent that Houston Electric and Indiana Electric are required to make additional expenditures to comply with these standards, it is anticipated that Houston Electric and Indiana Electric will seek to recover those costs through the transmission charges that are imposed on all distribution service providers within ERCOT and the MISO, respectively, for electric transmission provided.

As a public utility holding company, under the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 2005, CenterPoint Energy and its consolidated subsidiaries are subject to reporting and accounting requirements and are required to maintain certain books and records and make them available for review by FERC and state regulatory authorities in certain circumstances.

For a discussion of the Registrants' ongoing regulatory proceedings, see "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations — Liquidity and Capital Resources — Regulatory Matters" in Item 7 of Part II of this report, which discussion is incorporated herein by reference.

### **State and Local Regulation – Electric Transmission & Distribution (CenterPoint Energy and Houston Electric)**

Houston Electric is a member of ERCOT, which serves as the independent system operator and regional reliability coordinator for member electric power systems in most of Texas. The ERCOT market represents approximately 90% of the demand for power in Texas and is one of the nation's largest power markets. The ERCOT market operates under the reliability standards developed by NERC, approved by FERC and monitored and enforced by the Texas RE. The PUCT has primary jurisdiction over the ERCOT market to ensure the adequacy and reliability of electricity supply across the state's main interconnected power transmission grid.

The ERCOT ISO is responsible for operating the bulk electric power supply system in the ERCOT market. Houston Electric's transmission business, along with those of other owners of transmission facilities in Texas, supports the operation of the ERCOT ISO. Houston Electric participates with the ERCOT ISO and other ERCOT utilities to plan, design, obtain regulatory approval for and construct new transmission lines necessary to increase bulk power transfer capability and to remove existing constraints on the ERCOT transmission grid.

Houston Electric conducts its operations pursuant to a CCN issued by the PUCT that covers its present service area and facilities. The PUCT and certain municipalities have the authority to set the rates and terms of service provided by Houston Electric under cost-of-service rate regulation. Houston Electric holds non-exclusive franchises from certain incorporated municipalities in its service territory. In exchange for payment of fees, these franchises give Houston Electric the right to use the streets and public rights-of-way of these municipalities to construct, operate and maintain its transmission and distribution system and to use that system to conduct its electric delivery business and for other purposes that the franchises permit. The terms of the franchises, with various expiration dates, typically range from 30 to 40 years.

In ERCOT, end users purchase their electricity directly from certificated REPs. Houston Electric's distribution rates charged to REPs for residential and small commercial customers are primarily based on amounts of energy delivered, whereas



distribution rates for a majority of large commercial and industrial customers are primarily based on peak demand. All REPs in Houston Electric’s service area pay the same rates and other charges for transmission and distribution services. This regulated delivery charge may include the transmission and distribution rate (which includes municipal franchise fees), a DCRF mechanism for recovery of incremental distribution-invested capital above that which is already reflected in the base distribution rate, a TEEEF mechanism for recovery of costs associated with leasing and operating TEEEF, a TCRF mechanism for recovery of approved wholesale transmission cost changes billed by a transmission service provider, a nuclear decommissioning charge associated with decommissioning the South Texas nuclear generating facility, an EECRF charge, and charges associated with securitization of regulatory assets, stranded costs and restoration costs. Transmission rates charged to distribution companies are based on amounts of energy transmitted under “postage stamp” rates that do not vary with the distance the energy is being transmitted. All distribution companies in ERCOT pay Houston Electric the same rates and other charges for transmission services.

With the IURC’s approval, Indiana Electric is a member of the MISO, a FERC-approved regional transmission organization. The MISO serves the electrical transmission needs of much of the Midcontinent region and maintains operational control over Indiana Electric’s electric transmission and generation facilities as well as those of other utilities in the region. Indiana Electric is an active participant in the MISO energy markets, bidding its owned generation into the Day Ahead and Real Time markets and procuring power for its retail customers at Locational Marginal Pricing as determined by the MISO market. Indiana Electric also receives transmission revenue that results from other members’ use of Indiana Electric’s transmission system. Generally, these transmission revenues, along with costs charged by the MISO, are considered components of base rates and any variance from that included in base rates is recovered from or refunded to retail customers through tracking mechanisms.

For a discussion of certain of Houston Electric’s and Indiana Electric’s ongoing regulatory proceedings, see “Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations — Liquidity and Capital Resources — Regulatory Matters” in Item 7 of Part II of this report, which discussion is incorporated herein by reference.

#### **State and Local Regulation – Electric Generation (CenterPoint Energy)**

The energy and capacity secured from Indiana Electric’s available generation resources are utilized primarily to serve the needs of retail electric customers residing within Indiana Electric’s franchised service territory. Costs of operating Indiana Electric’s generation facilities are recovered through IURC-approved base rates as well as periodic rate recovery mechanisms including the CECA, ECA, FAC, MCRA, and RCRA mechanism. Costs that are deemed unreasonable or imprudent by the IURC may not be recoverable through retail electric rates. Indiana Electric also receives revenues from the MISO to compensate it for benefits the generation facilities provide to the transmission system. Proceeds from the sales of energy from Indiana Electric’s generation facilities that exceed the requirements of retail customers are shared by Indiana Electric and retail electric customers.

The generation facilities owned and operated by Indiana Electric are subject to various environmental regulations enforced by the EPA and the IDEM. Operations of Indiana Electric’s generation facilities are subject to regulation by the EPA and the IDEM as it pertains to the discharge of constituents from the generation facilities. For further discussion, see “Our Business — Environmental Matters” below.

For a discussion of Indiana Electric’s ongoing regulatory proceedings, see “Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations — Liquidity and Capital Resources — Regulatory Matters” in Item 7 of Part II of this report, which discussion is incorporated herein by reference.

#### **State and Local Regulation – Natural Gas (CenterPoint Energy and CERC)**

In almost all communities in which CenterPoint Energy’s and CERC’s Natural Gas provides natural gas distribution services, they operate under franchises, certificates or licenses obtained from state and local authorities. The original terms of the franchises, with various expiration dates, typically range from 20 to 30 years. CenterPoint Energy’s and CERC’s Natural Gas expects to be able to renew expiring franchises. In most cases, franchises to provide natural gas utility services are not exclusive.

Substantially all of CenterPoint Energy’s and CERC’s Natural Gas is subject to cost-of-service rate regulation by the relevant state public utility commissions and, in Texas, by those municipalities that have retained original jurisdiction. In certain of the jurisdictions in which they operate, CenterPoint Energy’s and CERC’s Natural Gas has annual rate adjustment mechanisms that provide for changes in rates dependent upon certain changes in invested capital, earned returns on equity or actual margins realized.

For a discussion of certain of CenterPoint Energy’s and CERC’s Natural Gas’ ongoing regulatory proceedings, see “Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations — Liquidity and Capital Resources — Regulatory Matters” in Item 7 of Part II of this report, which discussion is incorporated herein by reference.

### **Department of Transportation (CenterPoint Energy and CERC)**

CenterPoint Energy and CERC are subject to regulation by PHMSA under the NGPSA and the HLPESA. The NGPSA delegated to PHMSA through DOT the authority to regulate gas pipelines. The HLPESA delegated to PHMSA through DOT the authority to develop, prescribe and enforce federal safety standards for the transportation of hazardous liquids by pipeline. Every four years PHMSA is up for reauthorization by Congress and with that reauthorization comes changes to the legislative requirements that Congress sets forth for the oversight of natural gas and hazardous liquid pipelines. In 2020, the PIPES Act was enacted. The PIPES Act reauthorized PHMSA through 2023 and imposed a few new mandates on the agency. The law establishes a PHMSA technology pilot, authorizes a new idled pipe operating status and contains process protections for operators during PHMSA enforcement proceedings. Section 114 of the PIPES Act is a self-mandating rule for natural gas pipeline operations like CERC’s that focuses on processes and procedures to eliminate or reduce emissions during normal operations. Further, Section 113 of the PIPES Act directed PHMSA to develop regulations to require natural gas pipeline operators to implement leak detection and repair programs, as well as requirements for mitigating emissions in operations. A proposed rule was published on May 18, 2023. Additional sections of the PIPES Act directed PHMSA to develop regulations requiring natural gas distribution operators to identify and address specific risks associated with piping materials with known issues. Over-pressurization, extreme weather and geohazards require certain actions associated with emergency response and require operators to identify and maintain certain records associated with system operating characteristics and controls. A proposed rule was published on September 7, 2023. The PIPES Act of 2023 was approved by the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee on December 6, 2023 to reauthorize PHMSA’s safety programs for the next four years.

In January 2021, PHMSA published a final rule amending the federal Pipeline Safety Regulations to ease regulatory burdens on the construction, operation, and maintenance of gas transmission, distribution, and gathering systems.

CenterPoint Energy and CERC anticipate that compliance with PHMSA’s regulations, performance of the remediation activities by CenterPoint Energy’s and CERC’s Natural Gas and intrastate pipelines, and verification of records on maximum allowable operating pressure will continue to require increases in both capital expenditures and operating costs. The level of expenditures will depend upon several factors, including age, location and operating pressures of the facilities. In particular, the cost of compliance with the DOT’s integrity management rules will depend on integrity testing and the repairs found to be necessary by such testing. Changes to the amount of pipe subject to integrity management, whether by expansion of the definition of the type of areas subject to integrity management procedures or of the applicability of such procedures outside of those defined areas, may also affect the costs incurred. Implementation by PHMSA of the PIPES Act, in particular Section 113, acts reauthorizing PHMSA or other future acts may result in other regulations or the reinterpretation of existing regulations that could impact compliance costs. In addition, CenterPoint Energy and CERC may be subject to the DOT’s enforcement actions and penalties if they fail to comply with pipeline regulations.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS**

The following discussion is based on environmental matters in the Registrants’ businesses as of December 31, 2023. The Registrants’ operations are subject to stringent and complex laws and regulations pertaining to the environment. As an owner or operator of natural gas pipelines, distribution systems and storage, electric transmission and distribution systems, steam electric and renewable generation systems and the facilities that support these systems, the Registrants must comply with these laws and regulations at the federal, state and local levels. These laws and regulations can restrict or impact the Registrants’ business activities in many ways, including, but not limited to:

- restricting the way the Registrants can handle or dispose of wastes, including wastewater discharges and air emissions;
- limiting or prohibiting construction activities in sensitive areas such as wetlands, coastal regions or areas inhabited by endangered species;
- requiring remedial action and monitoring to mitigate environmental conditions caused by the Registrants’ operations or attributable to former operations;
- enjoining the operations of facilities with permits issued pursuant to such environmental laws and regulations; and
- impacting the demand for the Registrants’ services by directly or indirectly affecting the use or price of fossil fuels, including, but not limited to, natural gas.

To comply with these requirements, the Registrants may need to spend substantial amounts and devote other resources from time to time to, among other activities:

- construct or acquire new facilities and equipment;
- acquire permits for facility operations or purchase emissions allowances;
- modify, upgrade or replace existing and proposed equipment; and
- decommission or remediate waste management areas, fuel storage facilities and other locations.

Failure to comply with these laws and regulations may trigger a variety of administrative, civil and criminal enforcement measures, including the assessment of monetary penalties, revocation of permits, the imposition of remedial actions and monitoring and the issuance of orders enjoining future operations. Certain environmental statutes impose strict, joint and several liability for costs required to assess, clean up and restore sites where hazardous substances have been stored, disposed or released. Moreover, it is not uncommon for neighboring landowners and other third parties to file claims for personal injury and/or property damage allegedly caused by the release of hazardous substances or other waste products into the environment.

Increasingly, environmental regulation has resulted in more restrictions and limitations on activities that may impact the environment. There can be no assurance as to the amount or timing of future expenditures for environmental compliance or remediation and monitoring, and actual future expenditures may be different from the amounts currently anticipated. The Registrants try to anticipate future regulatory requirements that might be imposed and plan accordingly to maintain compliance with changing environmental laws and regulations.

Based on current regulatory requirements and interpretations, the Registrants do not believe that compliance with federal, state or local environmental laws and regulations will have a material adverse effect on their business, financial position, results of operations or cash flows. In addition, the Registrants believe that their current environmental remediation activities will not materially interrupt or diminish their operational ability. The Registrants cannot provide assurances that future events, such as changes in existing laws, the promulgation of new laws, or the development or discovery of new facts or conditions will not cause them to incur significant costs. The following is a discussion of material current environmental and safety issues, laws and regulations that relate to the Registrants' operations. The Registrants believe that they are in substantial compliance with these environmental laws and regulations.

## **Global Climate Change**

There is increasing attention being paid in the United States and worldwide to the issue of climate change. As a result, from time to time, regulatory agencies have considered the modification of existing laws or regulations or the adoption of new laws or regulations addressing the emissions of GHG on the state, federal, or international level. On August 3, 2015, the EPA released its CPP rule, which required a 32% reduction in carbon emissions from 2005 levels. The final rule was published in the Federal Register on October 23, 2015, and that action was immediately followed by litigation ultimately resulting in the U.S. Supreme Court staying implementation of the rule. On July 8, 2019, the EPA published the ACE rule, which (i) repealed the CPP rule; (ii) replaced the CPP rule with a program that requires states to implement a program of energy efficiency improvement targets for individual coal-fired electric generating units; and (iii) amended the implementing regulations for Section 111(d) of the Clean Air Act. On January 19, 2021, the majority of the ACE rule — including the CPP repeal, CPP replacement, and the timing-related portions of the Section 111(d) implementing rule — was struck down by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit and on October 29, 2021, the U.S. Supreme Court agreed to consider four petitions filed by various coal interests and a coalition of 19 states. On June 30, 2022, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that the EPA exceeded its authority in promulgating the CPP. On May 11, 2023, the EPA announced proposed emission limits and guidelines for carbon dioxide from fossil fuel-fired power plants under Section 111 of the Clean Air Act which, if finalized, apply new GHG performance standards for those existing coal-fired units expected to continue operation beyond December 31, 2029. We will continue to evaluate the applicability of the rule to the existing and new gas-fired generating units, but would note that CenterPoint Energy does not currently have plans to operate any of its coal-fired units beyond December 2029.

The Biden administration recommitted the United States to the Paris Agreement, which has driven a renewed regulatory push to require further GHG emission reductions from the energy sector. On April 22, 2021, President Biden announced new goals of 50% reduction of economy-wide GHG emissions, and 100% carbon-free electricity by 2035, which formed the basis of the United States' commitments announced in Glasgow, and most recently the international climate negotiations held in Dubai, and concluded in December 2023, included for the first time language in the agreement to “transition away from fossil fuels” so as to achieve net zero emissions by 2050.

In September 2021, CenterPoint Energy announced its net zero emissions goals for both Scope 1 emissions and certain Scope 2 emissions by 2035 as well as a goal to reduce certain Scope 3 emissions by 20% to 30% by 2035. Because Texas is an

unregulated market and customers choose their generation providers, CenterPoint Energy's Scope 2 estimates do not take into account Texas electric transmission and distribution assets in the line loss calculation and, in addition, exclude emissions related to purchased power in Indiana between 2024 and 2026 as estimated. CenterPoint Energy's Scope 3 emissions estimates are based on the total natural gas supply delivered to residential and commercial customers as reported in the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA) Form EIA-176 reports and do not take into account the emissions of transport customers and emissions related to upstream extraction. These emission goals are expected to be used to position CenterPoint Energy to comply with anticipated future regulatory requirements from the current and future administrations to further reduce GHG emissions. For more information regarding CenterPoint Energy's net zero and carbon emission reduction goals and their related risks, see "Risk Factors — Risk Factors Affecting Regulatory, Environmental and Legal Risks — CenterPoint Energy is subject to operational and financial risks ...". CenterPoint Energy's and CERC's revenues, operating costs and capital requirements could be adversely affected as a result of any regulatory action that would require installation of new control technologies or a modification of their operations or would have the effect of reducing the consumption of natural gas. The IRA established the Methane Emissions Reduction Program, which imposes a charge on methane emissions from certain natural gas transmission facilities, and on December 2, 2023, the EPA finalized rules that target reductions in methane emissions, which are likely to increase costs related to production, transmission and storage of natural gas. Houston Electric, in contrast to some electric utilities including Indiana Electric, does not generate electricity, other than TEEEF, and thus is not directly exposed to the risk of high capital costs and regulatory uncertainties that face electric utilities that burn fossil fuels to generate electricity. CenterPoint Energy's net zero emissions goals are aligned with Indiana Electric's generation transition plan and are expected to position Indiana Electric to comply with anticipated future regulatory requirements related to GHG emissions reductions. Nevertheless, Houston Electric's and Indiana Electric's revenues could be adversely affected to the extent any resulting regulatory action has the effect of reducing consumption of electricity by ultimate consumers within their respective service territories. Likewise, incentives to conserve energy or to use energy sources other than natural gas could result in a decrease in demand for the Registrants' services. For example, Minnesota has enacted the Natural Gas Innovation Act that seeks to provide customers with access to renewable energy resources and innovative technologies, with the goal of reducing GHG emissions. Further, certain local government bodies have introduced or are considering requirements and/or incentives to reduce energy consumption by certain specified dates. For example, Minneapolis has adopted carbon emission reduction goals in an effort to decrease reliance on fossil natural gas. Additionally, cities in Minnesota within CenterPoint Energy's Natural Gas operational footprint are considering initiatives focused on electrification that could eliminate natural gas use in buildings. Also, Minnesota cities may consider seeking legislative authority for the ability to enact voluntary enhanced energy standards for all development projects. These initiatives could have a significant impact on CenterPoint Energy and its operations, and this impact could increase if other cities and jurisdictions in its service area enact similar initiatives. Further, our third-party suppliers, vendors and partners may also be impacted by climate change laws and regulations, which could impact CenterPoint Energy's business by, among other things, causing permitting and construction delays, project cancellations or increased project costs passed on to CenterPoint Energy. Conversely, regulatory actions that effectively promote the consumption of natural gas because of its lower emissions characteristics would be expected to benefit CenterPoint Energy and CERC and their natural gas-related businesses. At this time, however, we cannot quantify the magnitude of the impacts from possible new regulatory actions related to GHG emissions, either positive or negative, on the Registrants' businesses.

Compliance costs and other effects associated with climate change, reductions in GHG emissions and obtaining renewable energy sources remain uncertain. Although the amount of compliance costs remains uncertain, any new regulation or legislation relating to climate change will likely result in an increase in compliance costs. While the requirements of a federal or state rule remain uncertain, CenterPoint Energy will continue to monitor regulatory activity regarding GHG emission standards that may affect its business. Currently, CenterPoint Energy does not purchase carbon credits. In connection with its net zero emissions goals, CenterPoint Energy expects to purchase carbon credits in the future; however, CenterPoint Energy does not currently expect the number of credits, or cost for those credits, to be material.

To the extent climate changes may occur and such climate changes result in warmer temperatures in the Registrants' service territories, financial results from the Registrants' businesses could be adversely impacted. For example, CenterPoint Energy's and CERC's Natural Gas could be adversely affected through lower natural gas sales. On the other hand, warmer temperatures in CenterPoint Energy's and Houston Electric's electric service territory may increase revenues from transmission and distribution and generation through increased demand for electricity for cooling. Another possible result of climate change is more frequent and more severe weather events, such as hurricanes, tornadoes and flooding. Since many of the Registrants' facilities are located along or near the Texas gulf coast, increased or more severe hurricanes or tornadoes could increase costs to repair damaged facilities and restore service to customers. When the Registrants cannot deliver electricity or natural gas to customers, or customers cannot receive services, the Registrants' financial results can be impacted by lost revenues, and they generally must seek approval from regulators to recover restoration costs. To the extent the Registrants are unable to recover those costs, or if higher rates resulting from recovery of such costs result in reduced demand for services, the Registrants' future financial results may be adversely impacted.

## **Air Emissions**

The Registrants' operations are subject to the federal Clean Air Act and comparable state laws and regulations. These laws and regulations regulate emissions of air pollutants from various industrial sources, including electric generating facilities and natural gas processing plants and compressor stations, and also impose various monitoring and reporting requirements. Such laws and regulations may require pre-approval for the construction or modification of certain projects or facilities expected to produce air emissions or result in the increase of existing air emissions. The Registrants may be required to obtain and strictly comply with air permits containing various emissions and operational limitations, or utilize specific emission control technologies to limit emissions. Failure to comply with these requirements could result in monetary penalties, injunctions, conditions or restrictions on operations, and potentially criminal enforcement actions. The Registrants may be required to incur certain capital expenditures in the future for air pollution control equipment in connection with obtaining and maintaining operating permits and approvals for air emissions.

## **Water Discharges**

The Registrants' operations are subject to the Federal Water Pollution Control Act of 1972, as amended, also known as the Clean Water Act, and analogous state laws and regulations. These laws and regulations impose detailed requirements and strict controls regarding the discharge of pollutants into waters of the United States. The unpermitted discharge of pollutants, including discharges resulting from a spill or leak incident, is prohibited. The Clean Water Act and regulations implemented thereunder also prohibit discharges of dredged and fill material into wetlands and other waters of the United States unless authorized by an appropriately issued permit. Any unpermitted release of petroleum or other pollutants from the Registrants' pipelines or facilities could result in fines or penalties as well as significant remedial obligations.

### ***Waters of the United States***

Under the Obama administration, the EPA promulgated a set of rules that included a comprehensive regulatory overhaul of defining "waters of the United States" for the purposes of determining federal jurisdiction. The Trump administration signaled its intent to repeal and replace the Obama-era rules. In accordance with this intent, the EPA promulgated a rule in early 2018 that postponed the effectiveness of the Obama-era rules until 2020. Thereafter, the EPA proposed a new set of rules that would narrow the Clean Water Act's jurisdiction, which were finalized on April 21, 2020. That set of rules was vacated by decisions in the U.S. federal district courts in New Mexico and Arizona, and on November 18, 2021, the EPA released a proposal to reestablish the pre-2015 definition of "waters of the United States" which will become effective upon finalization and publication. On December 30, 2022, the EPA and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers announced the final "Revised Definition of 'waters of the United States'" rule, which was published on January 18, 2023 and became effective on March 20, 2023. However, on May 25, 2023, the U.S. Supreme Court issued a decision limiting the scope of federal jurisdiction over wetlands, and on August 29, 2023, the EPA issued a final rule that seeks to conform with the U.S. Supreme Court decision.

### ***ELG***

In 2015, the EPA finalized revisions to the existing steam electric wastewater discharge standards which set more stringent wastewater discharge limits and effectively prohibited further wet disposal of coal ash in ash ponds. These new standards are applied at the time of permit renewal and an affected facility must comply with the wastewater discharge limitations no later than December 31, 2023, and the prohibition of wet sluicing of bottom ash no later than December 31, 2025. In February 2019, the IURC approved Indiana Electric's ELG compliance plan for its F.B. Culley Generating Station, which was completed in a timely manner and in compliance with the requirements of ELG.

### ***Cooling Water Intake Structures***

Section 316 of the federal Clean Water Act requires steam electric generating facilities use "best technology available" to minimize adverse environmental impacts on a body of water. In May 2014, the EPA finalized a regulation requiring installation of "best technology available" to mitigate impingement and entrainment of aquatic species in cooling water intake structures. Indiana Electric is currently completing the required ecological studies and anticipates timely compliance in 2025.

## **Hazardous Waste**

The Registrants' operations generate wastes, including some hazardous wastes, that are subject to the federal RCRA, and comparable state laws, which impose detailed requirements for the handling, storage, treatment, transport and disposal of hazardous and solid waste. RCRA currently exempts many natural gas gathering and field processing wastes from classification

as hazardous waste. Specifically, RCRA excludes from the definition of hazardous waste waters produced and other wastes associated with the exploration, development or production of crude oil and natural gas. However, these oil and gas exploration and production wastes are still regulated under state law and the less stringent non-hazardous waste requirements of RCRA. Moreover, ordinary industrial wastes such as paint wastes, waste solvents, laboratory wastes and waste compressor oils may be regulated as hazardous waste. The transportation of natural gas in pipelines may also generate some hazardous wastes that would be subject to RCRA or comparable state law requirements.

### ***Coal Ash***

Indiana Electric has three ash ponds, two at the F.B. Culley facility (Culley East and Culley West) and one at the A.B. Brown facility. In 2015, the EPA finalized its CCR Rule, which regulates coal ash as non-hazardous material under the RCRA. The final rule allows beneficial reuse of ash, and the majority of the ash generated by Indiana Electric's remaining generating units will continue to be beneficially reused. The EPA continues to propose amendments to the CCR Rule; however, under the CCR Rule as it is currently in effect, Indiana Electric is required to perform integrity assessments, including ground water monitoring, at its F.B. Culley and A.B. Brown generating stations. The ground water studies were necessary to determine the remaining service life of the ponds and whether a pond must be retrofitted with liners or closed in place. Groundwater monitoring indicates potential groundwater impacts adjacent to Indiana Electric's ash impoundments, and further analysis is ongoing. The CCR Rule required companies to complete location restriction determinations by October 18, 2018. Indiana Electric completed its evaluation and determined that one F.B. Culley pond (Culley East) and the A.B. Brown pond fail the aquifer placement location restriction. As a result of this failure, Indiana Electric was required to cease disposal of new ash in the ponds and commence closure of the ponds by April 11, 2021. Indiana Electric filed timely requests for extensions available under the CCR Rule that would allow Indiana Electric to continue to use the ponds through October 15, 2023. On January 22, 2021, Indiana Electric received letters from the EPA for both the F.B. Culley and A.B. Brown facilities that determined Indiana Electric's extension submittals complete and extended the compliance deadline of April 11, 2021 until the EPA issues a final decision on the extension requests. On October 5, 2022, SIGECO received a proposed conditional approval of its extension request for the A.B. Brown facility. Both the Culley East and A.B. Brown facility have been taken out of service in a timely manner per the commitments made to the EPA in the extension requests filed for both ponds. The Culley West pond was closed under CCR provisions applicable to inactive ponds, and closure activities were completed in December 2020. For further discussion about Indiana Electric's ash ponds, please see Note 15(d) to the consolidated financial statements.

On May 18, 2023, the EPA issued a proposed revision to the CCR rule that could potentially expand the scope of units regulated under the federal CCR rule (the CCR "Legacy" rule). The CCR Legacy rule seeks to include legacy CCR surface impoundments (inactive surface impoundments at inactive generating facilities) as well as new "CCR management units" at active or inactive facilities otherwise subject to federal CCR regulations. The potential impact of the CCR Legacy rule is uncertain at this time, and if finalized could require Registrant to conduct additional CCR investigations.

### **Liability for Remediation**

CERCLA, also known as "Superfund," and comparable state laws impose liability, without regard to fault or the legality of the original conduct, on certain classes of persons responsible for the release of "hazardous substances" into the environment. Classes of PRPs include the current and past owners or operators of sites where a hazardous substance was released and companies that disposed or arranged for the disposal of hazardous substances at offsite locations such as landfills. Although petroleum, as well as natural gas, is expressly excluded from CERCLA's definition of a "hazardous substance," in the course of the Registrants' ordinary operations they do, from time to time, generate wastes that may fall within the definition of a "hazardous substance." CERCLA authorizes the EPA and, in some cases, third parties to take action in response to threats to the public health or the environment and to recover the costs they incur from the responsible classes of persons. Under CERCLA, the Registrants could potentially be subject to joint and several liability for the costs of cleaning up and restoring sites where hazardous substances have been released, for damages to natural resources, and for associated response and assessment costs, including for the costs of certain health studies.

### **Liability for Preexisting Conditions**

For information about preexisting environmental matters, please see Note 15(d) to the consolidated financial statements.

## HUMAN CAPITAL

CenterPoint Energy believes its employees are critical to safely delivering electricity and natural gas across its service territories and seeks to create a diverse, equitable, inclusive and safe work environment. CenterPoint Energy’s core values—safety, integrity, accountability, initiative and respect—guide how it makes decisions and provide the foundation for a strong culture of ethics where employees are responsible for upholding these values and following CenterPoint Energy’s Ethics and Compliance Code.

The following table sets forth the number of employees by Registrant and reportable segment as of December 31, 2023:

| Reportable Segment            | Number of Employees |                  |              | Number of Employees Represented by Collective Bargaining Groups |                  |              |
|-------------------------------|---------------------|------------------|--------------|---|------------------|--------------|
|                               | CenterPoint Energy  | Houston Electric | CERC         | CenterPoint Energy  | Houston Electric | CERC         |
| Electric .....                | 3,132               | 2,781            | —            | 1,659   | 1,472            | —            |
| Natural Gas .....             | 3,705               | —                | 3,393        | 1,695   | —                | 1,639        |
| Corporate and Other (1) ..... | 1,990               | —                | —            | 147   | —                | —            |
| Total .....                   | <u>8,827</u>        | <u>2,781</u>     | <u>3,393</u> | <u>3,501</u>  | <u>1,472</u>     | <u>1,639</u> |

(1) Employees in the Corporate and Other segment provide services to the Electric and Natural Gas segments and the costs of these services have been charged directly to the Electric and Natural Gas segments using assignment methods that management believes are reasonable. For further information, see Note 19 to the consolidated financial statements.

CenterPoint Energy’s workforce includes 3,501 employees represented by collective bargaining agreements. For information about the status of collective bargaining agreements, see Note 8(j) to the consolidated financial statements.

**Talent Attraction, Development and Retention.** CenterPoint Energy’s human capital priorities include attracting, retaining and developing high performing talent through its talent management activities. CenterPoint Energy endeavors to maintain a workforce reflective of the available workforce within the communities we serve by attracting quality candidates through its recruitment and selection processes, with the goal of creating a work environment in which every employee is engaged; aligned with CenterPoint Energy’s strategy, goals and priorities; and understands how they contribute to its long-term performance. CenterPoint Energy recruits qualified employees regardless of race, gender, color, sexual orientation, age, religion, or physical or mental disability. The talent acquisition team has an increased focus with local partnerships to strategically impact all the local communities being served. This continues to include SERJobs, Houston Area Urban League, Work Texas, Wesley Community Center, Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Hispanic Serving Institutions, and a more robust college partnership in all six states in alignment with CenterPoint Energy Foundation initiatives.

CenterPoint Energy takes a strategic approach to attracting, retaining, and developing its workforce. CenterPoint Energy’s strategy combines succession planning along with internal talent development as essential elements of overall workforce development strategy. To support its commitment to safely and reliably delivering electricity and natural gas, CenterPoint Energy focuses on the continuous development of its greatest assets, its employees, building a sustainable leadership pipeline. To meet the business’s future needs, CenterPoint Energy’s goal is to create great leaders capable of developing their employees, while supporting the business goals and maintaining a high-performing workforce. CenterPoint Energy has a number of tools for leadership and employee development that expand opportunities available to employees. CenterPoint Energy conducts regular talent discussions, including succession planning with all levels of leadership to provide business continuity and identify its future leaders and opportunities. CenterPoint Energy invests in employee development throughout the year to align performance to business needs, drive development planning and contribute to career progression. CenterPoint Energy’s processes and progress are reviewed regularly for continuous improvement.

**Diversity, Equity and Inclusion.** CenterPoint Energy is dedicated to advancing an inclusive culture and work environment, free from discrimination of any kind, where business results are achieved through the skills, abilities and talents of a diverse workforce. In 2023, CenterPoint Energy’s DE&I Council continued to focus on the strategic pillars of employee engagement, community and giving, supplier diversity and sustainability, talent acquisition, and customer focus. The DE&I Council has approved eight ERGs with a 123% increase in events that garnered an 87% increase in employee engagement from 2022 to 2023. The ERG events range from professional development podcasts to wellness learnings which are all aligned with CenterPoint Energy’s objectives. These events are available to the employee population. In 2023, CenterPoint Energy and employees continued to be recognized locally, regionally and nationally for enterprise-wide inclusive initiatives. As of December 31, 2023, CenterPoint Energy’s workforce was 42% racially and/or ethnically diverse. Certain members of

CenterPoint Energy’s executive management team have a negative-only modifier related to diversity metrics that could reduce their short-term incentive compensation.

**Compensation and Benefits.** CenterPoint Energy is committed to providing its employees with competitive pay and benefits. Its compensation philosophy is to maintain employee total compensation that is competitive with the relevant markets, internally equitable, and based on company and individual performance. CenterPoint Energy expects that this will enable it to attract, motivate and retain employees with the skills and competencies necessary to achieve its business strategy. In addition to competitive compensation, CenterPoint Energy provides its employees with a robust, comprehensive benefits package designed to help employees stay healthy, care for their families, plan for the future and enjoy peace of mind. The benefits package includes medical, dental, vision, life, disability and accidental insurance coverage; retirement, company match savings plans; paid time off, family leave, well-being and employee assistance programs. The employee wellness resources encompass support for mental, financial and physical health.

**INFORMATION ABOUT OUR EXECUTIVE OFFICERS  
(as of February 12, 2024)**

| Name                  | Age | Title  |
|-----------------------|-----|--|
| Jason P. Wells        | 46  | President and Chief Executive Officer                                |
| Christopher A. Foster | 45  | Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer                 |
| Lynne Harkel-Rumford  | 67  | Executive Vice President and Chief Human Resources Officer           |
| Monica Karuturi       | 45  | Executive Vice President and General Counsel                         |
| Jason M. Ryan         | 48  | Executive Vice President, Regulatory Services and Government Affairs |
| Darin Carroll         | 47  | Senior Vice President, Natural Gas Business                          |
| Lynnae Wilson         | 48  | Senior Vice President, Electric Business                             |

**Jason P. Wells** has served as President and Chief Executive Officer of CenterPoint Energy and a member of the Board of Directors of CenterPoint Energy since January 5, 2024. Previously he served as President and Chief Operating Officer of CenterPoint Energy from May 2023 to January 2024; as President, Chief Operating Officer and Chief Financial Officer of CenterPoint Energy from January 2023 to May 2023; and as Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of CenterPoint Energy from September 2020 to December 2022. Prior to joining CenterPoint Energy, Mr. Wells served as Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of PG&E Corporation, a publicly traded electric utility holding company serving customers in Northern and Central California through its subsidiary Pacific Gas and Electric Company, from June 2019 to September 2020. He previously served as Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of PG&E Corporation from January 2016 to June 2019 and as Vice President, Business Finance of Pacific Gas and Electric Company from August 2013 to January 2016. PG&E Corporation filed Chapter 11 bankruptcy on January 29, 2019 and successfully emerged from bankruptcy on July 1, 2020. He also served in various finance and accounting roles of increasing responsibility at Pacific Gas and Electric Company. Mr. Wells earned his bachelor’s degree and master’s degree in accounting, both from the University of Florida. He is a certified public accountant. Mr. Wells serves on the Executive Committee and Board for the Greater Houston Partnership, Bauer College Board of the C.T. Bauer College of Business at the University of Houston, the Advisory Board of the Kinder Institute for Urban Research at Rice University, and the Boards of Central Houston, Inc. and M.D. Anderson Cancer Center.

**Christopher A. Foster** has served as Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of CenterPoint Energy since May 2023. Previously, has served as Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of PG&E Corporation, a publicly traded electric utility holding company serving customers in Northern and Central California through its subsidiary Pacific Gas and Electric Company, since March 2021. He previously served in various positions of increasing responsibilities at PG&E since 2011, including as Vice President and Interim Chief Financial Officer from September 2020 to March 2021, and Vice President, Treasury and Investor Relations from March 2020 to September 2020. PG&E Corporation filed Chapter 11 bankruptcy on January 29, 2019 and successfully emerged from bankruptcy on July 1, 2020. He earned his bachelor’s degree from Michigan State University. Mr. Foster serves on the Board of Exploratorium, a San Francisco-based science and technology museum.

**Lynne Harkel-Rumford** has served as Executive Vice President and Chief Human Resources Officer of CenterPoint Energy since January 2022. With over 30 years of experience in compensation and benefits matters, Ms. Harkel-Rumford previously served as Senior Vice President and Chief Human Resources Officer from July 2020 to January 2022; Vice President, Total Rewards and Technology from September 2014 to July 2020; and as Associate General Counsel from April 2007 to September 2014. Ms. Harkel-Rumford currently serves on the advisory board of directors of Target Hunger in Houston assisting with Board governance.



**Monica Karuturi** has served as Executive Vice President and General Counsel of CenterPoint Energy since January 2022. She previously served as Senior Vice President and General Counsel from July 2020 to January 2022; Senior Vice President and Deputy General Counsel from April 2019 to July 2020; as Vice President and Associate General Counsel - Corporate and Securities from October 2015 to April 2019; and as Associate General Counsel - Corporate from September 2014 to October 2015. Prior to joining CenterPoint Energy, Ms. Karuturi served as counsel for LyondellBasell Industries for corporate and finance matters and strategic transactions. Ms. Karuturi was appointed as a Commissioner of the Texas Access to Justice Commission by the Texas Supreme Court in June 2015 and served in this capacity until June 2021. She currently serves as Chair of the Houston Bar Foundation.

**Jason M. Ryan** has served as Executive Vice President, Regulatory Services and Government Affairs of CenterPoint Energy since January 2022. He previously served as Senior Vice President, Regulatory Services and Government Affairs from July 2020 to January 2022; Senior Vice President and General Counsel from April 2019 to July 2020; as Senior Vice President, Regulatory and Government Affairs from February 2019 to April 2019; as Vice President of Regulatory and Government Affairs and Associate General Counsel from March 2017 to February 2019; and as Vice President and Associate General Counsel from September 2014 to March 2017. He was appointed to the Texas Diabetes Council by Texas Governor Perry in 2013 for a term ending in 2019; he was reappointed by Texas Governor Abbott in 2019 for a term ending in 2025. Mr. Ryan currently serves on the boards of the Lone Star Flight Museum and the Association of Electric Companies of Texas and on the advisory board of the Strategic AI Program at Houston Christian University. He also serves on the executive committee of the legal committee of the American Gas Association.

**Darin Carroll** has served as Senior Vice President, Natural Gas Business of CenterPoint Energy since January 2023. He previously served as Senior Vice President, Operations Support from January 2022 to January 2023 and as Vice President, Operations Support from February 2019 to January 2022. Prior to Vectren's acquisition by CenterPoint Energy, Mr. Carroll served as Director, Operations from February 2014 to February 2019 of Vectren. Mr. Carroll currently serves on the Executive Committee and Board of Directors of the Junior Achievement of Southeast Texas, and the Boards of Directors of the American Gas Association and Southern Gas Association. He has also previously been on the Board of Directors of Guardianship Services of Southwestern Indiana and a member of the Indiana Energy Association Gas Operations Committee, Midwest Energy Association Electric Operations Steering Committee, and American Gas Association Field Operations Committee. He earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Southern Indiana in Evansville, Indiana.

**Lynnae Wilson** has served as Senior Vice President, Electric Business of CenterPoint Energy since January 2023. She previously served as Senior Vice President, Houston Electric from January 2022 to January 2023; as Senior Vice President, High Voltage Operations from August 2020 to January 2022; and as Chief Business Officer, Indiana Electric, from February 2019 to August 2020. Prior to Vectren's acquisition by CenterPoint Energy, Ms. Wilson served as Vice President, Energy Delivery from June 2016 to February 2019 of Vectren. Ms. Wilson currently serves on the Board of the United Way of Greater Houston and previously served on the Board of ReliabilityFirst Corporation from January 2018 to December 2021.

#### **Item 1A. Risk Factors**

CenterPoint Energy is a holding company that conducts all of its business operations through subsidiaries, primarily Houston Electric, CERC and SIGECO. The following, along with any additional legal proceedings identified or incorporated by reference in Item 3 of this combined report on Form 10-K, summarizes the principal risk factors associated with the holding company and the businesses conducted by its subsidiaries. However, additional risks and uncertainties either not presently known or not currently believed by management to be material may also adversely affect CenterPoint Energy's businesses. For other factors that may cause actual results to differ from those indicated in any forward-looking statement or projection contained in this combined report on Form 10-K, see "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations — Certain Factors Affecting Future Earnings" in Item 7, which should be read in conjunction with the risk factors contained in this Item 1A. Carefully consider each of the risks described below, including those relating to Houston Electric and CERC, which, along with CenterPoint Energy, are collectively referred to as the Registrants. Unless the context indicates otherwise, where appropriate, information relating to a specific registrant has been segregated and labeled as such and specific references to Houston Electric and CERC in this section also pertain to CenterPoint Energy. In this combined report on Form 10-K, the terms "our," "we" and "us" are used as abbreviated references to CenterPoint Energy, Inc. together with its subsidiaries.

## Risk Factors Affecting Operations

### Electric Generation, Transmission and Distribution (CenterPoint Energy and Houston Electric)

*Disruptions at power generation facilities, generation inadequacy or directives issued by regulatory authorities could cause interruptions in Houston Electric's and Indiana Electric's ability to provide transmission and distribution services and adversely affect their reputation, financial condition, results of operations and cash flows.*

Houston Electric owns the transmission and distribution infrastructure in its service territory that delivers electric power to its customers, but it does not own or operate any power generation facilities, except for its operation of TEEEF. Indiana Electric owns and operates power generation facilities in addition to the transmission and distribution infrastructure in its service territory. Both Houston Electric and Indiana Electric must follow the directives issued by their respective independent system operator, ERCOT and MISO, respectively. ERCOT and MISO have and may in the future issue directives requiring members to implement controlled outages as a result of an emergency or reliability issues, and Houston Electric has faced and may in the future face challenges to their planning and preparation for such directives and their implementation of Load Shed, including, for example, allegations that they had discretion as to how to shed load and which customers experienced outages and the duration of those outages. As a result, claims and lawsuits could be filed against Houston Electric and Indiana Electric for personal injury, property damage or other damage or loss as a result of their respective Load Shed planning, preparation, implementation, and decisions in order to meet the directives of ERCOT and MISO, respectively. For example, in February 2021, the ERCOT regulated Texas electric system experienced extreme winter weather conditions and an unprecedented power generation shortage. The amount of electricity generated by the state's power generation companies was insufficient to meet the amount demanded by customers. This resulted in ERCOT directing TDUs to significantly Load Shed, which caused customer outages across the ERCOT electric grid of Texas, including in Houston Electric's service territory. See Note 7 to the consolidated financial statements and “— Houston Electric's use of TEEEF ...” for further information. If power generation capacity is severely disrupted or is inadequate for any reason in the future, Houston Electric's or Indiana Electric's transmission and distribution services may be diminished or interrupted. Further, as with the lawsuits filed in the aftermath of the February 2021 Winter Storm Event, claims and lawsuits could be filed against the Registrants, and our reputation, financial condition, results of operations and cash flows could be adversely affected.

Additionally, Indiana Electric's generating facilities and the generating facilities that supply the power transmitted by Houston Electric and Indiana Electric are subject to operational risks that have and may in the future result in unscheduled plant outages, unanticipated operation and maintenance expenses and increased purchase power costs. For example, in June 2022, Culley 3, a coal-fired generation unit, experienced a boiler feed pump turbine failure that caused the unit to be out of service for nearly nine months. In this time frame, CenterPoint Energy purchased energy on the open market and those purchases are currently being challenged at the IURC by multiple intervenors. Such open market purchases have and may again result in increased costs and have an adverse impact on our operations, financial condition, results of operations and cash flows. Further, Indiana Electric is party to a number of PPAs with third parties. Indiana Electric's power generation may be disrupted or otherwise insufficient if third parties do not deliver required power under our PPAs. These operational risks can arise from circumstances such as facility shutdowns or malfunctions due to equipment failure or operator error; aging infrastructure; interruption of fuel supply or increased prices of fuel as contracts expire and inflation rises; disruptions in the delivery of electricity; inability to comply with regulatory or permit requirements; labor disputes; or natural disasters, all of which could adversely affect Indiana Electric's and Houston Electric's businesses. Further, Indiana Electric currently relies on coal for the majority of its generation capacity. Indiana Electric purchases the majority of its coal supply from a single, unrelated party and, although the coal supply is under long-term contract, the loss of this supplier or transportation interruptions could adversely affect its ability to deliver electricity to its customers and adversely impact Indiana Electric's financial condition, results of operations and cash flows. In 2021 and part of 2022, Indiana Electric experienced coal supply shortages due to labor shortages that the coal industry experienced. While the coal supply shortage that Indiana Electric experienced did not impact its ability to deliver electricity to its customers, labor shortages as well as supply shortages in the future, whether caused by insufficient supply or supplier bankruptcy or other regulatory and supply issues in the mining industry, may lead to increased cost and have an adverse impact on our operations, financial condition, results of operations and cash flows. See “— Disruptions to the global supply...” As Indiana Electric continues its generation transition and more renewable energy sources come online, Indiana Electric's generating facilities may experience unanticipated disruptions as a result of renewable supply shortages, including, but not limited to, due to cloudy or windless days. Additionally, such disruptions could adversely affect its ability to deliver electricity to its customers and adversely impact Indiana Electric's financial condition, results of operations and cash flows.

The operations of Houston Electric and Indiana Electric are subject to the usual hazards associated with high-voltage electricity transmission, including inclement weather, natural disasters, mechanical failure, contact with electrified facilities by people, equipment, and debris, unscheduled downtime, equipment interruptions, contamination, remediation, explosions, fires,

chemical spills, discharges or releases of toxic or hazardous substances, and other environmental risks. Such hazards can cause personal injury and loss of life, severe damage to or destruction of property and equipment, and environmental damage, and may result in suspension of operations, disruption of service to customers, and the imposition of civil or criminal penalties. Houston Electric and Indiana Electric maintain property and casualty insurance but are not fully insured against all potential hazards incident to their businesses.

***Houston Electric’s receivables are primarily concentrated in a small number of REPs, and any delay or default in payments of these receivables could adversely affect Houston Electric’s financial condition, results of operations and cash flows.***

Houston Electric’s receivables from the distribution of electricity are collected from REPs that supply the electricity. As of December 31, 2023, Houston Electric provided electric delivery service to approximately 65 REPs. Adverse economic conditions, including, but not limited to, the impact of COVID-19, the February 2021 Winter Storm Event or other extreme weather (which may result in abnormal power prices), structural problems in the market served by ERCOT, mismanagement by the REPs, inflation or financial difficulties of one or more REPs, have and may in the future impair the ability of these REPs to pay for Houston Electric’s services or cause them to delay such payments. Houston Electric depends on these REPs to remit payments on a timely basis. Applicable PUCT regulations significantly limit the extent to which Houston Electric can apply normal commercial terms to otherwise seek credit protection from firms desiring to provide retail electric service in its service territory, and Houston Electric thus remains at risk for payments relating to services provided prior to any shift to another REP or provider of last resort. Houston Electric’s PUCT-approved tariff outlines the remedies available to Houston Electric in the event that a REP defaults on amounts owed. Among the remedies available to Houston Electric are seeking recourse against any cash deposit, letter of credit, or surety bond provided by the REP or implementing mutually agreeable terms with the REP. Another remedy is to require that customers be shifted to another REP or a provider of last resort. Houston Electric thus incurs risk for payments related to services provided prior to the shift to another REP or the provider of last resort. A significant portion of Houston Electric’s billed receivables from REPs are from affiliates of NRG and Vistra Energy Corp. Houston Electric’s aggregate billed receivables balance from REPs as of December 31, 2023 was \$253 million. Approximately 39% and 20% of this amount was owed by affiliates of NRG and Vistra Energy Corp., respectively. Any delay or default in payment by REPs could adversely affect Houston Electric’s financial condition, results of operations and cash flows. If a REP was unable to meet its obligations, it could consider, among various options, restructuring under the bankruptcy laws, in which event such REP might seek to avoid honoring its obligations, and claims might be made regarding prior payments Houston Electric had received from such REP. For example, following the February 2021 Winter Storm Event, multiple REPs filed for bankruptcy. We are currently capturing the amounts owed by these REPs as a permitted regulatory asset for bad debt expenses, which will be subject to a reasonableness review by the PUCT when we seek recovery in our next base rate case. As of both December 31, 2022 and 2021, as authorized by the PUCT, CenterPoint Energy and Houston Electric recorded a regulatory asset of \$8 million for bad debt expenses resulting from REPs’ default on their obligation to pay delivery charges to Houston Electric net of collateral. There is no guarantee that we will be able to recover any or all of the regulatory asset in our next base rate case. See “— Rate regulation of Registrants’ Electric ...”

***Indiana Electric’s execution of its generation transition plan, including its IRP, is subject to various risks, including timely recovery of capital investments and increased costs and risks related to the timing and cost of development and/or construction of new generation facilities.***

Indiana requires each electric utility to perform and submit an IRP to the IURC every three years, unless extended, that uses economic modeling to consider the costs and risks associated with available resource options to provide reliable electric service for the next 20-year period. Indiana Electric has used past IRPs and will continue to use future IRPs to evaluate its mix of generation resources. Indiana Electric engages with the communities it serves, its regulators and third-parties in developing its generation transition plan. Recent IRPs have demonstrated Indiana Electric can most cost effectively serve its customers by transitioning its generation fleet to a wider mix of resources, including renewables. For example, Indiana Electric’s 2019/2020 IRP identified a preferred portfolio that retires 730 MW of coal-fired generation facilities and replaces these resources with a mix of generating resources composed primarily of renewables, including solar, wind, and solar with storage, supported by dispatchable natural gas combustion turbines including a pipeline to serve such natural gas generation. Indiana Electric is continuing its plan to transition generation resources away from coal-fired generation to a more sustainable portfolio of resources, including renewables, and ultimately a goal to exit the coal plants that Indiana Electric operates by the end of 2027, as reflected in its most recent IRP submitted to the IURC in May 2023. While the IURC does not approve or reject Indiana Electric’s IRP, the IURC does comment on the IRP. Indiana Electric is required to obtain a CPCN prior to constructing or acquiring generating resources. Indiana Electric also obtains IURC approval of PPAs and DSM plans to ensure cost recovery.

Indiana Electric must manage several risks associated with its generation transition plan. The IURC may delay providing comments on Indiana Electric’s most recent IRP, requiring Indiana Electric to either wait for comments or proceed to

implement its IRP without IURC comments. The IURC comments may raise concerns with Indiana Electric's IRP that make it difficult to obtain approval of the generation transition plan if not addressed. There is no guarantee that the IURC will approve Indiana Electric's requests to implement part of its generation transition. If Indiana Electric fails to receive IURC approvals necessary to acquire the projects or resources identified in its IRP, Indiana Electric may not be able to implement its generation transition plan in a timely manner or at all. If Indiana Electric is unable to implement its generation transition plan, it may have an adverse effect on CenterPoint Energy's ability to execute on its net zero and carbon emission goals, its goal to exit the coal plants that Indiana Electric operates by the end of 2027, its growth strategy, achieve its financial goals, and otherwise impact results of operations and cash flows.

Even if a generation project is approved, risks associated with the development or construction of any new generation exist, including new legislation restricting or delaying new generation, moratorium legislation, the ability to procure resources needed to build at a reasonable cost, scarcity of resources and labor, ability to appropriately estimate costs of new generation, the effects of potential construction delays, project scope changes, and cost overruns and the ability to meet capacity requirements. For example, the developers of a 130 MW Pike County Solar project have informed Indiana Electric that, due to delays in the MISO interconnection queue and inflationary pressures, costs have exceeded the agreed upon levels in the BTA. We and the developers are actively evaluating possible cost impacts to the project, which may lead to a refile for approval of the project with the IURC and further delay the completion of the project. If Indiana Electric is not able to reach a mutually acceptable solution with the developers of the Pike County Solar project, Indiana Electric may seek to terminate the project. For additional information, see “— Disruptions to the global supply...” Furthermore, we have begun to acquire and/or develop additional solar and wind facilities as part of our capital plan. However, we have not yet entered into definitive agreements with developers for the acquisition and/or development of all of the additional projects, and we face significant competition with other bidders for a limited number of such generation facilities that developers plan to construct and for solar panels. For additional information, see “— Increases in the cost or reduction in supply ...” The number of available projects is further limited by the MISO interconnection queue due to potential interconnection costs that may render projects infeasible. As a result, suitable generation facility project candidates or resources necessary to construct such projects may not be available on terms and conditions we find acceptable, or the expected benefits of a completed facility may not be realized fully or at all, or may not be realized in the anticipated timeframe. If Indiana Electric was unable to meet its generation needs as a result of project delays or cancellations it would be required to buy the necessary capacity and electricity on the open market. Such open market purchases may result in increased costs and may have an adverse impact on our operations, financial condition, results of operations and cash flows. If we are unable to complete or acquire such generation facilities or resources, or if they do not perform as anticipated, our future growth, financial condition, results of operations and cash flows may be adversely affected.

***Increases in the cost or reduction in supply of solar energy system components due to tariffs or trade restrictions imposed by the U.S. government may have an adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations.***

China is a major producer of solar panels and other solar products. Certain solar cells, modules, laminates and panels from China are subject to various antidumping and countervailing duty rates, depending on the exporter supplying the product, imposed by the U.S. government as a result of determinations the United States was materially injured as a result of such imports being sold at less than fair value and subsidized by the Chinese government. In March 2022, the DOC announced it would initiate an investigation into whether imports of solar cells and panels produced in Cambodia, Malaysia, Thailand and Vietnam are circumventing U.S. rules and laws, such as antidumping and countervailing duty rates, which impose a tariff on imports of solar cells and panels manufactured in China. On August 18, 2023, the DOC announced its final determination that five of the eight companies investigated were attempting to bypass U.S. duties by doing minor processing in Southeast Asian countries before shipment to the United States. In addition, in December 2021, President Biden signed into law the Uyghur Forced Labor Prevention Act, which bans goods from China's Xinjiang region due to the use of forced labor. Continuing tensions between the United States and China may lead to restrictions in trade between the two countries or new legislation, tariffs or bans, any of which could further negatively impact the supply of solar panels. These or similar duties and legislation have and may in the future also put upward pressure on prices of these solar energy products, which may reduce our ability to acquire these items in a timely and cost-efficient manner. If we or the developers we are working with are unable to secure such solar energy products in a timely and cost-efficient manner, we may be forced to delay, downsize and/or cancel solar projects and we may not be able to procure the resources needed to fully execute on our ten-year capital plan or achieve our net zero emissions goals. We have experienced project delays due to developers of our projects being unable to acquire solar panels due to supply chain constraints. Additionally, delays or cancellations by developers of third-party solar power facilities expected to interconnect with CenterPoint Energy's and Houston Electric's system may have adverse impacts, such as delayed or reduced potential future revenues. We cannot predict what additional actions the U.S. government may adopt with respect to tariffs or other trade regulations in the future or what actions may be taken by other countries in retaliation for such measures. If the DOC imposes tariffs on solar panels as a result of its findings or other additional measures are imposed, our business, financial condition and results of operations may be adversely affected.

***The occurrence of extreme weather events, including winter storms and record hot temperatures, or other causes could lead to additional reforms to the Texas electric market, some measure of which, if implemented, could have an adverse impact on Houston Electric.***

During and in the aftermath of the February 2021 Winter Storm Event, the Texas legislature revised applicable statutes and granted the PUCT and ERCOT additional regulatory authority, both oversight and enforcement, that focuses on ensuring ERCOT market participants, including power generation facilities and TDUs (like Houston Electric), have adopted sufficient winterization standards and protection. Houston Electric believes it is in compliance with the requirements applicable to it. If any additional protections are required in the future as a result of additional extreme weather events or other causes, complying with these new protections may increase the cost of electricity, which could adversely affect Houston Electric's results of operations. Any potential decreases in customer usage due to higher electricity prices charged by REPs may not result in increased base rates charged by Houston Electric for its services until its next general base rate proceeding. For further information on Houston Electric's regulatory proceedings, see "— Rate regulation of Registrants' Electric..."

In addition, the PUCT and ERCOT continue to review the appropriate reliability standard and market design for the Texas electric market. There are uncertainties whether any further changes will result from these discussions or other efforts. If there are changes to how the Texas electric market is structured or regulated, such changes could have an adverse impact on Houston Electric's business, financial condition and results of operations. See Note 7 to the consolidated financial statements for further information.

***Houston Electric's use of TEEEF is subject to various risks, including failure to obtain and deploy sufficient TEEEF resources, potential performance issues and allegations about Houston Electric's deployment of the resources (including the planning, execution, and effectiveness of the same), regulatory and environmental requirements, and timely recovery of capital.***

Following the February 2021 Winter Storm Event, the Texas legislature passed a law, effective September 1, 2021, that allows TDUs, such as Houston Electric, to lease and temporarily operate back-up generation resources during widespread power outages where ERCOT has ordered a TDU to Load Shed or the TDU's distribution facilities are not being fully served by the bulk power system under normal operations. In response to this legislation, Houston Electric entered into two leases for TEEEF (mobile generation). In 2023, the Texas legislature amended the law to allow wider use of TEEEF.

If Houston Electric is unable to deploy a sufficient number of TEEEF resources in time to respond to a particular event; if TEEEF resources fail to perform as intended; if Houston Electric is otherwise unable to provide back-up generation resources and restore power as intended; or if the use of TEEEF resources or their failure to perform causes or is alleged to cause any personal injury, property damage, or other damage or loss due to allegations Houston Electric failed to deploy such units reasonably or effectively and failed to respond to particular power outages, Houston Electric could be subject to claims, demands, litigation, liability, regulatory scrutiny, and loss of reputation. While Houston Electric has insurance coverage and indemnity rights for its use of TEEEF resources, if its insurers or indemnitors fail to meet their indemnity obligations, Houston Electric could be liable for personal injury, property damage, or other damage or loss. As noted above, the legislation prescribes specific and limited use for TEEEF, and Houston Electric's TEEEF have limited generation capacity, such that in future events customers could still be without power despite deployment of TEEEF resources.

Further, TEEEF resources are subject to various environmental regulations and permitting requirements, which could have an impact on Houston Electric's ability to use these units. If Houston Electric is not in compliance with any environmental regulation or permitting requirement, Houston Electric could be subject to further potential liability. The use of TEEEF is also subject to various requirements, and failure to comply with them could subject Houston Electric to additional liability as well as challenges to its use of TEEEF in general. In April 2023, the PUCT approved revenue recovery of \$39 million of TEEEF costs incurred in 2021, and in October 2023, an agreement with intervenors was reached with respect to Houston Electric's second TEEEF filing for revenue recovery of \$153 million (\$114 million incremental to the prior filing) of TEEEF costs incurred through December 31, 2022, and the agreement was approved by PUCT in February 2024. Despite the recovery of these TEEEF costs in the past, there can be no assurances that Houston Electric will be able to recover future TEEEF costs. If Houston Electric is unable to recover any or all of its TEEEF costs our financial condition, results of operations and cash flows may be adversely affected. For further information, see "— Rate regulation of Registrants' Electric...", "— Our insurance coverage may not..." and "— We are subject to operational..."

***The impact of wildfires could negatively affect Houston Electric's and Indiana Electric's financial condition, results of operations and cash flows.***

Wildfires have the potential to negatively affect communities within Houston Electric's and Indiana Electric's service territories and the surrounding areas, as well as Houston Electric's and Indiana Electric's vast network of electric transmission and distribution lines and facilities. The possibility of wildfires and the risk of damage to our network and facilities resulting therefrom may be exacerbated by severe weather events and the effects of climate change. For more information regarding climate related risks, see " — Climate change could adversely impact ..." The continued expansion of the wildland-urban interface has also increased wildfire risk to communities in our service territories. While we proactively take steps to mitigate wildfire risk in the areas of our electrical assets, wildfire risk is always present. Houston Electric or Indiana Electric could be held liable for damages incurred as a result of wildfires or incur reputational harm if it was determined that they were caused by or enhanced due to any fault of Houston Electric or Indiana Electric. Wildfires could also lead to significant financial distress and further increased costs for wildfire insurance or lack of availability thereof. Furthermore, any damage caused to our assets, loss of service to our customers, or liability imposed as a result of wildfires could negatively impact Houston Electric's or Indiana Electric's financial condition, results of operations, and cash flows.

### **Natural Gas (CenterPoint Energy and CERC)**

***Access to natural gas supplies and pipeline transmission and storage capacity are essential components of reliable service for Natural Gas' customers.***

Natural Gas depends on third-party service providers to maintain an adequate supply of natural gas and for available storage and intrastate and interstate pipeline capacity to satisfy its customers' needs, all of which are critical to system reliability. Substantially all of Natural Gas' natural gas supply is purchased on intrastate and interstate pipelines. If Natural Gas is unable to secure an independent natural gas supply of its own or if third-party service providers fail to timely deliver natural gas to meet Natural Gas' requirements, the resulting decrease in natural gas supply in Natural Gas' service territories could have an adverse effect on its financial condition, results of operations and cash flows. Additionally, a significant disruption, whether through reduced intrastate and interstate pipeline transmission or storage capacity or other events affecting natural gas supply, including, but not limited to, operational failures, hurricanes, tornadoes, floods, severe winter weather conditions, wildfires, acts of terrorism, human error or cyberattacks or changes in legislative or regulatory requirements, could also adversely affect Natural Gas' businesses. Further, to the extent that Natural Gas' natural gas requirements cannot be met through access to or continued use of existing natural gas infrastructure or if additional infrastructure, including onshore and offshore exploration and production facilities, gathering and processing systems and pipeline and storage capacity is not constructed at a rate that satisfies demand, then Natural Gas' operations could be negatively affected.

***Natural Gas is subject to fluctuations in natural gas prices, which could affect the ability of its suppliers and customers to meet their obligations or may impact its operations, which could adversely affect CERC's financial condition, results of operations and cash flows.***

Natural Gas is subject to risk associated with changes in the price of natural gas. Significant increases in natural gas prices, such as those experienced during the February 2021 Winter Storm Event, might affect Natural Gas' ability to collect balances due from customers and could create the potential for uncollectible accounts expense to exceed the recoverable levels built into tariff rates. In addition, a sustained period of high natural gas prices could (i) decrease demand for natural gas in the areas in which Natural Gas operates, thereby resulting in decreased sales and revenues and (ii) increase the risk that Natural Gas' suppliers or customers fail or are unable to meet their obligations. An increase in natural gas prices would also increase working capital requirements by increasing the investment that must be made to maintain natural gas inventory levels.

***Natural Gas must compete with alternate energy sources, which could result in less natural gas delivered and have an adverse impact on CenterPoint Energy's and CERC's financial condition, results of operations and cash flows.***

Natural Gas competes primarily with alternate energy sources such as electricity and other fuel sources. In some areas, intrastate pipelines, other natural gas distributors and natural gas marketers also compete directly with Natural Gas for natural gas sales to end users. In addition, as a result of federal regulatory changes affecting interstate pipelines, natural gas marketers operating on these pipelines may be able to bypass Natural Gas' facilities and market, sell and/or transport natural gas directly to commercial and industrial customers. Any reduction in the amount of natural gas delivered by Natural Gas as a result of competition with alternate energy sources may have an adverse impact on CenterPoint Energy and CERC's financial condition, results of operations and cash flows.

## Risk Factors Affecting Regulatory, Environmental and Legal Risks

*Rate regulation of Registrants' Electric and Natural Gas businesses may delay or deny their ability to earn an expected return and fully and timely recover their costs.*

The Registrants' Electric and Natural Gas businesses are regulated by certain municipalities and state commissions. Their rates are set in comprehensive base rate proceedings (i.e., general rate cases) based on an analysis of their invested capital, their expenses and other factors in a designated test year (often either fully or partially historic), subject to periodic review and adjustments. Each of these rate proceedings is subject to third-party intervention and appeal, and the timing of a general base rate proceeding may be out of the Registrants' control. Indiana Electric and CERC each filed rate cases during 2023. Houston Electric and CERC, with respect to its Ohio gas territory, each plan to file a rate case during 2024. The Registrants can make no assurance that their or their subsidiaries respective base rate proceedings will result in requested or favorable adjustments to their rates, in full and timely cost recovery or approval of other requested items, including, among other things, capital structure and ROE. Moreover, these base rate proceedings have caused in certain instances, and in the future could cause, the Registrants' Electric and/or Natural Gas businesses to recover their investments below their requested levels, below the national average return for utilities or below recently approved return levels for other utilities in their respective jurisdictions. For instance, in the 2019 Houston Electric general rate case, Houston Electric filed a base rate case seeking approval for revenue increases of approximately \$194 million and a 10.4% ROE, but after entering into a Stipulation and Settlement Agreement filed with the PUCT, Houston Electric received an overall revenue requirement increase of approximately \$13 million and a 9.4% ROE. To the extent the regulatory process does not allow the Registrants to make a full and timely recovery of appropriate costs, their financial condition, results of operations and cash flows could be adversely affected. Further, the Registrants or their subsidiaries might be required to implement additional measures, such as the adoption of ring-fencing measures by Houston Electric in connection with its 2019 rate case proceeding. Such additional measures may adversely impact the Registrants' businesses and could have an adverse effect on their financial condition, results of operations and cash flows.

The rates that Registrants' Electric and Natural Gas businesses are allowed to charge may not match their costs at any given time, a situation referred to as "regulatory lag." Regulatory lag has been and may be exaggerated in the future under certain circumstances, such as increasing inflation rates like those experienced in 2022 and continuing into 2023. For example, the MPUC ordered extraordinary gas costs incurred in the February 2021 Winter Storm Event be recovered over a 63-month period from 2022 — 2027 and CERC forego recovery of the associated carrying costs. Though several interim rate adjustment mechanisms have been approved by jurisdictional regulatory authorities and implemented by the Registrants and their subsidiaries to reduce the effects of regulatory lag (for example, CSIA, DCRF, DRR, DSMA, GRIP, RCRA, RRA, RSP, TCOS and TDSIC), such adjustment mechanisms are subject to the applicable regulatory body's approval, which we cannot assure would be approved, and are subject to certain limitations that may reduce or otherwise impede the Registrants' or their subsidiaries ability to adjust its rates or result in rates below those requested. Therefore, the Registrants can make no assurance filings for such mechanisms will result in favorable adjustments to rates or in full cost recovery. Further, from time to time, the Registrants' regulators approve the issuance of securitization bonds in order to recover certain costs, including costs incurred as a result of severe weather or to recover stranded asset costs. The issuance of these securitization bonds may be delayed. If the issuance of securitization bonds is delayed, we may not be able to recover our costs in a timely manner, which could have an adverse effect on CenterPoint Energy's, CERC's, and Houston Electric's financial condition, results of operations and cash flows.

Inherent in the regulatory process is some level of risk jurisdictional regulatory authorities may challenge the reasonableness or prudence of operating expenses incurred or capital investments made by the Registrants or their subsidiaries and deny the full recovery of their cost of service in rates. From time to time, these reviews and investigations have caused in certain instances, and in the future could cause, the Registrants' to recover their costs or investments below their requested levels. For example, in October 2022, the MPUC issued a written order disallowing recovery of approximately \$36 million of the \$409 million originally requested by CERC in connection with its recovery of costs incurred as a result of the February 2021 Winter Storm Event. Notwithstanding the application of such rate adjustment mechanisms, the regulatory process by which rates are determined is subject to change as a result of legislative processes or rulemakings, as the case may be, and may not always be available or result in rates that will produce recovery of the Registrants' or their subsidiaries' costs or enable them to earn their authorized return. Changes to the rate case or interim adjustment mechanisms could result in an increase in regulatory lag or otherwise impact the Registrants' ability to recover their costs in a timely manner. Additionally, decisions from regulators are typically subject to appeal, and any such appeal could further exacerbate regulatory lag and lead to additional uncertainty associated with rate case proceedings. To the extent the regulatory process does not allow the Registrants to make a full and timely recovery of appropriate costs, their financial condition, results of operations and cash flows could be adversely affected. For further information on rate case proceedings and interim rate adjustment mechanisms, see

“Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations — Liquidity and Capital Resources — Regulatory Matters” in Item 7 of Part II of this report.

***We face risks related to project siting, financing, construction, permitting, governmental approvals, public opposition, and the negotiation of project development agreements that may impede our development and operating activities.***

Houston Electric, Indiana Electric and CERC own, develop, construct, manage and operate electric generation, transmission and distribution facilities or natural gas distribution facilities, as applicable. A key component of our growth is our ability to construct and operate these facilities. As part of these operations, we must periodically apply for licenses and permits from various local, state, federal and other regulatory authorities and abide by their respective conditions. We have previously experienced delays in receiving approval with regards to certain permits and licenses, and have had investigations and enforcement actions with regards to certain of our projects, which have caused delays to our projects in the past. Should we in the future be unsuccessful in obtaining necessary licenses or permits on acceptable terms or resolving third-party challenges to such licenses or permits, should there be a delay in obtaining or renewing necessary licenses or permits, or should regulatory authorities initiate any associated investigations or enforcement actions or impose related penalties or disallowances, our future net income and cash flows could be reduced and our financial condition could be impacted. Any failure to negotiate successful project development agreements for new facilities with third parties could also have adverse effects. Additionally, our projects have faced and may in the future face opposition from individuals, community organizations, environmental and other activist groups, and other public-interest entities.

***We are subject to operational and financial risks and liabilities arising from environmental laws and regulations, including regulation of CCR, climate change legislation and certain local initiatives that seek to limit fossil fuel usage.***

Our operations are subject to stringent and complex laws and regulations pertaining to the environment. As an owner or operator of natural gas pipelines, distribution systems and storage, electric generating facilities and electric transmission and distribution systems, and the facilities that support these systems, we must comply with these laws and regulations at the federal, state and local levels. These laws and regulations can restrict or impact our business activities in many ways, including among others, restricting the use of fossil fuels through future climate legislation or regulation, restricting the use of natural gas-fired appliances in new homes, limiting airborne emissions from generating facilities, restricting the way we manage wastes, including wastewater discharges, air emissions and CCR removal, and requiring remedial action or monitoring to mitigate environmental actions caused by our operations or attributable to former operations. We may need to spend substantial amounts and devote other resources from time to time to comply with these requirements. Further, in the course of operations we have released, and may in the future inadvertently release, various contaminants. Any such releases could have a significant impact on the environment and result in significant fines. Failure to comply with applicable environmental laws and regulations may trigger a variety of administrative, civil and criminal enforcement measures, including the assessment of monetary penalties, which we have been subject to from time to time, revocation of permits, the imposition of remedial actions, and the issuance of orders enjoining future operations. Certain environmental statutes impose strict joint and several liability for costs required to clean, restore and monitor sites where hazardous substances have been stored, disposed or released. Moreover, it is not uncommon for neighboring landowners and other third parties to file claims for personal injury and property damage allegedly caused by the release of hazardous substances or other waste products into the environment.

Regulatory agencies have also adopted, and from time to time consider adopting, new legislation and/or modifying existing laws and regulations to reduce GHGs. There continues to be a wide-ranging policy and regulatory debate, both nationally and internationally, regarding the possible means for their regulation. The trend in environmental regulation has been to place more restrictions and limitations on activities that may impact the environment. On April 22, 2021, President Biden announced new goals of 50% reduction of economy-wide GHG emissions and 100% carbon-free electricity by 2035, which formed the basis of the United States’ commitments announced in Glasgow, Scotland. These renewed climate commitments coming out of the 2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference held in Glasgow and President Biden’s executive orders have resulted in the development of additional regulations and changes to existing regulations. For example, in May 2023, the EPA proposed regulations setting new GHG emission reduction targets for coal and gas-fired electric generating units that could potentially require additional operating costs or operating restrictions related to operation of Indiana Electric’s natural-gas fired units. The administration is expected to finalize additional GHG regulations and mandated financial, emissions and other disclosures. As a distributor and transporter of natural gas and electricity, and a generator of electricity in Indiana, the Registrants’ revenues, operating costs and capital requirements could be adversely affected as a result of any regulatory action that would require installation of new control technologies or a modification of its operations or that would have the effect of reducing the consumption of natural gas or electricity or prevent the use of certain fuel types. Also, there can be no assurance as to the amount or timing of future expenditures for environmental compliance or remediation, and actual future expenditures may be greater than the amounts we currently anticipate, which could adversely affect our financial condition, results of operations and



cash flows. Likewise, incentives to conserve energy or use energy sources other than natural gas could result in a decrease in demand for our services. For further discussion, see “Business—Environmental Matters” in Item 1 and “—Natural Gas must compete with...”

Evolving investor sentiment related to the use of fossil fuels and initiatives to restrict continued production of fossil fuels may have substantial impacts on CenterPoint Energy’s and CERC’s electric generation and natural gas businesses. For example, because Indiana Electric’s current generating units substantially rely on coal for their operations, certain financial institutions may choose not to participate in CenterPoint Energy’s financing arrangements until future coal generation closures satisfy their thresholds for investments. Further, some investors choose to not invest in CenterPoint Energy due to CenterPoint Energy’s and CERC’s use of fossil fuels. Also, certain cities in CenterPoint Energy’s and CERC’s Natural Gas operational footprint have discussed the adoption of initiatives to prohibit the construction of new natural gas facilities that would provide service and focus on electrification. For example, Minneapolis has adopted carbon emission reduction goals in an effort to decrease reliance on fossil natural gas. Certain state and local governments have also passed, or are considering, legislation banning the use of natural gas-fired appliances in new homes, which could affect consumer use of natural gas. Should such bans be enacted within Natural Gas’ operational footprint, they could adversely affect consumer demand for natural gas. Any such initiatives and legislation could adversely affect CenterPoint Energy’s and CERC’s results of operations. Further, investors, lenders, regulators and other stakeholders are focusing on issues related to environmental justice, which may result in increased scrutiny of our applicable regulatory processes and additional costs of compliance or may adversely affect our reputation. This focus on environmental justice matters at the federal and state levels may also provide communities opposed to our operations with greater opportunities to challenge or delay our projects. Opposition to our projects or successful challenges or appeals to permits issued for our projects could result in cancellation of such projects and the loss of investments we have made with respect thereto.

***CenterPoint Energy is subject to operational and financial risks and liabilities associated with the implementation of and efforts to achieve its carbon emissions reduction goals.***

In September 2021, CenterPoint Energy announced its net zero emission goals for Scope 1 and certain Scope 2 emissions by 2035 and a 20-30% reduction in certain Scope 3 emissions by 2035 as compared to 2021 levels. CenterPoint Energy’s analysis and plan for execution requires it to make a number of assumptions. These goals and underlying assumptions involve risks and uncertainties and are not guarantees. Should one or more of CenterPoint Energy’s underlying assumptions prove incorrect, its actual results and ability to achieve net zero emissions by 2035 could differ materially from its expectations. Certain of the assumptions that could impact CenterPoint Energy’s ability to meet its net zero emissions goals include, but are not limited to: emission levels, service territory size and capacity needs remaining in line with expectations; regulatory approvals related to Indiana Electric’s generation transition plan; customer demand for carbon free energy; impacts of future environmental regulations or legislation; impacts of future carbon pricing regulation or legislation, including a future carbon tax; price, availability and regulation of carbon offsets; price of fuel, such as natural gas; cost of energy generation technologies, such as wind and solar, natural gas and storage solutions; adoption of alternative energy by the public, including adoption of electric vehicles; rate of technology innovation with regards to alternative energy resources; CenterPoint Energy’s ability to implement its modernization plans for its pipelines and facilities; the ability to complete and timely implement generation alternatives, such as solar and wind generation, to Indiana Electric’s coal generation and retirement dates of Indiana Electric’s coal facilities by 2035; the ability to construct and/or permit new natural gas pipelines; the ability to procure resources needed to build at a reasonable cost, the lack of or scarcity of resources and labor, any project cancellations, construction delays or overruns and the ability to appropriately estimate costs of new generation; impact of any supply chain disruptions; changes in applicable standards or methodologies; and enhancement of energy efficiencies. Our businesses may face increased scrutiny from investors and other stakeholders related to our sustainability activities, including the goals, targets, and objectives we announce, our methodologies and timelines for pursuing them, and related disclosures. If our sustainability practices do not align with investor or other stakeholder expectations and standards, which continue to evolve, our reputation, our ability to attract or retain employees, and our attractiveness as an investment or business partner could be negatively affected. Similarly, our failure or perceived failure to pursue or fulfill our sustainability-focused goals, targets, and objectives, to comply with ethical, environmental, or other standards, regulations, or expectations, or to satisfy various reporting standards with respect to these matters, within the timelines we announce, or at all, could adversely affect our business or reputation, as well as expose us to government enforcement actions and private litigation.

Developing and implementing plans for compliance with voluntary climate commitments can lead to additional capital, personnel and operation and maintenance expenditures and could significantly affect the economic position of existing facilities and proposed projects. To the extent that we believe any of these costs are recoverable in rates, cost recovery could be resisted by our regulators and our regulators might attempt to deny or defer timely recovery of these costs. Moreover, we cannot predict

the ultimate impact of achieving our emissions reduction goals, or the various implementation aspects, on our system reliability or our financial condition and results of operations.

***Houston Electric and Indiana Electric, as a member of ERCOT and MISO, respectively, could be subject to higher costs for system improvements, as well as fines or other sanctions as a result of FERC mandatory reliability standards.***

Houston Electric and Indiana Electric are members of ERCOT and MISO, respectively, which serve the electric transmission needs of their applicable regions. As a result of their respective participation in ERCOT and MISO, Houston Electric and Indiana Electric do not have operational control over their transmission facilities and are subject to certain costs for improvements to these regional electric transmission systems. In addition, FERC has jurisdiction with respect to ensuring the reliability of electric transmission service, including transmission facilities owned by Houston Electric and other utilities within ERCOT and Indiana Electric and other utilities within MISO, respectively. FERC has designated NERC as the ERO to promulgate standards, under FERC oversight, for all owners, operators and users of the bulk power system. FERC has approved the delegation by NERC of authority for reliability in ERCOT to the Texas RE, a Texas non-profit corporation, and for reliability in the portion of MISO that includes Indiana Electric to ReliabilityFirst Corporation, a Delaware non-profit corporation. Compliance with mandatory reliability standards may subject Houston Electric and Indiana Electric to higher operating costs and may result in increased capital expenditures, which may not be fully recoverable in rates. While Houston Electric and Indiana Electric have received minor fines in the past for noncompliance, if Houston Electric or Indiana Electric were to be found to be in noncompliance with applicable mandatory reliability standards again, they would be subject to sanctions, including potential monetary penalties, which could range as high as over a million dollars per violation per day, and non-monetary penalties, such as having to file a mitigation plan to prevent recurrence of a similar violation and having certain milestones in such plan tracked.

***We are involved in numerous legal proceedings, the outcomes of which are uncertain, and resolutions adverse to us could negatively affect our financial results.***

The Registrants are subject to numerous legal proceedings, including lawsuits and environmental matters in addition to regulatory proceedings, the most significant of which are summarized in Note 15 to the consolidated financial statements. Litigation is subject to many uncertainties; recent trends have shown jury verdicts, settlements and other liability have been significantly increasing; and the Registrants cannot predict the outcome of all matters with assurance. Additionally, under some circumstances, the Registrants could potentially have claims filed against them or incur liabilities associated with assets and businesses no longer owned by them as a result of sales, divestitures or other transfers to third parties who may be unable to fulfill their indemnity obligations to the Registrants. Final resolution of these matters, or any potential future claims or liabilities, may require additional expenditures over an extended period of time that may be in excess of established insurance or reserves and may have an adverse effect on the Registrants' financial results.

***Our businesses may be adversely affected by the intentional misconduct of our employees.***

We are committed to living our core values of safety, integrity, accountability, initiative and respect and complying with all applicable laws and regulations. Despite that commitment and efforts to prevent misconduct, it is possible for employees to engage in intentional misconduct, fail to uphold our core values, and violate laws and regulations for individual gain through contract or procurement fraud, misappropriation, bribery or corruption, fraudulent related-party transactions and serious breaches of our Ethics and Compliance Code and other policies. If such intentional misconduct by employees should occur, it could result in substantial liability, higher costs, increased regulatory scrutiny and negative public perceptions, any of which could have an adverse effect on our financial condition, results of operations and cash flows. From time to time, including as part of our Ethics and Compliance program's efforts to detect misconduct, we become aware of and expect to continue to become aware of instances of employee misconduct, which we investigate, remediate and disclose as appropriate and proportionate to the incident.

## **Risk Factors Affecting Financial, Economic and Market Risks**

***Disruptions to the global supply chain may lead to higher prices for goods and services and impact our operations, which could have an adverse impact on our ability to execute our capital plan and on our financial condition, results of operations and cash flows.***

The global supply chain has experienced disruptions due to a multitude of factors, such as the COVID-19 pandemic, labor shortages, resource availability, long lead time, delivery delays, inflation, severe weather events and disruptions to internal or international shipping, including as a result of armed conflicts, and these disruptions have adversely impacted the utility industry. We, as well as other companies in our industry, have experienced supply chain disruptions, as well as increased prices,

and we may continue to experience this in the future. Examples of materials necessary for the transmission and distribution of power we and our industry have experienced difficulties in procuring include transformers, wires, cables, meters, poles and solar panels. If the supply chain disruption persists or worsens, we may experience difficulties in procuring these resources and others necessary to operate our businesses in the future. As a result, we may not be able to procure the resources, including labor, needed to timely perform storm restoration activities, fully execute on our ten-year capital plan and/or achieve our net zero emission and carbon emissions reduction goals. Moreover, high inflation and persistent high interest rates continue to be an area of economic concern and has contributed to the increased prices for materials and services that have been experienced by us and other companies in our industry. Even if we are able to procure the necessary resources, we might not be able to do so at a reasonable cost or in a timely manner which could result in project cancellations or scope changes, delays, cost overruns and under-recovery of costs. If we are unable to fully execute on capital plans as a result of supply chain disruptions, our financial condition, results of operations and cash flows may be adversely affected.

***CenterPoint Energy is a holding company that derives all of its operating income from, and holds substantially all of its assets through, its subsidiaries. As a result, CenterPoint Energy depends on the performance of and distributions from its subsidiaries to meet its payment obligations and to pay dividends on its common stock, and provisions of applicable law or contractual restrictions could limit the amount of those distributions.***

CenterPoint Energy derives all of its operating income from, and holds substantially all of its assets through, its subsidiaries. Similarly, as a result of the Restructuring, CERC derives a significant portion of its operating income from and holds a significant portion of its assets through its subsidiaries, including Indiana Gas and VEDO. As a result, CenterPoint Energy and to a lesser extent, CERC, depend on the performance of and distributions from their respective subsidiaries to meet their respective payment obligations and to pay dividends on their respective common stock. In general, CenterPoint Energy's and CERC's subsidiaries are separate and distinct legal entities and have no obligation to provide them with funds for their respective payment obligations, whether by dividends, distributions, loans or otherwise. In addition, provisions of applicable law, such as those limiting the legal sources of dividends, limit CenterPoint Energy's and CERC's respective subsidiaries' ability to make payments or other distributions to CenterPoint Energy or CERC, and their respective subsidiaries could agree to contractual restrictions on their ability to make payments or other distributions. Further, as part of Houston Electric's 2019 base rate case, Houston Electric agreed to certain "ring-fencing" measures to increase its financial separateness from CenterPoint Energy. Houston Electric is expected to file a base rate proceeding in 2024. In this proceeding, Houston Electric may be requested to institute further ring-fencing measures or further ring-fencing measures could be imposed on Houston Electric in the future through legislation or PUCT rules or orders. While current ring-fencing measures have not impacted Houston Electric's ability to pay dividends to CenterPoint Energy, the imposition of any additional measures impacting CenterPoint Energy's ability to receive dividends from Houston Electric could adversely affect CenterPoint Energy's cash flows, credit quality, financial condition and results of operations. Any such adverse effect on CenterPoint Energy could also adversely affect Houston Electric's and/or CERC's cash flows, credit quality, financial condition and results of operations as CenterPoint Energy may not be able to financially support Houston Electric and/or CERC if and when necessary.

CenterPoint Energy's right to receive assets of any subsidiary, and therefore the right of its creditors to participate in those assets, are structurally subordinated to the claims of that subsidiary's creditors, including trade creditors. In addition, even if CenterPoint Energy were a creditor of any subsidiary, its rights as a creditor would likely be effectively subordinated to any security interest in the assets of that subsidiary and any senior indebtedness of the subsidiary.

***If we are unable to arrange future financings on acceptable terms, our ability to finance our capital expenditures or refinance outstanding indebtedness could be limited.***

Our businesses are capital intensive, and we rely on various sources to finance our capital expenditures. For example, we depend on (i) long-term debt, (ii) borrowings through our revolving credit facilities and, for CenterPoint Energy and CERC, commercial paper programs and (iii) if market conditions permit, issuances of additional shares of common stock or shares of preferred stock by CenterPoint Energy. We may also use such sources to refinance any outstanding indebtedness as it matures. Additionally, from time to time, our operating subsidiaries, including Houston Electric and CERC, may rely on intercompany borrowings from CenterPoint Energy that may be sourced from CenterPoint Energy's external financings. As of December 31, 2023, CenterPoint Energy had \$19 billion of outstanding indebtedness on a consolidated basis, which includes \$502 million of non-recourse Securitization Bonds. For information on outstanding indebtedness of CenterPoint Energy, Houston Electric and CERC as well as future maturities, see Note 13 to the consolidated financial statements. Our future financing activities may be significantly affected by, among other things:

- general economic and capital market conditions, including inflation;
- credit availability from financial institutions and other lenders;
- investor confidence in us and the markets in which we operate;

- the future performance of our businesses;
- maintenance of acceptable credit ratings;
- actions from the Federal Reserve, including changes in interest rates and unanticipated actions;
- market expectations regarding our future earnings and cash flows;
- investor willingness to invest in companies associated with fossil fuels;
- our ability to access capital markets on reasonable terms;
- timing of future securitizations by jurisdictions in which we operate; and
- provisions of relevant securities laws.

The Registrants' current credit ratings and any changes in credit ratings in 2023 and to date in 2024 are discussed in "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations — Liquidity and Capital Resources — Other Matters — Impact on Liquidity of a Downgrade in Credit Ratings" in Item 7 of Part II of this report. These credit ratings may not remain in effect for any given period of time and one or more of these ratings may be reduced or withdrawn by a rating agency. The Registrants note these credit ratings are not recommendations to buy, sell or hold their securities. Each rating should be evaluated independently of any other rating. Any future reduction or withdrawal of one or more of the Registrants' credit ratings could have an adverse impact on their ability to access capital on acceptable terms. For example, if CERC's credit rating were to decline, it may have an adverse impact on the cost of borrowings and, in extraordinary market conditions, it may limit the ability to access the debt capital markets. Additionally, CERC might be required to post collateral under its shipping arrangements or to purchase natural gas. If a credit rating downgrade and the resultant cash collateral requirement were to occur at a time when CERC was experiencing significant working capital requirements or otherwise lacked liquidity, CERC's financial condition, results of operations and cash flows could be adversely affected.

***CenterPoint Energy's previously owned Energy Systems Group business has performance and warranty obligations, some of which are guaranteed by CenterPoint Energy.***

On June 30, 2023, CenterPoint Energy closed the sale of its Energy Systems Group business. Prior to June 30, 2023 and as part of the normal course of its business, Energy Systems Group issued performance bonds and other forms of assurance that committed it to operate facilities, pay vendors or subcontractors and support warranty obligations. As the parent company prior to the closing of the sale, CenterPoint Energy or Vectren guaranteed certain of its subsidiaries' commitments. When Energy Systems Group was wholly owned by CenterPoint Energy, these guarantees did not represent incremental consolidated obligations, but rather, these guarantees represented guarantees of Energy Systems Group's obligations to allow it to conduct business without posting other forms of assurance. Neither CenterPoint Energy nor Vectren has been called upon to satisfy any obligations pursuant to these parental guarantees to date, but may be required to do so in the future. For further information, see Note 15(c) to the consolidated financial statements.

***An impairment of goodwill, long-lived assets, including intangible assets, equity method investments and an impairment or fair value adjustment could reduce our earnings.***

Long-lived assets, including intangible assets with finite useful lives, are reviewed for impairment whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate the carrying value may not be recoverable. Goodwill is tested for impairment at least annually, as well as when events or changes in circumstances indicates the carrying value may not be recoverable. While CenterPoint Energy has identified and recorded goodwill impairments in the past, no impairments to goodwill were recorded during the years ended December 31, 2023, 2022 and 2021. See Note 6 to the consolidated financial statements for further information. Should the annual goodwill impairment test or another periodic impairment test or an observable transaction indicate the fair value of our assets is less than the carrying value, we would be required to take a non-cash charge to earnings with a correlative effect on equity, increasing balance sheet leverage as measured by debt to total capitalization. A non-cash impairment charge or fair value adjustment could adversely impact our financial condition and results of operations.

***If CenterPoint Energy redeems the ZENS prior to their maturity in 2029, its ultimate tax liability and redemption payments would result in significant cash payments, which would adversely impact its cash flows. Similarly, a significant amount of exchanges of ZENS by ZENS holders could adversely impact CenterPoint Energy's cash flows.***

CenterPoint Energy has approximately \$828 million principal amount of ZENS outstanding as of December 31, 2023. CenterPoint Energy owns shares of ZENS-Related Securities equal to approximately 100% of the reference shares used to calculate its obligation to the holders of the ZENS. CenterPoint Energy may redeem all of the ZENS at any time at a redemption amount per ZENS equal to the higher of the contingent principal amount per ZENS (\$18 million in the aggregate, or \$1.24 per ZENS, as of December 31, 2023), or the sum of the current market value of the reference shares attributable to one ZENS at the time of redemption. In the event CenterPoint Energy redeems the ZENS, in addition to the redemption amount, it would be required to pay deferred taxes related to the ZENS. CenterPoint Energy's ultimate tax liability related to the ZENS and ZENS-

Related Securities continues to increase by the amount of the tax benefit realized each year. If the ZENS had been redeemed on December 31, 2023, deferred taxes of approximately \$728 million would have been payable in 2023, based on 2023 tax rates in effect. In addition, if all the shares of ZENS-Related Securities had been sold on December 31, 2023 to fund the aggregate redemption amount, capital gains taxes of approximately \$81 million would have been payable in 2023. Similarly, a significant amount of exchanges of ZENS by ZENS holders could adversely impact CenterPoint Energy's cash flows. This could happen if CenterPoint Energy's creditworthiness were to drop, the market for the ZENS were to become illiquid, or for some other reason. While funds for the payment of cash upon exchange of ZENS could be obtained from the sale of the shares of ZENS-Related Securities CenterPoint Energy owns or from other sources, ZENS exchanges result in a cash outflow because tax deferrals related to the ZENS and ZENS-Related Securities shares would typically be disposed when ZENS are exchanged and ZENS-Related Securities shares are sold.

***Our potential business strategies and strategic initiatives, including merger and acquisition activities and the disposition of assets or businesses, may not be completed or perform as expected, adversely affecting our financial condition, results of operations and cash flows.***

Our financial condition, results of operations and cash flows depend, in part, on our management's ability to implement our business strategies successfully and realize the anticipated benefits therefrom. In 2021, we announced our strategic goals for CenterPoint Energy, including our ten-year capital plan, and net zero and carbon emission reductions goals. Our strategic goals are subject to the risks described in this section and various assumptions. These assumptions may be proven incorrect or we may not be able to execute on these strategic goals in a timely manner or at all. If we are unable to execute on our strategic goals, including our ten-year capital plan, the benefits therefrom may not be fully realized, if at all, and our reputation may be adversely affected.

From time to time we have made, and may continue to make, acquisitions or divestitures of businesses and assets, such as our proposed sale of our Louisiana and Mississippi natural gas local distribution companies, our completed sale of our Energy Systems Group business, form joint ventures or undertake restructurings, such as the Restructuring. However, suitable acquisition candidates or potential buyers may not continue to be available on terms and conditions we find acceptable, or the expected benefits of completed acquisitions or dispositions may not be realized fully or at all, or may not be realized in the anticipated timeframe. If we are unable to make acquisitions, or if those acquisitions do not perform as anticipated, our future growth may be adversely affected. Further, any completed or future acquisitions or dispositions involve substantial risks, including the following:

- acquired businesses or assets may not produce revenues, earnings or cash flow at anticipated levels;
- acquired businesses or assets could have environmental, permitting or other problems for which contractual protections prove inadequate;
- we may assume liabilities that were not disclosed to us, that exceed our estimates, or for which our rights to indemnification from the seller are limited;
- we may be unable to integrate acquired businesses successfully and realize anticipated economic, operational and other benefits in a timely manner, which could result in substantial costs and delays or other operational, technical or financial problems;
- acquisitions or dispositions, or the pursuit of such transactions, including any separation or disentanglement efforts or requirements, such as the provision of transition services, could disrupt our ongoing businesses, distract management, divert resources and make it difficult to maintain current business standards, controls and procedures; and
- we may not receive regulatory approvals necessary to complete an acquisition or disposition in a timely manner or at all.

On February 19, 2024, CenterPoint Energy, through its subsidiary CERC Corp., entered into the LAMS Asset Purchase Agreement to sell its Louisiana and Mississippi natural gas local distribution company businesses. The transaction is expected to close in the first quarter of 2025. For further information, see Note 21 to the consolidated financial statements. We can make no assurances regarding the completion of this sale, which could be subject to delays or otherwise not consummated.

***Changing demographics, poor investment performance of pension plan assets and other factors adversely affecting the calculation of pension liabilities could unfavorably impact our financial condition, results of operations and liquidity.***

CenterPoint Energy and its subsidiaries maintain qualified defined benefit pension plans covering certain of its employees. Costs associated with these plans are dependent upon a number of factors including the investment returns on plan assets, the level of interest rates used to calculate the funded status of the plan, contributions to the plan, the number of plan participants and government regulations with respect to funding requirements and the calculation of plan liabilities. Funding requirements may increase and CenterPoint Energy may be required to make unplanned contributions in the event of a decline in the market

value of plan assets, a decline in the interest rates used to calculate the present value of future plan obligations, or government regulations that increase minimum funding requirements or the pension liability. In 2023, 2022 and 2021, CenterPoint Energy had a settlement expense for its pension plans as a result of an increase in eligible employee retirements and pension plan distributions. See Note 8 to the consolidated financial statements for further information. In addition to affecting CenterPoint Energy's funding requirements, these factors could adversely affect our financial condition, results of operations and liquidity.

***We may be significantly affected by changes in federal income tax laws and regulations, including any comprehensive federal tax reform legislation.***

Our businesses are impacted by U.S. federal income tax policy. The TCJA, CARES Act, and the IRA significantly changed the U.S. Internal Revenue Code, including taxation of U.S. corporations, by among other things, reducing the federal corporate income tax rate, limiting interest deductions, altering the expensing of capital expenditures, enacting a new CAMT, and expanding federal tax credits for cleaner energy production. Based on information and forecasts as of December 31, 2023, the Registrants will be subject to the CAMT included in the IRA.

The interpretive guidance issued by the IRS and state tax authorities may be inconsistent with our interpretation and the legislation could be subject to amendments, which could lessen or increase certain impacts of the legislation. In addition, the retail regulatory treatment of the expanded tax credits and CAMT could impact the Registrants' future cash flows, and this legislation could result in unintended consequences not yet identified that could have an adverse impact on the Registrants' financial results and future cash flows.

Further federal tax reform legislation could be enacted that may significantly change the federal income tax laws applicable to domestic businesses, including changes that may increase the federal income tax rate and impact investment incentives and deductions for depreciation and interest, among other deductions. While CenterPoint Energy and its subsidiaries cannot assess the overall impact of any such potential legislation on our businesses, it is possible that our financial condition, results of operations or cash flows could be negatively impacted. Furthermore, with any enacted federal tax reform legislation, it is uncertain how state commissions and local municipalities may require us to respond to the effects of such tax legislation, including determining the treatment of EDIT and other increases and decreases in our revenue requirements. As such, potential regulatory actions in response to any enacted tax legislation could adversely affect our financial condition, results of operations and cash flows.

## **Risk Factors Affecting Safety and Security Risks**

### ***The Registrants' businesses have safety risks.***

The Registrants' facilities and distribution and transmission systems have been and may in the future be involved in incidents that result in injury, death, or property loss to employees, customers, third parties, or the public. Although the Registrants have insurance coverage for many potential incidents, depending upon the nature and severity of any incident, they could experience financial loss, claims and litigation, damage to their reputation, and negative consequences from regulatory authorities or other public authorities. Further, certain CenterPoint Energy employees who work in the field have experienced threats of violence during the performance of their work. Threats of violence, actual violence and other concerns may result in field employees being unable or unwilling to complete critical functions, which could adversely affect our businesses, financial condition and results of operations, and could make it harder to recruit and retain certain employees.

***Cyberattacks, physical security breaches, acts of terrorism or other disruptions could adversely impact our reputation, financial condition, results of operations and cash flows.***

We are subject to cyber and physical security risks related to our information technology systems, operational technology, network infrastructure, and other technology and facilities used to conduct almost all of our businesses. For example, the operation of our electric generation, transmission and distribution systems are dependent on not only physical interconnection of our facilities but also on communications among the various components of our systems and third-party systems. This reliance on information and communication between and among those components has increased since deployment of the intelligent grid, smart devices and operational technologies across our businesses. Further, certain of the various internal systems we use to conduct our businesses are highly integrated. Consequently, a cyberattack or unauthorized access in any one of these systems could potentially impact the other systems. Similarly, our business operations are interconnected with external networks and facilities. For example, the operation of an efficient deregulated wholesale and retail electric market in Texas mandates communication with ERCOT, and competitive retailers; and our Indiana Electric organization has a similar relationship with MISO. Also, the distribution of natural gas to our customers requires communications with third-party

systems. Disruption of those communications, whether caused by physical disruption such as storms or other natural disasters, by failure of equipment or technology or by man-made events, such as cyberattacks or acts of terrorism, may disrupt our ability to conduct operations and control assets.

The sophistication of cybersecurity threats, including those leveraging AI, continues to increase, and the controls and preventative actions we take to reduce the risk of cybersecurity incidents and protect our systems, including the regular testing of our cybersecurity incident response plan, may be insufficient. In addition, new technology that could result in greater operational efficiency, such as our use of AI, may further expose our computer systems to the risk of cybersecurity incidents. Cyberattacks, including phishing attacks and threats from the use of malware, ransomware and viruses or malicious code, and unauthorized access could also result in the loss, or unauthorized use, of confidential, proprietary or critical infrastructure data or security breaches of other information technology systems that could disrupt operations and critical business functions, adversely affect reputation, impact our customers, increase costs and subject us to possible legal claims and liability. While we have implemented and maintain a cybersecurity program designed to protect our information technology, operational technology, and data systems from such attacks, our cybersecurity program does not prevent all breaches or cyberattack incidents. We have experienced an increase in the number of attempts by external parties to access our networks or our company data without authorization. We have also experienced, and expect to continue to experience, cyber intrusions and attacks to our information systems and those of third parties, including vendors, suppliers, contractors and quasi government entities who perform certain services for us or administer and maintain our sensitive information. These prior intrusions and attacks have not had a material impact on our business, results of operations, or financial condition. Because technology is increasingly complex and cyberattacks are increasingly sophisticated and more frequent, there is a risk such incidents could have an adverse effect on us in the future. The risk of a disruption or breach of our operational technology systems, or the compromise of the data processed in connection with our operations, through a cybersecurity breach or ransomware attack, has increased as attempted attacks have advanced in sophistication and number around the world. We are not fully insured against all cybersecurity risks, any of which could adversely affect our reputation and could have an adverse effect on our financial condition, results of operations and cash flows.

We depend on the secure operations of our physical assets to transport the energy we deliver and our information technology to process, transmit and store electronic information, including information and operational technology we use to safely operate our energy transportation systems. Security breaches, attacks on our infrastructure and facilities, including against the Registrants or as a means to harm a third-party by disrupting the transmission and distribution of energy, or acts of terrorism, including by foreign or domestic actors, could expose our business to a risk of loss, misuse or interruption of critical physical assets or information and functions that affect our operations, as well as potential data privacy breaches and loss of protected personal information and other sensitive information, such as Critical Energy Infrastructure Information. Such losses could result in operational impacts, damage to our assets, public or personal safety incidents, impacts to our customers, damage to the environment, reputational harm, competitive disadvantage, regulatory enforcement actions, litigation and a potential adverse effect on our operations, financial condition, results of operations and cash flows. There is no certainty that costs incurred related to actual or thwarted cyberattacks, or for the safeguarding against such security threats, will be recoverable through rates.

***Compliance with and changes in cybersecurity laws and regulations have a cost and operational impact on our business, and failure to comply with such requirements could adversely impact our reputation, financial condition, results of operations and cash flows.***

Cyberattacks are becoming more sophisticated, and U.S. government warnings have indicated infrastructure assets, including pipelines and electric generation and infrastructure, may be specifically targeted by certain groups. The TSA announced two new security directives in the second and third quarters of 2021. These directives required critical pipeline owners to comply with mandatory reporting measures, designate a cybersecurity coordinator, provide vulnerability assessments, and ensure compliance with certain cybersecurity requirements. In the third quarter of 2022, the TSA made significant updates to one of the security directives to require critical pipeline owners to establish and implement a TSA-approved Cybersecurity Implementation Plan, develop and maintain a Cybersecurity Incident Response Plan, and establish a Cybersecurity Assessment Plan. The TSA approved CenterPoint Energy's Cybersecurity Implementation Plan in December 2022. The TSA further updated and renewed the pipeline security directive in July 2023 with updated requirements for Pipeline Cybersecurity Mitigation Actions, Contingency Planning, and Testing. CenterPoint Energy continues to take measures to comply with the TSA pipeline security directive requirements. We may be required to expend significant additional resources and costs to respond to cyberattacks, to continue to modify or enhance our protective measures, or to assess, investigate and remediate any critical infrastructure security vulnerabilities. There is no certainty that such costs incurred will be recovered through rates. Any failure to remain in compliance with these government regulations or failure in our cybersecurity protective measures may result in enforcement actions which may have an adverse effect on our reputation, financial condition, results of operations and cash flows.

***Failure to maintain the security of personal information could adversely affect us.***

In connection with our businesses, we and our third parties (vendors, suppliers, and contractors) collect and retain personal information (for example, information of our customers, shareholders, suppliers and employees), and there is an expectation that we and such third parties will adequately protect that information. The regulatory environment surrounding information security and data privacy continues to evolve and is increasingly demanding. New laws and regulations governing data privacy and the unauthorized disclosure of confidential information pose increasingly complex compliance challenges and elevate our costs. Any failure by us to comply with these laws and regulations, including as a result of a security or privacy breach, could result in significant costs, fines and penalties and liabilities for us. While we have implemented and maintain a cybersecurity program designed to protect our information technology, operational technology, and data systems from attacks, and while we have implemented and maintain a data privacy program designed to manage and protect personal information, neither program can prevent all security or privacy breaches. We and some of our third parties that maintain personal information have experienced, and expect to continue to experience, data privacy incidents and breaches; however, to date, we have not experienced a material data privacy incident or breach. A significant theft, loss or fraudulent use of the personal information we maintain, or failure of our vendors, suppliers and contractors to use or maintain such data in accordance with contractual provisions and other legal requirements, could adversely impact our reputation and could result in significant costs, fines and penalties and liabilities for us. Additionally, if we acquire a company that has violated or is not in compliance with applicable data protection privacy, we may incur significant liabilities and penalties as a result.

***We may not be successful in our adoption of AI, which could adversely affect our business, reputation, or financial results.***

We are using and exploring the further use of AI, including generative AI, and its ability to enhance the services we offer to the communities we serve. There are significant risks involved in developing and deploying AI, and there can be no assurance that the use of AI will enhance our services or be beneficial to our business, including with respect to the efficiency and resiliency of our systems. For example, our AI-related efforts may give rise to risks related to harmful content, accuracy, bias, discrimination, toxicity, intellectual property infringement or misappropriation, defamation, data privacy, and cybersecurity, among others. In addition, the adoption of AI may subject us to new or enhanced governmental or regulatory scrutiny, new or amended laws, rules, directives, and regulations governing the use of AI, litigation, ethical concerns, negative consumer perceptions as to automation and AI, or other complications that could adversely affect our business, reputation, or financial results. We may not be able to recover our investments in AI technology through our regulatory proceedings, and our use of AI may subject us to legal liability. Similarly, as AI continues to evolve we may not be able to adopt and implement AI as quickly as our customers or communities desire or regulators may require, which could also adversely affect us. AI is a relatively new and rapidly evolving technology, and we are unable to predict all of the risks that may result from the adoption of our AI initiatives.

## **General and Other Risks**

***Our revenues and results of operations are seasonal.***

Houston Electric's, Indiana Electric's and Natural Gas' revenues and results of operations are subject to seasonality, weather conditions and other changes in electricity and natural gas usage, as applicable. Houston Electric's revenues are generally higher during the warmer months. As in certain past years, unusually mild weather in the warmer months could diminish Houston Electric's results of operations and harm its financial condition. Conversely, as in certain past years, extreme warm weather conditions could increase Houston Electric's results of operations in a manner that would not likely be annually recurring. A significant portion of Indiana Electric's sales are for space heating and cooling. Consequently, as in certain past years, Indiana Electric's results of operations may be adversely affected by warmer-than-normal heating season weather or colder-than-normal cooling season weather, while, as has occurred in certain past years, more extreme seasonal weather conditions could increase Indiana Electric's results of operations in a manner that would not likely be annually recurring. Natural Gas' revenues are customarily higher during the winter months. As in certain past years, unusually mild weather in the winter months could diminish Natural Gas' results of operations and harm its financial condition. Conversely, as occurred in certain past years, extreme cold weather conditions could increase its results of operations in a manner that would not likely be annually recurring. For information related to weather normalization regulatory mechanisms and weather hedges, see Note 9(a) to the consolidated financial statements. For additional risks related to the February 2021 Winter Storm Event, see Note 7 to the consolidated financial statements for further information.



***Climate change could adversely impact financial results from our businesses and result in more frequent and more severe weather events that could adversely affect our results of operations.***

A changing climate creates uncertainty and could result in broad changes, both physical and financial in nature, to our service territories and our business. If climate changes occur that result in warmer temperatures than normal in our service territories, financial results from our businesses could be adversely impacted. For example, where natural gas is used to heat homes and businesses, warmer weather might result in less natural gas being used, adversely affecting us. Another possible result of climate change is more frequent and more severe weather events, such as hurricanes, tornadoes, and severe winter weather conditions, including ice storms, all of which may impact our operations and ability to serve our customers. To the extent the frequency and severity of extreme weather events increases, our costs of providing service may increase, including the costs and availability of procuring insurance related to such impacts, and those costs may not be recoverable. Further, events of extreme weather could make it unsafe or hinder the effectiveness of our employees to fix, maintain and restore power to affected areas and could harm our reputation. Since certain of our facilities are located along or near the Texas gulf coast, increased or more severe hurricanes or tornadoes could increase our costs to repair damaged facilities and restore service to our customers. Our Electric and Natural Gas operations in our service territories were both also impacted by the February 2021 Winter Storm Event and could experience a similar event in the future, which could have an adverse impact on our financial condition, results of operations and cash flows. In the long term, climate change could also cause shifts in population, including customers moving away from our service territories. When we cannot deliver electricity or natural gas to customers or our customers cannot receive our services, our financial results are impacted by lost revenues, and we generally must seek approval from regulators to recover restoration costs. To the extent we are unable to recover those costs or recover in a timely manner, or if recovery of such costs results in higher rates and reduced demand for our services, our future financial results may be adversely impacted. Similarly, public and private efforts to address climate change, such as by legislation, regulation, actions by private interest groups, and litigation, could impact our ability to continue operating our businesses as we do today, significant aspects of which rely on fossil fuels. These initiatives could have a significant impact on us and our operations as well as on our third-party suppliers, vendors and partners, which could impact us by among other things, causing permitting and construction delays, project cancellations or increased project costs passed on to us. For further information on these initiatives, please see “— We are subject to operational...” Finally, we may be subject to climate change litigation, which could result in substantial fines, penalties or damages and restrictions on our operations. The oil and gas industry has already faced such litigation, challenging its marketing and use of fossil fuels and attributing climate change to emissions resulting from the use of fossil fuels, and other industries, including ours, could face such litigation in the future. For more information, see Note 7 to the consolidated financial statements, and “— CenterPoint Energy is subject to operational and financial risks...”

***We are exposed to risks related to reduction in energy consumption due to factors such as changes in customers’ perceptions from incidents of other utilities.***

Our businesses are affected by reduction in energy consumption due to factors including economic, climate and market conditions in our service territories, energy efficiency initiatives, use of alternative technologies and changes in our customers’ perceptions regarding natural gas usage as a result of incidents of other utilities involving natural gas pipelines, which could impact our ability to grow our customer base and our rate of growth. Growth in customer accounts and growth of customer usage each directly influence demand for electricity and natural gas and the need for additional delivery facilities. Customer growth and customer usage are affected by a number of factors outside our control, such as mandated energy efficiency measures, bans on or further regulation of natural gas-fired appliances, demand-side management goals, distributed generation resources and economic and demographic conditions, including population changes, job and income growth, housing starts, new business formation and the overall level of economic activity. Declines in demand for electricity and natural gas in our service territories due to pipeline incidents of other utilities, increased electricity and natural gas prices as experienced during the February 2021 Winter Storm Event and during periods of persisting high inflation or economic downturns, among other factors, could reduce overall usage and lessen cash flows, especially as industrial customers reduce production and, therefore, consumption of electricity and natural gas. Although Houston Electric’s and Indiana Electric’s transmission and distribution businesses are subject to regulated allowable rates of return and recovery of certain costs under periodic adjustment clauses, overall declines in electricity delivered and used as a result of economic downturn or recession could reduce revenues and cash flows, thereby diminishing results of operations. A reduction in the rate of economic, employment and/or population growth could result in lower growth and reduced demand for and usage of electricity and natural gas in such service territories. Some or all of these factors could result in a lack of growth or decline in customer demand for electricity or natural gas or number of customers and may result in our failure to fully realize anticipated benefits from significant capital investments and expenditures, which could have an adverse effect on our financial condition, results of operations and cash flows.

***Aging infrastructure may lead to increased costs and disruptions in operations that could negatively impact our financial results.***

We have risks associated with aging infrastructure assets, including the failure of equipment or processes and potential breakdowns due to such aging. The age of certain of our assets may result in a need for replacement or higher level of maintenance costs because of our risk based federal and state compliant integrity management programs. As part of our long-term capital plan, we continue to make upgrades to our aging infrastructure assets to enhance the reliability of our infrastructure. Failure to achieve timely and full recovery of expenses associated with our aging infrastructure could adversely impact revenues and could result in increased capital expenditures or expenses. In addition, the nature of information available on aging infrastructure assets may make inspections, maintenance, upgrading and replacement of the assets particularly challenging. Also, our ability to successfully maintain or replace our aging infrastructure may be delayed or be at a greater cost than anticipated due to supply chain disruptions. Further, with respect to Natural Gas' operations, if certain pipeline replacements (for example, cast-iron or bare steel pipe) are not completed timely or successfully, government agencies and private parties might allege the uncompleted replacements caused events such as fires, explosions or leaks. Although we maintain insurance for certain of our facilities, our insurance coverage may not be sufficient in the event a catastrophic loss is alleged to have been caused by a failure to timely complete equipment replacements. Insufficient insurance coverage and increased insurance costs could adversely impact our financial condition, results of operations and cash flows. Finally, aging infrastructure may complicate our utility operations ability to address climate change concerns and efforts to enhance resiliency and reliability. See “— Disruptions to the global supply...”

***Our financial condition, results of operations and cash flows may be adversely affected if we are unable to successfully operate our facilities or perform certain corporate functions.***

Our performance depends on the successful operation of our facilities. Operating these facilities involves many risks inherent in the generation, transmission and distribution of electricity and in the delivery of natural gas that could result in substantial losses or other damages. From time to time, we have and may in the future experience various risks associated with the operations of our facilities, including, but not limited to, the following:

- operator error or failure of equipment or processes, including failure to follow appropriate safety protocols for, among others, the transmission and distribution of electricity and in the delivery of natural gas, including operations of our peak shaving, propane-air facilities;
- the handling of hazardous equipment or materials that could result in serious personal injury, loss of life and environmental and property damage;
- operating limitations that may be imposed by environmental or other regulatory requirements;
- labor disputes;
- information technology or financial and billing system failures, including those due to the implementation and integration of new technology, that impair our information technology infrastructure, reporting systems or disrupt normal business operations;
- compliance mandates that result in penalties from our regulators;
- failure to obtain in a timely manner and at reasonable prices the necessary fuel, such as coal and natural gas, building materials or other items needed to operate our facilities;
- information technology failure that affects our ability to access customer information or causes us to lose confidential or proprietary data that adversely affects our reputation or exposes us to legal claims; and
- catastrophic events such as fires, earthquakes, explosions, leaks, floods, droughts, hurricanes, ice storms, flooding, terrorism, wildfires, pandemic health events or other similar occurrences, including any environmental impacts related thereto, which catastrophic events may require participation in mutual assistance efforts by us or other utilities to assist in power restoration efforts.

Such events may result in a decrease or elimination of revenue from our facilities, an increase in the cost of operating our facilities or delays in cash collections, any of which could have an adverse effect on our financial condition, results of operations and cash flows. Such events have and may in the future result in the imposition of regulatory or environmental fines and increased litigation.

***Our businesses will continue to have to adapt to technological change and may not be successful or may have to incur significant expenditures to adapt to technological change.***

We operate businesses that require sophisticated data collection, processing systems, software and other technology. Some of the technologies supporting the industries we serve are changing rapidly and increasing in complexity. New technologies will emerge or grow that may be superior to, or may not be compatible with, some of our existing technologies, and may require us to make significant investments and expenditures so that we can continue to provide cost-effective and reliable methods for energy production and delivery. Among such technological advances are distributed generation resources (e.g., private solar, microturbines, fuel cells), energy storage devices and more energy-efficient buildings and products designed to reduce energy consumption and waste. As these technologies become a more cost-competitive option over time, whether through cost effectiveness or government incentives and subsidies, such as under the IRA, certain customers may choose to meet their own energy needs and subsequently decrease usage of our systems and services, including Indiana Electric's generating facilities becoming less competitive and economical. Further, certain regulatory and legislative bodies have introduced or are considering requirements and/or incentives to reduce energy consumption by certain dates. Just as high inflation and rising interest rates, incentivize our customers to consume less energy, technological advances driven by federal laws mandating new levels of energy efficiency in end-use electric and natural gas devices or other improvements in or applications of technology could lead to declines in per capita energy consumption.

Our future success will depend, in part, on our ability to anticipate and adapt to these technological changes in a cost-effective manner, to offer, on a timely basis, reliable services that meet customer demands and evolving industry standards, and to recover all, or a significant portion of, any unrecovered investment in obsolete assets. If we fail to adapt successfully to any technological change or obsolescence, fail to obtain access to important technologies or incur significant expenditures in adapting to technological change, or if implemented technology does not operate as anticipated, our businesses, financial condition, results of operations and cash flows could be adversely affected.

***Our insurance coverage may not be sufficient. Insufficient insurance coverage and increased insurance costs could adversely impact our financial condition, results of operations and cash flows.***

We currently have insurance in place, such as general liability and property insurance, to cover certain of our facilities in amounts that we consider appropriate. Such policies are subject to certain limits and deductibles and do not include business interruption coverage. Insurance coverage premiums continue to increase, and insurance coverage may not be available in the future at current costs or on commercially reasonable terms, and the insurance proceeds received for any loss of, or any damage to, any of our facilities may not be sufficient to fully cover or restore the loss or damage without negative impact on our financial condition, results of operations and cash flows. Costs, damages and other liabilities related to recent events and incidents that affected other utilities, such as wildfires, winter storms and explosions, among other things, have exceeded or could exceed such utilities' insurance coverage. Further, as a result of these recent events and incidents, the marketplace for insurance coverage to utility companies may be unavailable or limited in capacity or any such available coverage may be deemed by us to be cost prohibitive under current conditions. Insurance premiums for any such coverage, if available, may not be eligible for recovery, whether in full or in part, by us through the rates charged by our utility businesses.

In common with other companies in its line of business that serve coastal regions, Houston Electric does not have insurance covering its transmission and distribution system, other than substations, because Houston Electric believes it to be cost prohibitive and insurance capacity to be limited. Historically, Houston Electric has been able to recover the costs incurred in restoring its transmission and distribution properties following hurricanes or other disasters through issuance of storm restoration bonds or a change in its regulated rates or otherwise. In the future, any such recovery may not be granted. Therefore, Houston Electric may not be able to restore any loss of, or damage to, any of its transmission and distribution properties without negative impact on its financial condition, results of operations and cash flows.

***Global or regional health pandemics, epidemics or similar public health threats could negatively impact our business, outlook, financial condition, results of operations and liquidity.***

Current and future health pandemics, epidemics and similar public health threats, such as COVID-19 and its variants, and the measures implemented to contain their spread, such as travel bans and restrictions, quarantines and vaccination mandates, continue to and may in the future have widespread impacts on the global economy, our employees, customers, and third-party business partners. The severity, magnitude and duration of a current or future health threat is uncertain, rapidly changing and hard to predict. Any future health threat, including the emergence of a new variant of COVID-19, could, in the future, impact our business in numerous ways, including, but not limited to, those outlined below:

- reduced demand from our commercial and industrial customers and shifts in demand for our services;
- delayed service to customers because of shutdowns and/or illness and travel restrictions among our employees;
- negative impacts to the financial condition of our customers and REPs and their ability to pay for our services, and our ability to disconnect service for non-payment may be limited, and state regulators may impose bill deferral programs;
- potential limits or significant or entire curtailments of the ability of public utility commissions to approve or authorize applications and other requests we may make with respect to our businesses, including delaying rate making proceedings;
- increased risk to our cybersecurity program as a result of an increase in cyberattacks during the pandemic and increased remote working arrangements, see above “Risks Affecting our Safety and Security Risks”;
- increased rates of inflation and delays in our supply chain and our ability to complete maintenance, repairs, and capital programs, which could result in disruption, increased costs and our inability to execute on or require us to make modifications to our capital plan; and
- accelerated employee turnover as a result of concerns regarding restrictions and guidelines, including mask mandates and quarantine mandates, and increased acceptability of alternative work arrangements.

Like many companies, we experienced the above and other impacts pursuant to the COVID-19 pandemic. These and other impacts of global or regional health pandemics, epidemics or similar public health threats could also have the effect of heightening many of the other risks described in this section and the other reports we file from time to time with the SEC. We might not be able to predict or respond to all impacts on a timely basis to prevent near- or long-term adverse impacts to our operations, financial condition and liquidity. The ultimate impact of public health threats on our business depends on factors beyond our knowledge or control, including the duration and severity of the outbreak as well as third-party actions taken to contain the spread and mitigate the public health effects. Any of these factors could have a negative impact on our business, outlook, financial condition and results of operations, which impact could be material.

***Our success depends upon our ability to attract, effectively transition, motivate and retain key employees and identify and develop talent to succeed senior management.***

We depend on senior executive officers and other key personnel. Our success depends on our ability to attract, effectively transition and retain key personnel. Further tightening of the labor market and increasing wages to attract and retain key personnel may adversely affect our ability to attract and retain key personnel. The inability to recruit and retain or effectively transition key personnel or the unexpected loss of key personnel may adversely affect our operations. In addition, because of the reliance on our management team, our future success depends in part on our ability to identify and develop talent to succeed senior management. The retention of key personnel and appropriate senior management succession planning will continue to be critically important to the successful implementation of our strategies.

***Failure to attract and retain an appropriately qualified workforce and maintain good labor relations could adversely impact the operations of our facilities and our results of operations.***

Our businesses are dependent on recruiting, retaining and motivating employees. Like many companies in the utilities industry and other industries, we have experienced higher than normal turnover of employees as a result of a number of factors, including the COVID-19 pandemic, a tightening labor market, increasing remote working opportunities, employees shifting industries, individuals deciding not to work and a maturing workforce. Of our employee population, not including employees of Energy Systems Group prior to the divestiture on June 30, 2023 or temporary employees, 18.7%, 19.3% and 23.6% were retirement eligible as of December 31, 2023, 2022 and 2021, respectively. Certain circumstances, such as an aging workforce without appropriate replacements, a mismatch of existing skillsets to future needs, or the unavailability of contract resources may lead to operating challenges such as a lack of resources, loss of knowledge or a lengthy time period associated with skill development. Our costs, including costs to replace employees, productivity costs and safety costs, may rise. Failure to hire and adequately train replacement employees, including the transfer of significant internal historical knowledge and expertise to the new employees, or the future availability and cost of contract labor may adversely affect the ability to manage and operate our businesses, particularly the specialized skills and knowledge required to construct and operate generation facilities, a technology-enabled power grid and transmission and distribution infrastructure, among other facilities. If we are unable to successfully attract and retain an appropriately qualified workforce, our ability to execute on our 10-year capital plan and our results of operations could be negatively affected.

Furthermore, the operations of our facilities depend on good labor relations with our employees, and several of our businesses have in place collective bargaining agreements with different labor unions, comprising approximately 40% of our workforce. We have several separate bargaining units, each with a unique collective bargaining agreement described further in

Note 8(j) to the consolidated financial statements, which information is incorporated herein by reference. The collective bargaining agreements with Teamsters Local 135 related to SIGECO employees and Utility Workers Union of America, Local 175 related to VEDO employees are scheduled to expire in September 2024 and October 2024, respectively, and negotiations of these agreements are expected to be completed before the respective expirations. Any failure to reach an agreement on new labor contracts or to negotiate these labor contracts might result in strikes, boycotts or other labor disruptions. These potential labor disruptions could have an adverse effect on our businesses, results of operations and/or cash flows. Labor disruptions, strikes or significant negotiated wage and benefit increases, whether due to union activities, employee turnover or otherwise, could have an adverse effect on our businesses, results of operations and cash flows.

**Item 1B. *Unresolved Staff Comments***

None.

**Item 1C. *Cybersecurity***

Our processes for assessing, identifying, and managing material risks from cybersecurity threats are part of our overall enterprise risk management system and processes. Enterprise risks, including cybersecurity risks, and their associated mitigations are reviewed at least annually by senior management and the Board of Directors. Throughout the year, we regularly assess our cybersecurity program and continue to invest in hardening and maturing our cybersecurity measures as further described below.

*Managing Material Risks & Integrated Overall Risk Management*

As a foundation of this approach, we have implemented a layered governance structure to help assess, identify, and manage cybersecurity risks. It starts with our internal Cybersecurity Operations Center (CSOC), which routinely analyzes threat information from external sources, monitors network activity, and responds to potential security incidents. In addition, our cybersecurity and privacy policies encompass incident response procedures and information security governance. As part of our ongoing assessment of our cybersecurity program, we monitor and make adjustments, as necessary, in support of compliance with current and emerging cybersecurity and privacy laws, regulations and guidance applicable to us in jurisdictions where we do business (including NERC CIP reliability standards and TSA security directives), as further described in Item 1A “Risk Factors.” Our internal audit team conducts regular internal security audits and vulnerability assessments of CenterPoint Energy’s systems and user data security practices.

In addition, CenterPoint Energy’s cybersecurity program is increasingly leveraging intelligence-sharing capabilities about emerging threats within the energy industry, across other industries, with specialized vendors, and through public-private partnerships with U.S. government intelligence agencies. By engaging with utility-specific organizations, CenterPoint Energy benefits from quality analysis and rapid sharing of security information across the energy sector. Such intelligence helps allow for better detection and prevention of emerging cyber threats before they materialize. Just as it tests its policies and plans internally, CenterPoint Energy also engages in external exercises such as the bi-annual GridEx Security Exercise to evaluate and address the preparedness of the industry as a whole.

*Oversee Third-Party Risk*

We conduct security risk assessments on proposed software, hardware, and third-party technology solutions used by CenterPoint Energy, including a diligence review of enterprise and security architecture, vendor security, and a privacy impact assessment when deemed appropriate. These assessments evaluate these technologies prior to deployment in CenterPoint Energy’s network environment. Further, we maintain a vendor risk management program, a component of which assesses the maturity of certain third parties and their cybersecurity and data privacy programs to help protect information shared with approved third parties. We also leverage third-party cybersecurity ratings of companies to inform our risk rating when conducting these assessments. Additionally, CenterPoint Energy imposes contractual obligations on vendors and other third-party business partners related to privacy, confidentiality, and data security based on their access to our data and systems and the nature and sensitivity of the data and systems. Such contractual provisions may specify the measures and safeguards that the parties must implement to protect our data from unauthorized access use, disclosure, modification, or destruction.

*Engage Third Parties on Risk Management*

We also undergo periodic external security audits, vulnerability assessments, and penetration testing of CenterPoint Energy’s systems and user data security practice, conducted by third-party consultants. We also conduct tabletop exercises to

test our incident response processes. Further, as discussed below, we engage third parties to provide guidance and support to our cybersecurity management team.

### *Risks from Cybersecurity Threats*

As described in Item 1A “Risk Factors,” our operations rely on the secure processing, storage, and transmission of confidential, sensitive, and other information within our computer systems and networks. Computer viruses, hackers, employee or vendor incidents, and other external hazards could expose our information systems—and those of our third parties who process our data, provide access to systems, or that have access to our systems—to security breaches, cybersecurity incidents or other disruptions, any of which could materially and adversely affect our business, reputation, results of operations and financial condition, and subject us to possible legal claims and liability. While we have experienced cybersecurity incidents in the past, to date none have materially affected us, including our business strategy, results of operations or financial condition.

### **Governance**

As part of our overall risk management approach, we prioritize the identification and management of cybersecurity risks at several levels, including Board oversight, executive commitment, management support, and employee training.

### *Board of Directors Oversight*

As of December 2023, our Audit Committee, comprised of independent directors from our Board, oversees the Board’s responsibilities relating to CenterPoint Energy’s cybersecurity and data privacy programs, including cybersecurity risk management. Prior to December 2023, our Governance, Environmental and Sustainability Committee, comprised of independent directors from our Board, oversaw cybersecurity responsibilities. As part of their risk oversight responsibilities, the applicable committee received quarterly reports from our Executive Vice President and General Counsel, or representatives from our cybersecurity or data privacy groups, and periodic reports from our third party consultants. Based on these reports, the applicable committee reported to the Board regarding certain cybersecurity or data privacy related items, including, among other items, CenterPoint Energy’s progress in maturing its cybersecurity program, results of audits, penetration and vulnerability testing of CenterPoint Energy’s cybersecurity program, the cybersecurity landscape and emerging threats, status of ongoing initiatives and strategies, incident reports and learnings from any cybersecurity events, compliance with regulatory requirements and industry standards, data privacy matters, and the cybersecurity budget.

### *Risk Management Personnel*

Since January 2023, our cybersecurity program has been overseen by our Executive Vice President and General Counsel. Our Executive Vice President and General Counsel has significant risk management, governance and litigation experience. We believe these skills are needed in leadership of our cybersecurity program to help ensure that risk management, legal, disclosure and governance perspectives are considered in the design of our cybersecurity program and in evaluating and responding to potential cyber incidents. CenterPoint Energy currently engages a third-party consultant, who reports directly to the Executive Vice President and General Counsel, to provide Chief Information Security Officer (CISO) advisory services. This consultant has 15 years of experience serving in cybersecurity leadership positions, including as a CISO at a large U.S.-based power, utility, and gas company and also at a large multi-national energy products and services company. We also have management-level committees and an experienced CSOC team that support our processes to assess and manage cybersecurity risk as follows:

- The Data Privacy Office, led by our Senior Vice President, Deputy General Counsel, Chief Ethics and Compliance Officer, and Data Privacy Officer, addresses the collection, storage, usage, disclosure and destruction of data for specific business purposes and addresses existing and emerging laws, regulations, trends, expectations and best practices with regards to maintaining a mature data privacy program.
- The Risk Oversight Committee, which is supported by our Enterprise Risk Management function and chaired by our Executive Vice President and General Counsel, is comprised of senior executives from across CenterPoint Energy, monitors and oversees risks facing CenterPoint Energy, as well as provides risk assessments and control oversight for certain business activities, including overseeing CenterPoint Energy’s cybersecurity risks.
- The crisis management team, which includes senior executives across CenterPoint Energy, is alerted as appropriate to cybersecurity incidents, natural disasters, and business outages. This team has established and continually assesses CenterPoint Energy’s communications plan in the event of a crisis. Additionally, as appropriate, the Audit Committee

or the Board are made aware of significant cybersecurity incidents in accordance with our cybersecurity incident response playbook.

- The Cybersecurity Awareness Governance Committee, which includes leaders from across CenterPoint Energy's corporate functions and business units, each with expertise in, or with specific responsibility for, managing or protecting CenterPoint Energy's assets, information and personnel. This committee provides strategic direction and oversight for CenterPoint Energy's cybersecurity awareness and training initiatives.
- The Artificial Intelligence (AI) Steering Committee was established by CenterPoint Energy to provide strategic direction, oversight, and guidance in the planning, development, deployment, and management of AI initiatives within the organization. The committee's primary objective is to ensure that AI technologies are aligned with business goals, ethical considerations, appropriate security protections, and industry best practices while driving innovation and enhancing competitiveness.

These committees provide periodic summary reports on their activities and initiatives to appropriate senior executives, and the Executive Vice President and General Counsel and/or various members of the cyber and data privacy teams communicates updates to the Audit Committee or the Board.

At the employee level, we maintain an experienced information technology team that is tasked with implementing our privacy and cybersecurity programs and supporting the cybersecurity consultant in carrying out reporting, security and mitigation functions. We also hold employee trainings on privacy, cybersecurity, AI, records and information management, conduct phishing tests, and generally seek to promote awareness of cybersecurity risk through communication and education of our employee population. The Governance, Environmental and Sustainability Committee was, and now the Audit Committee will be, provided with periodic reports on our employee cybersecurity awareness efforts.

## **Item 2. *Properties***

The following discussion is based on the Registrants' businesses as of December 31, 2023.

### **Character of Ownership**

We lease or own our principal properties in fee, including our corporate office space and various real property. Most of our electric lines and natural gas mains are located, pursuant to easements and other rights, on public roads or on land owned by others.

#### **Electric (CenterPoint Energy and Houston Electric)**

##### *Properties*

All of Houston Electric's properties are located in Texas. Its properties consist primarily of high-voltage electric transmission lines and poles, distribution lines, substations, service centers, service wires, telecommunications networks and meters. Most of Houston Electric's transmission and distribution lines have been constructed over lands of others pursuant to easements or along public highways and streets under franchise agreements and as permitted by law.

All real and tangible properties of Houston Electric, subject to certain exclusions, are currently subject to the lien of the M&DOT and the lien of the General Mortgage, which is junior to the lien of the M&DOT.

No first mortgage bonds are outstanding under the M&DOT and Houston Electric is contractually obligated to not issue any additional first mortgage bonds under the M&DOT and is undertaking actions to release the lien of the M&DOT and terminate the M&DOT. For information related to debt outstanding under the General Mortgage, see Note 13 to the consolidated financial statements.

Indiana Electric's properties are primarily located in Indiana. They consist of transmission lines in Indiana and Kentucky, distribution lines, substations, service centers, coal-fired generating facilities, gas-fired turbine peaking units, a landfill gas electric generation project and solar generation facilities.

All real and tangible properties of Indiana Electric, subject to certain exclusions, are currently subject to the lien of the Amended and Restated Mortgage Indenture dated as of January 1, 2023, between SIGECO (Indiana Electric) and Deutsche Bank Trust Company Americas (formerly known as Bankers Trust Company), as Trustee.

*Electric Lines - Transmission and Distribution.* As of December 31, 2023, Houston Electric and Indiana Electric owned and operated the following electric transmission and distribution lines:

| Description                     | Houston Electric   |                   | Indiana Electric |              |
|---------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|------------------|--------------|
|                                 | Overhead Lines     | Underground Lines | Indiana          | Kentucky (1) |
| <b>Transmission lines:</b>      | (in Circuit Miles) |                   |                  |              |
| 69 kV .....                     | 132                | 2                 | 567              | —            |
| 138 kV .....                    | 2,333              | 24                | 420              | 9            |
| 345 kV .....                    | 1,445              | —                 | 49               | 15           |
| Total .....                     | <u>3,910</u>       | <u>26</u>         | <u>1,036</u>     | <u>24</u>    |
| <b>Distribution lines</b> ..... | (in Circuit Miles) |                   |                  |              |
|                                 | <u>29,270</u>      | <u>27,267</u>     | <u>7,266</u>     | <u>—</u>     |

(1) These assets interconnect with Louisville Gas and Electric Company’s transmission system at Cloverport, Kentucky and with Big Rivers Electric Cooperative at Sebree, Kentucky.

*Generating Capacity.* In 2023, SIGECO completed the planned retirement of its A.B. Brown Units 1 & 2. As of December 31, 2023, Indiana Electric had 727 MW of installed generating capacity, as set forth in the following table.

| Generation Source                   | Unit No. | Location            | Date in Service | Capacity (MW) |
|-------------------------------------|----------|---------------------|-----------------|---------------|
| <b>Coal</b>                         |          |                     |                 |               |
| F.B. Culley .....                   | 2        | Warrick County      | 1966            | 90            |
| F.B. Culley .....                   | 3        | Warrick County      | 1973            | 270           |
| Warrick (1) .....                   | 4        | Warrick County      | 1970            | 150           |
| Total Coal Capacity .....           |          |                     |                 | <u>510</u>    |
| <b>Gas</b>                          |          |                     |                 |               |
| Brown (2) .....                     | 3        | Posey County        | 1991            | 80            |
| Brown .....                         | 4        | Posey County        | 2002            | 80            |
| Renewable Landfill Gas .....        |          | Pike County         | 2009            | 3             |
| Total Gas Capacity .....            |          |                     |                 | <u>163</u>    |
| <b>Solar</b>                        |          |                     |                 |               |
| Oak Hill .....                      |          | Evansville, Indiana | 2018            | 2             |
| Volkman .....                       |          | Evansville, Indiana | 2018            | 2             |
| Troy .....                          |          | Spencer County      | 2021            | 50            |
| Total Solar Capacity .....          |          |                     |                 | <u>54</u>     |
| Total Generating Capacity (3) ..... |          |                     |                 | <u>727</u>    |

(1) SIGECO and AGC own a 300 MW unit at the Warrick Power Plant as tenants in common. SIGECO exited joint operations of Warrick 4 on January 1, 2024.

(2) Brown Unit 3 is also equipped to burn oil.

(3) Excludes 1.5% participation in OVEC. See Item 1. Business for more details.

*Natural Gas Combustion Turbines.* In 2022, Indiana Electric received approval from the IURC for a CPCN seeking approval to construct two natural gas combustion turbines to replace portions of its existing coal-fired generation fleet. The turbines are targeted to be operational by year end 2025. For further information, see “Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations — Liquidity and Capital Resources — Regulatory Matters” in Item 7 of Part II of this report, which discussion is incorporated herein by reference.

*Solar.* Indiana Electric entered into an amended and restated BTA to build a 191 MW solar array in Posey County, Indiana. Additionally, Indiana Electric entered into a BTA to acquire a 130 MW solar array in Pike County, Indiana through a special purpose entity for a capped purchase price. For further information about Indiana Electric’s BTA’s, see “Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations — Liquidity and Capital Resources — Regulatory Matters” in Item 7 of Part II of this report, which discussion is incorporated herein by reference.



*Mobile Generation.* As allowed by a law enacted by the Texas legislature after the February 2021 Winter Storm Event and amended in 2023, Houston Electric is leasing TEEEF that can aid in restoring power to customers during certain significant power outages that are impacting its distribution system. As of December 31, 2023, Houston Electric leased 505 MW of TEEEF. For more information, see Note 20 to the consolidated financial statements.

*Substations.* A substation is a facility that transforms electricity from a higher voltage to a lower voltage or vice versa. Generally, this facility is the interface between the transmission system and the distribution grid.

|                                | As of December 31, 2023 |                               |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------|
|                                | Number of Substations   | Transformer Capacity (in Mva) |
| Houston Electric .....         | 240                     | 72,806                        |
| Indiana Electric .....         | 108                     | 6,913                         |
| Total CenterPoint Energy ..... | 348                     | 79,719                        |

*Service Centers.* Service centers consist of office buildings, warehouses and repair facilities that are used in the business of transmitting and distributing electricity.

|                                | As of December 31, 2023   |               |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------|
|                                | Number of Service Centers | Acres of Land |
| Houston Electric .....         | 13                        | 375           |
| Indiana Electric .....         | 6                         | 70            |
| Total CenterPoint Energy ..... | 19                        | 445           |

#### Natural Gas (CenterPoint Energy and CERC)

CenterPoint Energy’s and CERC’s Natural Gas use various third-party storage services or owned natural gas storage facilities to meet peak-day requirements and to manage the daily changes in demand due to changes in weather. CenterPoint Energy’s and CERC’s Natural Gas may also supplement contracted supplies and storage from time to time with stored LNG and propane-air plant production.

As of December 31, 2023, CenterPoint Energy’s and CERC’s Natural Gas owned and operated the following natural gas facilities:

|  | No. of Assets | Storage Capacity (Bcf)      | Working Capacity (Bcf)   | Maximum Daily Withdrawal Rate (MMcf) |
|--|---------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <b>CenterPoint Energy</b>                      |               |                             |                          |                                      |
| Underground Natural Gas Storage Facility ..... | 8             | 43                          | 14                       | 305                                  |
| <b>CERC</b>                                    |               |                             |                          |                                      |
| Underground Natural Gas Storage Facility ..... | 5             | 32                          | 9                        | 205                                  |
|  |               |                             | On-site Storage Capacity |                                      |
|  | No. of Assets | Daily Production Rate (Dth) | Millions of Gallons      | Dth                                  |
| <b>CenterPoint Energy and CERC</b>             |               |                             |                          |                                      |
| Propane Air-Gas Manufacturing Plant .....      | 16            | 247,000                     | 14.1                     | 1,228,000                            |
| LNG Plant Facility .....                       | 1             | 72,000                      | 12.0                     | 1,010,000                            |

The table below reflects CenterPoint Energy’s and CERC’s Natural Gas contracted upstream storage services as of December 31, 2023:

|                                | <u>Storage Capacity<br/>(Bcf)</u> | <u>Maximum Peak<br/>Daily Delivery<br/>(MMcf)</u> |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|
| Upstream Storage Service ..... | 84                                | 2,241   |

The table below reflects the approximate total linear miles of CenterPoint Energy’s and CERC’s Natural Gas distribution and transmission mains owned as of December 31, 2023:

|                        | <u>CenterPoint Energy</u> | <u>CERC</u> |
|------------------------|---------------------------|-------------|
| All Locations .....    | 84,000                    | 81,000      |
| Indiana and Ohio ..... | 22,000                    | 19,000      |

CenterPoint Energy’s and CERC’s Natural Gas owned mains varying in size from one-half inch to 24 inches in diameter. CenterPoint Energy’s and CERC’s Natural Gas Indiana and Ohio mains are located in Indiana and Ohio except for, in the case of CenterPoint Energy, pipeline facilities extending from points in northern Kentucky to points in southern Indiana so that gas may be transported to Indiana and sold or transported to customers in Indiana. Generally, in each of the cities, towns and rural areas served by CenterPoint Energy’s and CERC’s Natural Gas, they own the underground gas mains and service lines, metering and regulating equipment located on customers’ premises and the district regulating equipment necessary for pressure maintenance. With a few exceptions, the measuring stations at which CenterPoint Energy’s and CERC’s Natural Gas receives gas are owned, operated and maintained by others, and their distribution facilities begin at the outlet of the measuring equipment. These facilities, including odorizing equipment, are usually located on land owned by suppliers.

As of December 31, 2023, CenterPoint Energy and CERC, through CEIP, owned and operated over 217 miles of intrastate pipeline in Louisiana and Texas.

### **Item 3.      *Legal Proceedings***

For a discussion of material legal and regulatory proceedings, including environmental legal proceedings that involve a governmental authority as a party and that the Registrants reasonably believe would result in \$1,000,000 or more of monetary sanctions, exclusive of interest and costs, under federal, state and local laws that have been enacted or adopted regulating the discharge of materials into the environment or primarily for the purpose of protecting the environment, affecting the Registrants, please read “Business — Regulation” and “Business — Environmental Matters” in Item 1 of this report, “Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations — Liquidity and Capital Resources — Regulatory Matters” in Item 7 of Part II of this report and Note 15(d) to the consolidated financial statements, which information is incorporated herein by reference.

### **Item 4.      *Mine Safety Disclosures***

Not applicable.

## **PART II**

This combined Form 10-K is filed separately by three registrants: CenterPoint Energy, Houston Electric and CERC.

### **Item 5.      *Market for Registrant’s Common Equity, Related Stockholder Matters and Issuer Purchases of Equity Securities***

#### **CenterPoint Energy**

As of February 12, 2024, CenterPoint Energy’s common stock was held by approximately 22,703 shareholders of record. CenterPoint Energy’s common stock is listed on the NYSE and NYSE Chicago and is traded under the symbol “CNP.”

The amount of future cash dividends will be subject to determination based upon CenterPoint Energy’s financial condition and results of operations, future business prospects, any applicable contractual restrictions and other factors that CenterPoint Energy’s Board of Directors considers relevant and will be declared at the discretion of CenterPoint Energy’s Board of Directors. For further information on CenterPoint Energy’s dividends, see Note 12 to the consolidated financial statements.

## *Repurchases of Equity Securities*

During the quarter ended December 31, 2023, none of CenterPoint Energy's equity securities registered pursuant to Section 12 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, were purchased by or on behalf of CenterPoint Energy or any "affiliated purchasers," as defined in Rule 10b-18(a)(3) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended.

### **Houston Electric**

As of February 12, 2024, all of Houston Electric's 1,000 outstanding common shares were held by Utility Holding, LLC, a wholly-owned subsidiary of CenterPoint Energy.

### **CERC**

As of February 12, 2024, all of CERC Corp.'s 1,000 outstanding shares of common stock were held by Utility Holding, LLC, a wholly-owned subsidiary of CenterPoint Energy.

### **Item 6. [Reserved]**

### **Item 7. *Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations***

*No Registrant makes any representations as to the information related solely to CenterPoint Energy or the subsidiaries of CenterPoint Energy other than itself.*

*The following combined discussion and analysis should be read in combination with the consolidated financial statements included in Item 8 herein. When discussing CenterPoint Energy's consolidated financial information, it includes the results of Houston Electric and CERC, which, along with CenterPoint Energy, are collectively referred to as the Registrants. Where appropriate, information relating to a specific registrant has been segregated and labeled as such. Unless the context indicates otherwise, specific references to Houston Electric and CERC also pertain to CenterPoint Energy. In this combined Form 10-K, the terms "our," "we" and "us" are used as abbreviated references to CenterPoint Energy, Inc. together with its consolidated subsidiaries, including Houston Electric and CERC, unless stated otherwise.*

## **OVERVIEW**

### **Background**

CenterPoint Energy, Inc. is a public utility holding company. CenterPoint Energy's operating subsidiaries own and operate electric transmission, distribution and generation and natural gas distribution facilities. For a detailed description of CenterPoint Energy's operating subsidiaries, please read Note 1 to the consolidated financial statements.

Houston Electric is an indirect, wholly-owned subsidiary of CenterPoint Energy that provides electric transmission service to transmission service customers in the ERCOT region and distribution service to REPs serving the Texas gulf coast area that includes the city of Houston.

CERC Corp. is an indirect, wholly-owned subsidiary of CenterPoint Energy that (i) directly owns and operates natural gas distribution systems in Louisiana, Minnesota, Mississippi and Texas, (ii) indirectly, through Indiana Gas and VEDO, owns and operates natural gas distribution systems in Indiana and Ohio, respectively, and (iii) owns and operates permanent pipeline connections through interconnects with various interstate and intrastate pipeline companies through CEIP.

### **Reportable Segments**

In this Management's Discussion and Analysis, we discuss our results from continuing operations on a consolidated basis and individually for each of our reportable segments, which are listed below. We also discuss our liquidity, capital resources and critical accounting policies. We are first and foremost an energy delivery company and it is our intention to remain focused on these regulated segments. The results of our business operations are significantly impacted by weather, customer growth, economic conditions, cost management, competition, rate proceedings before regulatory agencies and other actions of the various regulatory agencies to whose jurisdiction we are subject, among other factors.

As of December 31, 2023, CenterPoint Energy’s reportable segments were Electric, Natural Gas, and Corporate and Other.

- The Electric reportable segment includes electric transmission and distribution services that are subject to rate regulation in Houston Electric’s and Indiana Electric’s service territories, as well as the impacts of generation-related stranded costs and other true-up balances recoverable by the regulated electric utility and energy delivery services to electric customers and electric generation assets to serve electric customers and optimize those assets in the wholesale power market in Indiana Electric’s service territory. For further information about the Electric reportable segment, see “Business — Our Business — Electric” in Item 1 of Part I of this report.
- The Natural Gas reportable segment includes (i) intrastate natural gas sales to, and natural gas transportation and distribution for residential, commercial, industrial and institutional customers in Indiana, Louisiana, Minnesota, Mississippi, Ohio and Texas; (ii) permanent pipeline connections through interconnects with various interstate and intrastate pipeline companies through CEIP; and (iii) home appliance maintenance and repair services to customers in Minnesota and home repair protection plans to natural gas customers in Indiana, Mississippi, Ohio and Texas through a third party. For further information about the Natural Gas reportable segment, see “Business — Our Business — Natural Gas” in Item 1 of Part I of this report.
- The Corporate and Other reportable segment includes energy performance contracting and sustainable infrastructure services by Energy Systems Group through June 30, 2023, the date of the sale of Energy Systems Group, and corporate support operations that support CenterPoint Energy’s business operations. CenterPoint Energy’s Corporate and Other also includes office buildings and other real estate used for business operations.

Houston Electric and CERC each consist of a single reportable segment.

*Subsequent Events.* On February 19, 2024, CenterPoint Energy, through its subsidiary CERC Corp., entered into the LAMS Asset Purchase Agreement to sell its Louisiana and Mississippi natural gas local distribution company businesses. The transaction is expected to close in the first quarter of 2025. For further information, see Note 21 to the consolidated financial statements.

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

We expect our businesses to continue to be affected by the key factors and trends discussed below. Our expectations are based on assumptions made by us and information currently available to us. To the extent our underlying assumptions about, or interpretations of, available information prove to be incorrect, our actual results may vary materially from our expected results.

### Factors Influencing Our Businesses and Industry Trends

We are an energy delivery company with electric transmission and distribution, power generation, and natural gas distribution operations that serve more than seven million metered customers across six jurisdictions. The majority of our revenues are generated from the transmission and delivery of electricity and the sale of natural gas by our subsidiaries.

We continue to execute on our strategic goals for our businesses which were set in 2021. These include our ten-year capital plan from 2021 through 2030, a focus on targeting controllable operations and maintenance savings for the benefit of our customers, prudent capital funding including divestitures of non-core assets, and net zero and carbon emission reduction goals. Our focus continues to be on the growth of our regulated utility businesses including our electric and gas utility operations, which comprise over 95% of our earnings for the year ended December 31, 2023. See Note 11 to the consolidated financial statements for further details.

Pursuant to this business strategy and in light of the nature of our businesses, significant amounts of capital investment are reflected in our current capital plan, which has increased to nearly \$44 billion through 2030, a nearly 10% increase from the original 10-year plan. These investments include a focus on additional system resiliency, reliability, and grid modernization. These investments are not only intended to meet our customers’ current needs, but are also in anticipation for further organic growth and load growth from increased electrification in our service territories. To fund these capital investments, we rely on internally generated cash, borrowings under our credit facilities, proceeds from commercial paper, cash proceeds from strategic transactions (such as the sale of our Arkansas and Oklahoma LDC businesses in 2022 and our Energy Systems Group divestiture in 2023), and issuances of equity and debt in the capital markets to satisfy these capital needs.

We strive to maintain investment grade ratings for our securities to access the capital markets on terms we consider reasonable. A reduction in our ratings generally would increase our borrowing costs for new issuances of debt, as well as

borrowing costs under our existing revolving credit facilities, and may prevent us from accessing the commercial paper markets. Disruptions in the financial markets along with high or rising interest rates can also affect the availability of new capital on terms we consider attractive. In those circumstances, we may not be able to obtain certain types of external financing or may be required to accept terms less favorable than they would otherwise accept. For that reason, we seek to maintain adequate liquidity for our businesses through existing credit facilities and prudent refinancing of existing debt.

The regulation of electric transmission, distribution and generation facilities as well as natural gas pipelines and related facilities by federal and state regulatory agencies affects CenterPoint Energy's, Houston Electric's and CERC's businesses. In accordance with applicable regulations, CenterPoint Energy, Houston Electric and CERC are making, and will continue to make, significant capital investments in their service territories under our capital plan to help operate and maintain safer, more reliable and growing electric and natural gas systems. The current economic environment (e.g., sustained higher interest rates and higher relative levels of inflation in the United States) discussed further below could result in heightened regulatory scrutiny as these regulatory agencies seek to reduce the financial impact of utility bills on customers.

While greater than 80% of CenterPoint Energy's projected consolidated investments are expected to be recovered through interim capital recovery trackers or rate cases based on a forward test year, the balance is expected to be recovered through base rate cases. CERC's Texas and Minnesota gas jurisdictions along with Indiana Electric have filed rates cases during 2023, and Houston Electric intends to file a rate case in early 2024 and CERC's Ohio jurisdiction intends to file a rate case in the second half of 2024. The outcome of these base rate proceedings will determine, among other things, the ability to recover certain capital investments within those jurisdictions. The outcome of these base rate proceedings is uncertain and may be impacted by the current economic environment.

To assess our financial performance, our management primarily monitors the recovery of costs and return on investments by the evaluation of net income and capital expenditures, among other things, from our regulated service territories within our reportable segments. Within these broader financial measures, we monitor margins, natural gas and fuel costs, interest expense, capital spend, working capital requirements, and operation and maintenance expense. In addition to these financial measures, we also monitor a number of variables that management considers important to gauge the performance of our reportable segments, including the number of customers, throughput, use per customer, commodity prices, heating and cooling degree days, environmental impacts, safety factors, system reliability and customer satisfaction.

CenterPoint Energy and CERC have weather normalization or other rate mechanisms that largely mitigate the impact of weather on Natural Gas in Indiana, Louisiana, Mississippi, Minnesota and Ohio, as applicable. CenterPoint Energy's and CERC's Natural Gas in Texas and CenterPoint Energy's electric operations in Texas and Indiana do not have such mechanisms, although fixed customer charges are historically higher in Texas for Natural Gas compared to its other jurisdictions. As a result, fluctuations from normal weather may have a positive or negative effect on CenterPoint Energy's and CERC's Natural Gas' results in Texas and on CenterPoint Energy's electric operations' results in its Texas and Indiana service territories.

Each state has a unique economy and is driven by different industrial sectors. Our largest customers reflect the diversity in industries in the states across our footprint. For example, Houston Electric is largely concentrated in Houston, a diverse economy where a higher percentage of employment is tied to the energy sector relative to other regions of the country. Although the Houston area represents a large part of our customer base, we have a diverse customer base throughout the various states our utility businesses serve. In Minnesota, for instance, education and health services are the state's largest sectors. Indiana and Ohio are impacted by changes in the Midwest economy in general and changes in particular industries concentrated in the Midwest such as automotive, feed and grain processing. Some industries are driven by population growth like education and health care, while others may be influenced by strength in the national or international economy. Adverse economic conditions, coupled with concerns for protecting the environment and increased availability of alternate energy sources, may cause consumers to use less energy or avoid expansions of their facilities, including natural gas facilities, resulting in less demand for our services. Long-term national trends indicate customers have reduced their energy consumption, which could adversely affect our results. To the extent population growth is affected by lower energy prices and there is financial pressure on some of our customers who operate within the energy industry, there may be an impact on the growth rate of our customer base and overall demand. Management expects residential meter growth for Houston Electric to remain in line with long term trends at approximately 2%. Typical customer growth in the jurisdictions served by the Natural Gas reportable segment is approximately 1%. Management expects residential meter growth for CERC to remain in line with long term trends at approximately 1%.

Rising inflation and sustained high interest rates and a recessionary environment could potentially adversely impact CenterPoint Energy's ability to execute on its 10-year capital plan. The inability to execute on our capital plan may result in lost

future revenues for CenterPoint Energy. Additionally, these economic conditions may affect customers' ability to pay their utility bills which may preclude our ability to collect balances due from such customers.

Further, the global supply chain has experienced significant disruptions due to a multitude of factors, such as labor shortages, resource availability, long lead times, inflation and weather. These disruptions have adversely impacted the utility industry. Like many of our peers, we have experienced disruptions to our supply chain and may continue to experience such disruptions in the future. To the extent adverse economic conditions, including supply chain disruptions, affect our suppliers and customers as well as our ability to meet our capital plan and generation transition plan, results from our energy delivery businesses may suffer. For more information, see Note 15 to the consolidated financial statements.

Further, in response to concerns for protecting the environment, we have strived to take a leading stance in the transition to safer and cleaner energy by being the first combined electric and natural gas utility with regulated generation assets to adopt net zero for its Scope 1 and certain Scope 2 GHG emissions by 2035 goals. In addition, we set a Scope 3 GHG emission reduction goal across our multi-state footprint by committing to help our residential and commercial customers reduce GHG emissions attributable to their end use of natural gas by 20% to 30% by 2035 from a 2021 baseline. Our capital plan supports these goals.

## Significant Events

**Series A Preferred Stock Redemption.** On September 1, 2023, CenterPoint Energy redeemed all of the outstanding shares of Series A Preferred Stock for cash of \$800 million at a redemption price of \$1,000 per share, plus accumulated and unpaid dividends thereon to, but excluding, the redemption date. For further information, see Note 12 to the consolidated financial statements.

**Divestiture of Energy Systems Group.** On May 21, 2023, Vectren Energy Services entered into an Equity Purchase Agreement to sell all of the outstanding limited liability company interests of Energy Systems Group to ESG Holdings Group, for a purchase price of \$157 million, subject to customary adjustments set forth in the Equity Purchase Agreement, including adjustments based on Energy Systems Group's net working capital at closing, indebtedness, cash and cash equivalents and transaction expenses. The transaction closed on June 30, 2023 for \$154 million in cash, subject to finalization of the purchase price adjustment. For further information, see Note 4 to the consolidated financial statements.

**Regulatory Proceedings.** On March 23, 2023, CenterPoint Energy and CERC, collectively, received approximately \$1.1 billion in proceeds from the customer rate relief bonds issued by the Texas Public Financing Authority related to the February 2021 Winter Storm Event.

On April 5, 2023, a final order was issued approving the \$39 million revenue requirement from Houston Electric's 2021 investment in TEEEF. On April 5, 2023, Houston Electric filed its second TEEEF filing requesting a TEEEF revenue requirement of \$188 million or a net increase in TEEEF revenues of approximately \$149 million. On August 28, 2023 the State Office of Administrative Hearings issued an Order setting interim rates to collect an annual revenue requirement at the filed amount. On September 26, 2023, intervenors filed testimony with various recommendations including extending the amortization period. A settlement was reached with parties that incorporated an 8 1/2 year amortization period and a TEEEF revenue requirement of \$153 million based on the December 31, 2022 balance with interim rates effective December 15, 2023. The State Office of Administrative Hearings ALJ approved the revised interim rates and the settlement was approved by the PUCT in its order issued on February 1, 2024.

On June 29, 2023, Indiana Electric received the net securitization proceeds of \$337 million from the issuance and sale of the SIGECO Securitization Bonds to reimburse or pay for qualified costs approved by the IURC related to the completed retirement of its A.B. Brown coal-fired generation facilities.

For further information, see Note 7 to the consolidated financial statements. For information related to our pending and completed regulatory proceedings to date in 2023 and to date in 2024, see "—Liquidity and Capital Resources —Regulatory Matters" below.

**Debt Transactions.** In 2023, CenterPoint Energy issued or borrowed a combined \$6.0 billion in new debt, including Houston Electric's issuance of \$1.4 billion aggregate principal amount of general mortgage bonds, CERC's issuance of \$1.5 billion aggregate principal amount of senior notes and a \$500 million term loan, SIGECO Securitization Subsidiary's issuance of \$341 million aggregate principal amount of SIGECO Securitization Bonds, SIGECO's issuance of \$650 million aggregate principal amount of first mortgage bonds, and CenterPoint Energy's issuance of \$1.0 billion aggregate principal amount of convertible senior notes, \$400 million aggregate principal amount of senior notes and a \$250 million term loan. During 2023, CenterPoint Energy repaid or redeemed a combined \$3.0 billion of debt, including CERC's repayment of \$1.0 billion of term loans and \$1.332 billion of senior notes maturing in 2023, CenterPoint Energy's repayment of its

\$250 million term loan and \$350 million of its floating rate senior notes and SIGECO's early redemption of \$91 million of first mortgage bonds, excluding scheduled principal payments on Securitization Bonds. For information about debt transactions in 2023, see Note 13 to the consolidated financial statements.

**CenterPoint Energy Leadership Transition.** On March 15, 2023, CenterPoint Energy announced the appointment of Christopher A. Foster to the position of Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, effective May 5, 2023. On September 27, 2023, CenterPoint Energy appointed Kristie L. Colvin to the position of Senior Vice President and Chief Accounting Officer of CenterPoint Energy and its affiliated subsidiaries, effective October 5, 2023. On October 26, 2023, CenterPoint Energy announced the retirement of Dave Lesar and appointment of Jason Wells to the position of President and Chief Executive Officer, effective January 5, 2024.

**Subsequent Events.** On January 10, 2024, CenterPoint Energy entered into an Equity Distribution Agreement with certain financial institutions with respect to the offering and sale from time to time of shares of Common Stock, having an aggregate gross sales price of up to \$500 million. Sales of Common Stock may be made by any method permitted by applicable law and deemed to be an "at the market offering" as defined in Rule 415 of the Securities Act of 1933. CenterPoint Energy may also enter into one or more forward sales agreements pursuant to master forward confirmations. The offer and sale of Common Stock under the Equity Distribution Agreement will terminate upon the earliest of (1) the sale of all Common Stock subject to the Equity Distribution Agreement, (2) termination of the Equity Distribution Agreement, or (3) May 17, 2026. As of February 20, 2024, CenterPoint Energy has not issued any shares of Common Stock under the Equity Distribution Agreement and has not entered into any forward sale agreements.

Additionally, on February 19, 2024, CenterPoint Energy, through its subsidiary CERC Corp., entered into the LAMS Asset Purchase Agreement to sell its Louisiana and Mississippi natural gas local distribution company businesses. The transaction is expected to close in the first quarter of 2025. For further information, see Note 21 to the consolidated financial statements.

## **CERTAIN FACTORS AFFECTING FUTURE EARNINGS**

Our past earnings and results of operations are not necessarily indicative of our future earnings and results of operations. The magnitude of our future earnings and results of our operations will depend on or be affected by numerous factors that apply to all Registrants unless otherwise indicated including:

- CenterPoint Energy's business strategies and strategic initiatives, restructurings, including the completed Restructuring, joint ventures and acquisitions or dispositions of assets or businesses, including the proposed sale of our Louisiana and Mississippi natural gas local distribution company businesses, and the completed sale of Energy Systems Group, which we cannot assure will have the anticipated benefits to us;
- industrial, commercial and residential growth in our service territories and changes in market demand, including the effects of energy efficiency measures and demographic patterns;
- our ability to fund and invest planned capital and the timely recovery of our investments, including those related to Indiana Electric's generation transition plan as part of its IRPs;
- our ability to successfully construct, operate, repair and maintain electric generating facilities, natural gas facilities, TEEEF and electric transmission facilities, including complying with applicable environmental standards and the implementation of a well-balanced energy and resource mix, as appropriate;
- timely and appropriate rate actions that allow and authorize requested and timely recovery of costs and a reasonable return on investment, including the timing and amount of recovery of Houston Electric's TEEEF leases, and requested or favorable adjustments to rates and approval of other requested items as part of base rate proceedings;
- economic conditions in regional and national markets, including changes to inflation and interest rates, and instability of banking institutions, and their effect on sales, prices and costs;
- weather variations and other natural phenomena, including the impact of severe weather events on operations, capital and legislation such as in connection with the February 2021 Winter Storm Event;
- volatility in the markets for natural gas as a result of, among other factors, armed conflicts, including the conflict in the Middle East and any broader related conflict, and the conflict in Ukraine, and the related sanctions on certain Russian entities;
- disruptions to the global supply chain, including volatility in commodity prices, and tariffs and other legislation impacting the supply chain, that could prevent CenterPoint Energy from securing the resources needed to, among other things, fully execute on its 10-year capital plan or achieve its net zero and carbon emissions reduction goals;
- non-payment for our services due to financial distress of our customers and the ability of our customers, including REPs, to satisfy their obligations to CenterPoint Energy, Houston Electric and CERC, and the negative impact on such ability related to adverse economic conditions and severe weather events;

- public health threats, such as COVID-19, and their effect on our operations, business and financial condition, our industries and the communities we serve, U.S. and world financial markets and supply chains, potential regulatory actions and changes in customer and stakeholder behavior relating thereto;
- state and federal legislative and regulatory actions or developments affecting various aspects of our businesses, including, among others, energy deregulation or re-regulation, pipeline integrity and safety and changes in regulation and legislation pertaining to trade, health care, finance and actions regarding the rates charged by our regulated businesses;
- direct or indirect effects on our facilities, resources, operations and financial condition resulting from terrorism, cyberattacks or intrusions, data security breaches or other attempts to disrupt our businesses or the businesses of third parties, or other catastrophic events such as fires, ice, earthquakes, explosions, leaks, floods, droughts, hurricanes, tornadoes and other severe weather events, pandemic health events or other occurrences;
- tax legislation, including the effects of the IRA (which includes but is not limited to any potential changes to tax rates, CAMT imposed, tax credits and/or interest deductibility), as well as any changes in tax laws under the current or future administrations, and uncertainties involving state commissions' and local municipalities' regulatory requirements and determinations regarding the treatment of EDIT and our rates;
- our ability to mitigate weather impacts through normalization or rate mechanisms, and the effectiveness of such mechanisms;
- actions by credit rating agencies, including any potential downgrades to credit ratings;
- matters affecting regulatory approval, legislative actions, construction, implementation of necessary technology or other issues with respect to major capital projects that result in delays or cancellation or in costs that cannot be recouped in rates;
- local, state and federal legislative and regulatory actions or developments relating to the environment, including, among others, those related to global climate change, air emissions, carbon, waste water discharges and the handling and disposal of CCR that could impact operations, cost recovery of generation plant costs and related assets, and CenterPoint Energy's net zero and carbon emissions reduction goals;
- the impact of unplanned facility outages or other closures;
- the sufficiency of our insurance coverage, including availability, cost, coverage and terms and ability to recover claims;
- the availability and prices of raw materials and services and changes in labor for current and future construction projects and operations and maintenance costs, including our ability to control such costs;
- impacts from CenterPoint Energy's pension and postretirement benefit plans, such as the investment performance and increases to net periodic costs as a result of plan settlements and changes in assumptions, including discount rates;
- changes in interest rates and their impact on costs of borrowing and the valuation of CenterPoint Energy's pension benefit obligation;
- commercial bank and financial market conditions, including disruptions in the banking industry, our access to capital, the cost of such capital, and the results of our financing and refinancing efforts, including availability of funds in the debt capital markets;
- inability of various counterparties to meet their obligations to us;
- the extent and effectiveness of our risk management activities;
- timely and appropriate regulatory actions, which include actions allowing securitization for any hurricanes or other severe weather events, or natural disasters or other recovery of costs, including stranded coal-fired generation asset costs;
- acquisition and merger or divestiture activities involving us or our industry, including the ability to successfully complete merger, acquisition and divestiture plans such as the proposed sale of our Louisiana and Mississippi natural gas local distribution company businesses;
- our ability to attract, effectively transition, motivate and retain management and key employees and maintain good labor relations;
- changes in technology, particularly with respect to efficient battery storage or the emergence or growth of new, developing or alternative sources of generation, and their adoption by consumers;
- the impact of climate change and alternate energy sources on the demand for natural gas and electricity generated or transmitted by us;
- the timing and outcome of any audits, disputes and other proceedings related to taxes;
- the recording of impairment charges;
- political and economic developments, including energy and environmental policies under the current administration;
- CenterPoint Energy's ability to execute on its strategy, initiatives, targets and goals, including its net zero and carbon emissions reduction goals and its operations and maintenance expenditure goals;
- the outcome of litigation, including litigation related to the February 2021 Winter Storm Event;
- the effect of changes in and application of accounting standards and pronouncements; and



- other factors discussed in “Risk Factors” in Item 1A of Part I of this report and in other reports that the Registrants file from time to time with the SEC.

## CENTERPOINT ENERGY CONSOLIDATED RESULTS OF OPERATIONS

CenterPoint Energy’s results of operations are affected by seasonal fluctuations in the demand for electricity and natural gas. CenterPoint Energy’s results of operations are also affected by, among other things, the actions of various governmental authorities having jurisdiction over rates its subsidiaries charge, debt service costs, income tax expense, its subsidiaries ability to collect receivables from REPs and customers and its ability to recover its regulatory assets. For information regarding factors that may affect the future results of our consolidated operations, please read “Risk Factors” in Item 1A of Part I of this report.

Income available to common shareholders for the years ended December 31, 2023, 2022 and 2021 was as follows:

|                                | Year Ended December 31, |                 |                 | Favorable (Unfavorable) |                 |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------------|-----------------|
|                                | 2023                    | 2022            | 2021            | 2023 to 2022            | 2022 to 2021    |
|                                | (in millions)           |                 |                 |                         |                 |
| Electric .....                 | \$ 654                  | \$ 603          | \$ 475          | \$ 51                   | \$ 128          |
| Natural Gas .....              | 533                     | 492             | 403             | 41                      | 89              |
| Total Utility Operations ..... | 1,187                   | 1,095           | 878             | 92                      | 217             |
| Corporate & Other (1) .....    | (320)                   | (87)            | (305)           | (233)                   | 218             |
| Discontinued Operations .....  | —                       | —               | 818             | —                       | (818)           |
| Total CenterPoint Energy ..... | <u>\$ 867</u>           | <u>\$ 1,008</u> | <u>\$ 1,391</u> | <u>\$ (141)</u>         | <u>\$ (383)</u> |

- (1) Includes energy performance contracting and sustainable infrastructure services through Energy Systems Group through the date of sale on June 30, 2023, unallocated corporate costs, interest income and interest expense, intercompany eliminations and the reduction of income allocated to preferred shareholders.

### ***2023 Compared to 2022***

*Net Income.* CenterPoint Energy reported income available to common shareholders of \$867 million for 2023 compared to income available to common shareholders of \$1,008 million for 2022.

Income available to common shareholders decreased \$141 million primarily due to the following items:

- an increase in net income of \$51 million for the Electric reportable segment, as further discussed below;
- an increase in net income of \$41 million for the Natural Gas reportable segment, as further discussed below; and
- a decrease in income available to common shareholders of \$233 million for Corporate and Other, primarily due to a pre-tax net gain of \$86 million on the sale of Energy Transfer equity securities in 2022 further discussed in Note 11 to the consolidated financial statements, partially offset by \$45 million of costs associated with early redemption of long-term debt in first quarter 2022. The decrease is also due to a loss on sale of \$13 million and current tax expense of \$32 million related to the divestiture of Energy Systems Group further discussed in Note 4 to the consolidated financial statements, as well as \$19 million due to remeasurement of deferred income tax balances. The remaining variance is due largely to an increase in borrowing costs.

### ***2022 Compared to 2021***

*Net Income.* CenterPoint Energy reported income available to common shareholders of \$1,008 million for 2022 compared to income available to common shareholders of \$1,391 million for 2021.

Income available to common shareholders decreased \$383 million primarily due to the following items:

- an increase in net income of \$128 million for the Electric reportable segment, as further discussed below;
- an increase in net income of \$89 million for the Natural Gas reportable segment, as further discussed below;
- an increase in income available to common shareholders of \$218 million for Corporate and Other, primarily due to a \$28 million pre-tax payment related to the impact of Board-implemented governance changes announced in July 2021, the net gain of \$86 million in 2022 and a net loss of \$122 million in December 2021 on the sale of Energy Transfer equity securities discussed further in Note 11 to the consolidated financial statements, partially offset by a \$34 million loss in Enable Series A Preferred Unit distributions in 2021 discussed in Note 4, and a decrease in income allocated to

preferred shareholders of \$46 million, primarily due to the conversion of the Series B Preferred Stock to Common Stock during 2021; and

- a decrease in income of \$818 million from discontinued operations, discussed further in Note 4 to the consolidated financial statements.

*Income Tax Expense.* For a discussion of effective tax rate per period, see Note 14 to the consolidated financial statements.

*Subsequent Events.* On February 19, 2024, CenterPoint Energy, through its subsidiary CERC Corp., entered into the LAMS Asset Purchase Agreement to sell its Louisiana and Mississippi natural gas local distribution company businesses. The transaction is expected to close in the first quarter of 2025. For further information, see Note 21 to the consolidated financial statements.

## CENTERPOINT ENERGY'S RESULTS OF OPERATIONS BY REPORTABLE SEGMENT

CenterPoint Energy's CODM views net income as the measure of profit or loss for the reportable segments. Segment results include inter-segment interest income and expense, which may result in inter-segment profit and loss.

The following discussion of CenterPoint Energy's results of operations is separated into two reportable segments, Electric and Natural Gas.

### ELECTRIC

The following table provides summary data of CenterPoint Energy's Electric reportable segment:

|  | Year Ended December 31,                                     |           |           | Favorable (Unfavorable) |              |
|--|---|-----------|-----------|-------------------------|--------------|
|  | 2023  | 2022      | 2021      | 2023 to 2022            | 2022 to 2021 |
|  | (in millions, except throughput, weather and customer data) |           |           |                         |              |
| Revenues .....   | \$ 4,290  | \$ 4,108  | \$ 3,763  | \$ 182                  | \$ 345       |
| Expenses:  |   |           |           |                         |              |
| Utility natural gas, fuel and purchased power .....      | 176   | 222       | 186       | 46                      | (36)         |
| Operation and maintenance .....                          | 1,880   | 1,864     | 1,761     | (16)                    | (103)        |
| Depreciation and amortization .....                      | 872   | 793       | 775       | (79)                    | (18)         |
| Taxes other than income taxes .....                      | 272   | 275       | 268       | 3                       | (7)          |
| Total expenses .....                                     | 3,200   | 3,154     | 2,990     | (46)                    | (164)        |
| Operating Income .....                                   | 1,090   | 954       | 773       | 136                     | 181          |
| Other Income (Expense):                                  |   |           |           |                         |              |
| Interest expense and other finance charges .....         | (303)   | (235)     | (226)     | (68)                    | (9)          |
| Other income (expense), net .....                        | 56  | 31        | 23        | 25                      | 8            |
| Income before income taxes .....                         | 843   | 750       | 570       | 93                      | 180          |
| Income tax expense .....                                 | 189   | 147       | 95        | (42)                    | (52)         |
| Net income .....   | \$ 654  | \$ 603    | \$ 475    | \$ 51                   | \$ 128       |
| Throughput (in GWh):                                     |   |           |           |                         |              |
| Residential .....  | 35,166  | 35,074    | 32,067    | — %                     | 9 %          |
| Total .....  | 108,766   | 105,541   | 103,000   | 3 %                     | 2 %          |
| Weather (percentage of normal weather for service area): |   |           |           |                         |              |
| Cooling degree days .....                                | 114 %   | 110 %     | 108 %     | 4 %                     | 2 %          |
| Heating degree days .....                                | 90 %  | 121 %     | 82 %      | (31)%                   | 39 %         |
| Number of metered customers at end of period:            |   |           |           |                         |              |
| Residential .....  | 2,588,510   | 2,534,730 | 2,493,832 | 2 %                     | 2 %          |
| Total .....  | 2,916,028   | 2,858,203 | 2,814,859 | 2 %                     | 2 %          |

The following table provides variance explanations by major income statement caption for the Electric reportable segment:

|  | <b>Favorable (Unfavorable)</b> |                     |
|--|--------------------------------|---------------------|
|  | <b>2023 to 2022</b>            | <b>2022 to 2021</b> |
|  | <b>(in millions)</b>           |                     |
| <b>Revenues</b>  |                                |                     |
| Customer rates and impact of the change in rate design .....   | \$ 167                         | \$ 38               |
| Transmission Revenues, including TCOS and TCRF and impact of the change in rate design, inclusive of costs billed by transmission providers, partially offset in operation and maintenance below ..... | 122                            | 157                 |
| Customer growth .....  | 26                             | 28                  |
| Refund of protected and unprotected EDIT, offset in income tax expense .....   | —                              | 32                  |
| Impacts from increased peak demand in the prior year, collected in rates in the current year .....   | —                              | 2                   |
| Energy efficiency, partially offset in operation and maintenance below .....   | —                              | (3)                 |
| Equity return, related to the annual true-up of transition charges for amounts over or under collected in prior periods .....  | (5)                            | 2                   |
| Pass-through revenues, offset in operation and maintenance below .....   | (13)                           | 21                  |
| Miscellaneous revenues, primarily related to service connections and off-system sales .....  | (14)                           | 11                  |
| Bond Companies and SIGECO Securitization Subsidiary, offset in other line items below .....  | (27)                           | (33)                |
| Weather, efficiency improvements and other usage impacts .....   | (28)                           | 54                  |
| Cost of fuel and purchased power, offset in utility natural gas, fuel and purchased power below .....  | (46)                           | 36                  |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>\$ 182</b>                  | <b>\$ 345</b>       |
| <b>Utility natural gas, fuel and purchased power</b>   |                                |                     |
| Cost of purchased power, offset in revenues above .....  | \$ 30                          | \$ 12               |
| Cost of fuel, including coal, natural gas, and fuel oil, offset in revenues above .....  | 16                             | (48)                |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>\$ 46</b>                   | <b>\$ (36)</b>      |
| <b>Operation and maintenance</b>   |                                |                     |
| Transmission costs billed by transmission providers, offset in revenues above .....  | \$ (26)                        | \$ (77)             |
| Contract services .....  | (21)                           | (2)                 |
| Energy efficiency, offset in revenues above .....  | (8)                            | 4                   |
| Support services .....   | (8)                            | 20                  |
| Bond Companies and SIGECO Securitization Subsidiary, offset in other line items .....  | —                              | 3                   |
| Labor and benefits .....   | 7                              | 7                   |
| Pass through expenses, offset in revenues above .....  | 11                             | (19)                |
| All other operation and maintenance expense, including materials and supplies and insurance .....  | 29                             | (39)                |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>\$ (16)</b>                 | <b>\$ (103)</b>     |
| <b>Depreciation and amortization</b>   |                                |                     |
| Ongoing additions to plant-in-service .....  | \$ (106)                       | \$ (40)             |
| Bond Companies and SIGECO Securitization Subsidiary, offset in other line items .....  | 27                             | 22                  |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>\$ (79)</b>                 | <b>\$ (18)</b>      |
| <b>Taxes other than income taxes</b>   |                                |                     |
| Incremental capital projects placed in service, and the impact of changes to tax rates .....   | \$ 2                           | \$ (14)             |
| Franchise fees and other taxes .....   | 1                              | 7                   |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>\$ 3</b>                    | <b>\$ (7)</b>       |
| <b>Interest expense and other finance charges</b>  |                                |                     |
| Changes in outstanding debt .....  | \$ (76)                        | \$ (32)             |
| Bond Companies and SIGECO Securitization Subsidiary, offset in other line items above .....  | (4)                            | 8                   |
| Other, primarily AFUDC and impacts of regulatory deferrals .....   | 12                             | 15                  |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>\$ (68)</b>                 | <b>\$ (9)</b>       |
| <b>Other income (expense), net</b>   |                                |                     |
| Other income, including AFUDC - equity .....   | \$ 21                          | \$ 8                |
| Bond Companies and SIGECO Securitization Subsidiary, offset in other line items above .....  | 4                              | —                   |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>\$ 25</b>                   | <b>\$ 8</b>         |

*Income Tax Expense.* For a discussion of effective tax rate per period by Registrant, see Note 14 to the consolidated financial statements.

## NATURAL GAS

The following table provides summary data of CenterPoint Energy's Natural Gas reportable segment:

|   | Year Ended December 31, |           |           | Favorable (Unfavorable) |              |
|---|-------------------------|-----------|-----------|-------------------------|--------------|
|   | 2023                    | 2022      | 2021      | 2023 to 2022            | 2022 to 2021 |
| (in millions, except throughput, weather and customer data) |                         |           |           |                         |              |
| Revenues .....  | \$ 4,279                | \$ 4,946  | \$ 4,336  | \$ (667)                | \$ 610       |
| Expenses:   |                         |           |           |                         |              |
| Utility natural gas, fuel and purchased power .....         | 1,888                   | 2,665     | 1,941     | 777                     | (724)        |
| Non-utility cost of revenues, including natural gas .....   | 3                       | 4         | 18        | 1                       | 14           |
| Operation and maintenance .....                             | 949                     | 919       | 979       | (30)                    | 60           |
| Depreciation and amortization .....                         | 513                     | 466       | 527       | (47)                    | 61           |
| Taxes other than income taxes .....                         | 245                     | 261       | 253       | 16                      | (8)          |
| Total expenses .....  | 3,598                   | 4,315     | 3,718     | 717                     | (597)        |
| Operating Income .....                                      | 681                     | 631       | 618       | 50                      | 13           |
| Other Income (Expense)                                      |                         |           |           |                         |              |
| Gain on sale .....  | —                       | 303       | 8         | (303)                   | 295          |
| Interest expense and other finance charges .....            | (188)                   | (137)     | (141)     | (51)                    | 4            |
| Other income (expense), net .....                           | 15                      | (62)      | (2)       | 77                      | (60)         |
| Income from Continuing Operations Before Income Taxes ...   | 508                     | 735       | 483       | (227)                   | 252          |
| Income tax expense (benefit) .....                          | (25)                    | 243       | 80        | 268                     | (163)        |
| Net Income .....  | \$ 533                  | \$ 492    | \$ 403    | \$ 41                   | \$ 89        |
| Throughput (in Bcf):  |                         |           |           |                         |              |
| Residential .....   | 199                     | 240       | 241       | (17)%                   | — %          |
| Commercial and industrial .....                             | 418                     | 424       | 428       | (1)%                    | (1)%         |
| Total Throughput .....                                      | 617                     | 664       | 669       | (7)%                    | (1)%         |
| Weather (percentage of 10-year average for service area):   |                         |           |           |                         |              |
| Heating degree days .....                                   | 86 %                    | 106 %     | 91 %      | (20)%                   | 15 %         |
| Number of customers at end of period:                       |                         |           |           |                         |              |
| Residential .....   | 4,010,113               | 3,964,221 | 4,372,428 | 1 %                     | (9)%         |
| Commercial and industrial .....                             | 303,841                 | 301,834   | 354,602   | 1 %                     | (15)%        |
| Total .....   | 4,313,954               | 4,266,055 | 4,727,030 | 1 %                     | (10)%        |

The following table provides variance explanations by major income statement caption for the Natural Gas reportable segment:

|  | Favorable (Unfavorable) |              |
|--|-------------------------|--------------|
|  | 2023 to 2022            | 2022 to 2021 |
|  | (in millions)           |              |
| <b>Revenues</b>  |                         |              |
| Cost of natural gas, offset in utility natural gas, fuel and purchased power below .....         | \$ (754)                | \$ 923       |
| Nine days in January 2022 for Arkansas and Oklahoma Natural Gas businesses due to sale .....     | (38)                    | (457)        |
| Gross receipts tax, offset in taxes other than income taxes below .....                          | (17)                    | 19           |
| Weather and usage .....  | (7)                     | 22           |
| Refund of protected and unprotected EDIT, offset in income tax expense .....                     | 3                       | 6            |
| Non-volumetric and miscellaneous revenue .....   | 14                      | 26           |
| Energy efficiency and other pass-through, offset in operation and maintenance below .....        | 17                      | 3            |
| Non-utility revenues, including impacts of MES disposal .....                                    | 18                      | (17)         |
| Customer growth .....  | 20                      | 16           |
| Customer rates and impact of the change in rate design, exclusive of the TCJA impact below ..... | 77                      | 69           |
| Total  | \$ (667)                | \$ 610       |
| <b>Utility natural gas, fuel and purchased power</b>   |                         |              |
| Cost of natural gas, offset in revenues above .....  | \$ 754                  | \$ (923)     |
| Nine days in January 2022 for Arkansas and Oklahoma Natural Gas businesses due to sale .....     | 23                      | 199          |
|  | \$ 777                  | \$ (724)     |
| <b>Non-utility costs of revenues, including natural gas</b>                                      |                         |              |
| Non-utility cost of revenues, including natural gas .....  | \$ 1                    | \$ 14        |
|  | \$ 1                    | \$ 14        |
| <b>Operation and maintenance</b>   |                         |              |
| Miscellaneous operations and maintenance expenses, including bad debt expense .....              | \$ (36)                 | \$ (21)      |
| Energy efficiency and other pass-through, offset in revenues above .....                         | (17)                    | (3)          |
| Contract services .....  | (3)                     | (14)         |
| Nine days in January 2022 for Arkansas and Oklahoma Natural Gas businesses due to sale .....     | 3                       | 125          |
| Labor and benefits, primarily due to headcount .....   | 11                      | (5)          |
| Corporate support services .....   | 12                      | (22)         |
| Total  | \$ (30)                 | \$ 60        |
| <b>Depreciation and amortization</b>   |                         |              |
| Incremental capital projects placed in service .....   | \$ (49)                 | \$ (23)      |
| Lower depreciation rates in Indiana from 2021 rate order .....                                   | —                       | 18           |
| Nine days in January 2022 for Arkansas and Oklahoma Natural Gas businesses due to sale .....     | 2                       | 66           |
| Total  | \$ (47)                 | \$ 61        |
| <b>Taxes other than income taxes</b>   |                         |              |
| Gross receipts tax, offset in revenues above .....   | \$ 17                   | \$ (19)      |
| Nine days in January 2022 for Arkansas and Oklahoma Natural Gas businesses due to sale .....     | 1                       | 23           |
| Incremental capital projects placed in service .....   | (2)                     | (12)         |
| Total  | \$ 16                   | \$ (8)       |
| <b>Gain on Sale</b>  |                         |              |
| Gain on Sale of Arkansas and Oklahoma Natural Gas businesses in 2022 .....                       | \$ (303)                | \$ 295       |
| Total  | \$ (303)                | \$ 295       |
| <b>Interest expense and other finance charges</b>  |                         |              |
| Changes in outstanding debt .....  | \$ (59)                 | \$ (11)      |
| Other, primarily AFUDC and impacts of regulatory deferrals .....                                 | 8                       | 15           |
| Total  | \$ (51)                 | \$ 4         |
| <b>Other income (expense), net</b>   |                         |              |
| Changes to non-service benefit cost, primarily settlement cost incurred in 2022 .....            | \$ 60                   | \$ (66)      |
| AFUDC - Equity, primarily from increased capital spend .....                                     | 10                      | 3            |
| Other miscellaneous non-operating income (expenses) .....  | 7                       | 3            |
| Total  | \$ 77                   | \$ (60)      |

*Income Tax Expense (Benefit).* For a discussion of effective tax rate per period by Registrant, see Note 14 to the consolidated financial statements.

*Subsequent Events.* On February 19, 2024, CenterPoint Energy, through its subsidiary CERC Corp., entered into the LAMS Asset Purchase Agreement to sell its Louisiana and Mississippi natural gas local distribution company businesses. The transaction is expected to close in the first quarter of 2025. For further information, see Note 21 to the consolidated financial statements.

## HOUSTON ELECTRIC CONSOLIDATED RESULTS OF OPERATIONS

Houston Electric’s CODM views net income as the measure of profit or loss for its reportable segment. Houston Electric consists of a single reportable segment. Houston Electric’s results of operations are affected by seasonal fluctuations in the demand for electricity. Houston Electric’s results of operations are also affected by, among other things, the actions of various governmental authorities having jurisdiction over rates Houston Electric charges, debt service costs, income tax expense, Houston Electric’s ability to collect receivables from REPs and Houston Electric’s ability to recover its regulatory assets. For information regarding factors that may affect the future results of Houston Electric’s consolidated operations, please read “Risk Factors” in Item 1A of Part I of this report.

|   | Year Ended December 31, |               |               | Favorable (Unfavorable) |               |
|---|-------------------------|---------------|---------------|-------------------------|---------------|
|   | 2023                    | 2022          | 2021          | 2023 to 2022            | 2022 to 2021  |
| (in millions, except throughput, weather and customer data)   |                         |               |               |                         |               |
| Revenues:   |                         |               |               |                         |               |
| TDU .....   | \$ 3,514                | \$ 3,205      | \$ 2,894      | \$ 309                  | \$ 311        |
| Bond Companies .....  | 163                     | 207           | 240           | (44)                    | (33)          |
| Total revenues .....  | <u>3,677</u>            | <u>3,412</u>  | <u>3,134</u>  | <u>265</u>              | <u>278</u>    |
| Expenses:   |                         |               |               |                         |               |
| Operation and maintenance, excluding Bond Companies .....     | 1,669                   | 1,647         | 1,591         | (22)                    | (56)          |
| Depreciation and amortization, excluding Bond Companies ..... | 593                     | 479           | 429           | (114)                   | (50)          |
| Taxes other than income taxes .....                           | 262                     | 261           | 251           | (1)                     | (10)          |
| Bond Companies .....  | 159                     | 194           | 219           | 35                      | 25            |
| Total .....   | <u>2,683</u>            | <u>2,581</u>  | <u>2,490</u>  | <u>(102)</u>            | <u>(91)</u>   |
| Operating Income .....  | 994                     | 831           | 644           | 163                     | 187           |
| Interest expense and other finance charges .....              | (259)                   | (202)         | (183)         | (57)                    | (19)          |
| Interest expense on Securitization Bonds .....                | (8)                     | (13)          | (21)          | 5                       | 8             |
| Other income, net .....                                       | 34                      | 19            | 17            | 15                      | 2             |
| Income before income taxes .....                              | <u>761</u>              | <u>635</u>    | <u>457</u>    | <u>126</u>              | <u>178</u>    |
| Income tax expense .....                                      | 168                     | 125           | 76            | (43)                    | (49)          |
| Net income .....  | <u>\$ 593</u>           | <u>\$ 510</u> | <u>\$ 381</u> | <u>\$ 83</u>            | <u>\$ 129</u> |
| Throughput (in GWh):  |                         |               |               |                         |               |
| Residential .....   | 33,830                  | 33,676        | 30,650        | — %                     | 10 %          |
| Total .....   | 103,862                 | 100,062       | 96,898        | 4 %                     | 3 %           |
| Weather (percentage of 10-year average for service area):     |                         |               |               |                         |               |
| Cooling degree days .....                                     | 114 %                   | 110 %         | 109 %         | 4 %                     | 1 %           |
| Heating degree days .....                                     | 92 %                    | 120 %         | 80 %          | (28)%                   | 40 %          |
| Number of metered customers at end of period:                 |                         |               |               |                         |               |
| Residential .....   | 2,455,309               | 2,402,329     | 2,359,168     | 2 %                     | 2 %           |
| Total .....   | 2,763,535               | 2,706,598     | 2,660,938     | 2 %                     | 2 %           |

The following table provides variance explanations by major income statement caption for Houston Electric:

|  | Favorable (Unfavorable) |              |
|--|-------------------------|--------------|
|  | 2023 to 2022            | 2022 to 2021 |
|  | (in millions)           |              |
| <b>Revenues</b>  |                         |              |
| Customer rates and impact of the change in rate design .....   | \$ 187                  | \$ 30        |
| Transmission Revenues, including TCOS and TCRF and impact of the change in rate design,<br>inclusive of costs billed by transmission providers ..... | 120                     | 157          |
| Customer growth .....  | 25                      | 27           |
| Energy efficiency, partially offset in operation and maintenance below .....   | 1                       | (3)          |
| Refund of protected and unprotected EDIT, offset in income tax expense .....   | —                       | 32           |
| Impacts from increased peak demand in the prior year, collected in rates in the current year .....   | —                       | 2            |
| Miscellaneous revenues .....   | (4)                     | 5            |
| Equity return, related to the annual true-up of transition charges for amounts over or under<br>collected in prior periods .....                     | (5)                     | 1            |
| Weather impacts and other usage .....  | (15)                    | 60           |
| Bond Companies, offset in other line items below .....   | (44)                    | (33)         |
| Total  | \$ 265                  | \$ 278       |
| <b>Operation and maintenance, excluding Bond Companies</b>   |                         |              |
| Transmission costs billed by transmission providers, offset in revenues above .....  | \$ (26)                 | \$ (77)      |
| Contract services .....  | (23)                    | 3            |
| Energy efficiency program costs, offset in revenues above .....  | (8)                     | 3            |
| Support services .....   | (6)                     | 24           |
| Labor and benefits .....   | 3                       | 12           |
| All other operation and maintenance expense, including materials and supplies and insurance ..   | 38                      | (21)         |
| Total  | \$ (22)                 | \$ (56)      |
| <b>Depreciation and amortization, excluding Bond Companies</b>   |                         |              |
| Ongoing additions to plant-in-service .....  | \$ (114)                | \$ (50)      |
| Total  | \$ (114)                | \$ (50)      |
| <b>Taxes other than income taxes</b>   |                         |              |
| Franchise fees and other taxes .....   | \$ (2)                  | \$ 4         |
| Incremental capital projects placed in service, and the impact of changes to tax rates .....   | 1                       | (14)         |
| Total  | \$ (1)                  | \$ (10)      |
| <b>Bond Companies expense</b>  |                         |              |
| Operations and maintenance and depreciation expense, offset by revenues above .....  | \$ 35                   | \$ 25        |
| Total  | \$ 35                   | \$ 25        |
| <b>Interest expense and other finance charges</b>  |                         |              |
| Changes in outstanding debt .....  | \$ (64)                 | \$ (32)      |
| Other, primarily AFUDC and impacts of regulatory deferrals .....   | 7                       | 13           |
| Total  | \$ (57)                 | \$ (19)      |
| <b>Interest expense on Securitization Bonds</b>  |                         |              |
| Lower outstanding principal balance, offset by revenues above .....  | \$ 5                    | \$ 8         |
| Total  | \$ 5                    | \$ 8         |
| <b>Other income, net</b>   |                         |              |
| Other income, including AFUDC - equity .....   | \$ 11                   | \$ 2         |
| Bond Companies .....   | 4                       | —            |
| Total  | \$ 15                   | \$ 2         |

*Income Tax Expense.* For a discussion of effective tax rate per period, see Note 14 to the consolidated financial statements.



## CERC CONSOLIDATED RESULTS OF OPERATIONS

CERC's CODM views net income as the measure of profit or loss for its reportable segment. CERC consists of a single reportable segment. CERC's results of operations are affected by seasonal fluctuations in the demand for natural gas. CERC's results of operations are also affected by, among other things, the actions of various federal, state and local governmental authorities having jurisdiction over rates CERC charges, debt service costs and income tax expense, CERC's ability to collect receivables from customers and CERC's ability to recover its regulatory assets. For information regarding factors that may affect the future results of CERC's consolidated operations, please read "Risk Factors" in Item 1A of Part I of this report.

|   | Year Ended December 31,                                     |           |           | Favorable (Unfavorable) |              |
|---|---|-----------|-----------|-------------------------|--------------|
|   | 2023  | 2022      | 2021      | 2023 to 2022            | 2022 to 2021 |
|   | (in millions, except throughput, weather and customer data) |           |           |                         |              |
| Revenues:.....  | 4,149   | 4,800     | 4,200     | (651)                   | 600          |
| Expenses:   |   |           |           |                         |              |
| Utility natural gas .....                                 | 1,856   | 2,607     | 1,885     | 751                     | (722)        |
| Non-utility cost of revenues, including natural gas ..    | 3   | 4         | 17        | 1                       | 13           |
| Operation and maintenance .....                           | 904   | 886       | 973       | (18)                    | 87           |
| Depreciation and amortization .....                       | 493   | 448       | 483       | (45)                    | 35           |
| Taxes other than income taxes .....                       | 243   | 257       | 249       | 14                      | (8)          |
| Total expenses .....                                      | 3,499   | 4,202     | 3,607     | 703                     | (595)        |
| Operating Income .....                                    | 650   | 598       | 593       | 52                      | 5            |
| Other Income (Expense)                                    |   |           |           |                         |              |
| Gain on sale .....  | —   | 557       | 11        | (557)                   | 546          |
| Interest expense and other finance charges .....          | (178)   | (130)     | (134)     | (48)                    | 4            |
| Other income (expense), net .....                         | 14  | (64)      | (4)       | 78                      | (60)         |
| Income Before Income Taxes .....                          | 486   | 961       | 466       | (475)                   | 495          |
| Income tax expense (benefit) .....                        | (26)  | 236       | 76        | 262                     | (160)        |
| Net Income .....  | \$ 512  | \$ 725    | \$ 390    | \$ (213)                | \$ 335       |
| Throughput (in BCF):                                      |   |           |           |                         |              |
| Residential .....   | 194   | 233       | 235       | (17)%                   | (1)%         |
| Commercial and industrial .....                           | 386   | 389       | 396       | (1)%                    | (2)%         |
| Total Throughput .....                                    | 580   | 622       | 631       | (7)%                    | (1)%         |
| Weather (percentage of 10-year average for service area): |   |           |           |                         |              |
| Heating degree days .....                                 | 86 %  | 106 %     | 91 %      | (20)%                   | 15 %         |
| Number of customers at end of period:                     |   |           |           |                         |              |
| Residential .....   | 3,905,388   | 3,859,726 | 4,268,385 | 1 %                     | (10)%        |
| Commercial and industrial .....                           | 293,235   | 291,184   | 336,828   | 1 %                     | (14)%        |
| Total .....   | 4,198,623   | 4,150,910 | 4,605,213 | 1 %                     | (10)%        |

The following table provides variance explanations by major income statement caption for CERC:

|  | <b>Favorable (Unfavorable)</b> |                     |
|--|--------------------------------|---------------------|
|  | <b>2023 to 2022</b>            | <b>2022 to 2021</b> |
|  | <b>(in millions)</b>           |                     |
| <b>Revenues</b>  |                                |                     |
| Cost of natural gas, offset in utility natural gas, fuel and purchased power below .....     | \$ (728)                       | \$ 921              |
| Nine days in January 2022 for Arkansas and Oklahoma Natural Gas businesses due to sale ..... | (38)                           | (457)               |
| Gross receipts tax, offset in taxes other than income taxes .....                            | (15)                           | 19                  |
| Weather and usage .....  | (7)                            | 22                  |
| Refund of protected and unprotected EDIT, offset in income tax expense .....                 | 3                              | 6                   |
| Energy efficiency and other pass-through, offset in operation and maintenance .....          | 8                              | 8                   |
| Non-volumetric and miscellaneous revenue .....   | 13                             | 26                  |
| Non-utility revenues, including impacts of MES disposal .....                                | 18                             | (17)                |
| Customer growth .....  | 20                             | 16                  |
| Customer rates and impact of the change in rate design, exclusive of the TCJA impact .....   | 75                             | 56                  |
| Total  | <u>\$ (651)</u>                | <u>\$ 600</u>       |
| <b>Utility natural gas</b>   |                                |                     |
| Cost of natural gas, offset in revenues above .....  | \$ 728                         | \$ (921)            |
| Nine days in January 2022 for Arkansas and Oklahoma Natural Gas businesses due to sale ..... | 23                             | 199                 |
| Total  | <u>\$ 751</u>                  | <u>\$ (722)</u>     |
| <b>Non-utility costs of revenues, including natural gas</b>                                  |                                |                     |
| Other, primarily non-utility cost of revenues .....  | \$ 1                           | \$ 13               |
| Total  | <u>\$ 1</u>                    | <u>\$ 13</u>        |
| <b>Operation and maintenance</b>   |                                |                     |
| Miscellaneous operations and maintenance expenses, including bad debt expense .....          | \$ (36)                        | \$ (20)             |
| Energy efficiency and other pass-through, offset in revenues above .....                     | (8)                            | (8)                 |
| Contract services .....  | —                              | (8)                 |
| Nine days in January 2022 for Arkansas and Oklahoma Natural Gas businesses due to sale ..... | 3                              | 125                 |
| Labor and benefits .....   | 11                             | (4)                 |
| Corporate Support Services .....   | 12                             | 2                   |
| Total  | <u>\$ (18)</u>                 | <u>\$ 87</u>        |
| <b>Depreciation and amortization</b>   |                                |                     |
| Incremental capital projects placed in service .....   | \$ (47)                        | \$ (44)             |
| Indiana lower depreciation rates from recent rate order .....                                | —                              | 13                  |
| Nine days in January 2022 for Arkansas and Oklahoma Natural Gas businesses due to sale ..... | 2                              | 66                  |
| Total  | <u>\$ (45)</u>                 | <u>\$ 35</u>        |
| <b>Taxes other than income taxes</b>   |                                |                     |
| Gross receipts tax, offset in revenues .....   | \$ 15                          | \$ (19)             |
| Nine days in January 2022 for Arkansas and Oklahoma Natural Gas businesses due to sale ..... | 1                              | 23                  |
| Incremental capital projects placed in service .....   | (2)                            | (12)                |
| Total  | <u>14</u>                      | <u>(8)</u>          |
| <b>Gain on sale</b>  |                                |                     |
| Net gain on sale of Arkansas and Oklahoma Natural Gas businesses .....                       | \$ (557)                       | \$ 546              |
| Total  | <u>\$ (557)</u>                | <u>\$ 546</u>       |
| <b>Interest expense and other finance charges</b>  |                                |                     |
| Changes in outstanding debt .....  | \$ (56)                        | \$ (11)             |
| Other, primarily AFUDC and impacts of regulatory deferrals .....                             | 8                              | 15                  |
| Total  | <u>\$ (48)</u>                 | <u>\$ 4</u>         |
| <b>Other income (expense), net</b>   |                                |                     |
| Changes to non-service benefit cost, primarily settlement cost incurred in 2022 .....        | \$ 60                          | \$ (65)             |
| Increase in Equity AFUDC .....   | 9                              | 2                   |
| Other miscellaneous non-operating income (expenses) .....                                    | 9                              | —                   |
| Nine days in January 2022 for Arkansas and Oklahoma Natural Gas businesses due to sale ..... | —                              | 3                   |
| Total  | <u>\$ 78</u>                   | <u>\$ (60)</u>      |

*Income Tax Expense (Benefit).* For a discussion of effective tax rate per period, see Note 14 to the consolidated financial statements.

*Subsequent Events.* On February 19, 2024, CenterPoint Energy, through its subsidiary CERC Corp., entered into the LAMS Asset Purchase Agreement to sell its Louisiana and Mississippi natural gas local distribution company businesses. The transaction is expected to close in the first quarter of 2025. For further information, see Note 21 to the consolidated financial statements.

## LIQUIDITY AND CAPITAL RESOURCES

### Historical Cash Flows

The net cash provided by (used in) operating, investing and financing activities for 2023, 2022 and 2021 is as follows:

|                                    | Year Ended December 31, |                     |          |                       |                     |         |                       |                     |            |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|----------|-----------------------|---------------------|---------|-----------------------|---------------------|------------|
|                                    | 2023                    |                     |          | 2022                  |                     |         | 2021                  |                     |            |
|                                    | CenterPoint<br>Energy   | Houston<br>Electric | CERC     | CenterPoint<br>Energy | Houston<br>Electric | CERC    | CenterPoint<br>Energy | Houston<br>Electric | CERC       |
|                                    | (in millions)           |                     |          |                       |                     |         |                       |                     |            |
| <b>Cash provided by (used in):</b> |                         |                     |          |                       |                     |         |                       |                     |            |
| Operating activities .....         | \$ 3,877                | \$ 1,401            | \$ 2,312 | \$ 1,810              | \$ 966              | \$ 856  | \$ 22                 | \$ 770              | \$ (1,219) |
| Investing activities .....         | (4,233)                 | (2,503)             | (1,643)  | (1,628)               | (2,435)             | 406     | (1,851)               | (1,617)             | (1,287)    |
| Financing activities .....         | 374                     | 1,103               | (668)    | (345)                 | 1,324               | (1,277) | 1,916                 | 926                 | 2,515      |

**Operating Activities.** The following items contributed to increased (decreased) net cash provided by operating activities:

|  | Year Ended December 31, |                     |          |                       |                     |          |
|--|-------------------------|---------------------|----------|-----------------------|---------------------|----------|
|  | 2023 compared to 2022   |                     |          | 2022 compared to 2021 |                     |          |
|  | CenterPoint<br>Energy   | Houston<br>Electric | CERC     | CenterPoint<br>Energy | Houston<br>Electric | CERC     |
|  | (in millions)           |                     |          |                       |                     |          |
| Changes in net income after adjusting for non-cash items .....       | \$ 394                  | \$ 235              | \$ 170   | \$ (492)              | \$ 211              | \$ (169) |
| Changes in working capital .....                                     | 917                     | 229                 | 358      | (615)                 | (177)               | (107)    |
| Changes in net regulatory assets and liabilities (1) .....           | 809                     | (89)                | 908      | 2,529                 | 196                 | 2,339    |
| Changes in equity in earnings of unconsolidated affiliates (2) ..... | —                       | —                   | —        | 339                   | —                   | —        |
| Changes in distributions from unconsolidated affiliates (2) .....    | —                       | —                   | —        | (155)                 | —                   | —        |
| Lower pension contribution .....                                     | 3                       | —                   | —        | 26                    | —                   | —        |
| Other .....  | (56)                    | 60                  | 20       | 156                   | (34)                | 12       |
|  | \$ 2,067                | \$ 435              | \$ 1,456 | \$ 1,788              | \$ 196              | \$ 2,075 |

- (1) The change in net regulatory assets and liabilities at CenterPoint Energy and CERC is primarily due to securitization of the incurred natural gas costs associated with the February 2021 Winter Storm Event. See Note 7 to the consolidated financial statements for more information on the February 2021 Winter Storm Event.
- (2) In September 2021, CenterPoint Energy's equity investment in Enable met the held for sale criteria and is reflected as discontinued operations on CenterPoint Energy's Statements of Consolidated Income. For further information, see Note 4 to the consolidated financial statements.

**Investing Activities.** The following items contributed to (increased) decreased net cash used in investing activities:

|   | Year Ended December 31, |                  |                   |                       |                  |                 |
|---|-------------------------|------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|------------------|-----------------|
|   | 2023 compared to 2022   |                  |                   | 2022 compared to 2021 |                  |                 |
|   | CenterPoint Energy      | Houston Electric | CERC              | CenterPoint Energy    | Houston Electric | CERC            |
|   | (in millions)           |                  |                   |                       |                  |                 |
| Proceeds from the sale of equity securities .....                   | \$ (702)                | \$ —             | \$ —              | \$ (618)              | \$ —             | \$ —            |
| Net change in capital expenditures .....                            | 18                      | 157              | 42                | (1,255)               | (817)            | (337)           |
| Transaction costs related to the Enable Merger .....                | —                       | —                | —                 | 49                    | —                | —               |
| Cash received related to Enable Merger .....                        | —                       | —                | —                 | (5)                   | —                | —               |
| Net change in notes receivable from unconsolidated affiliates ..... | —                       | (238)            | (1)               | —                     | —                | —               |
| Proceeds from divestitures .....                                    | (1,931)                 | —                | (2,075)           | 2,053                 | —                | 2,053           |
| Other .....   | 10                      | 13               | (15)              | (1)                   | (1)              | (23)            |
|   | <u>\$ (2,605)</u>       | <u>\$ (68)</u>   | <u>\$ (2,049)</u> | <u>\$ 223</u>         | <u>\$ (818)</u>  | <u>\$ 1,693</u> |

**Financing Activities.** The following items contributed to (increased) decreased net cash used in financing activities:

|   | Year Ended December 31, |                  |               |                       |                  |                   |
|---|-------------------------|------------------|---------------|-----------------------|------------------|-------------------|
|   | 2023 compared to 2022   |                  |               | 2022 compared to 2021 |                  |                   |
|   | CenterPoint Energy      | Houston Electric | CERC          | CenterPoint Energy    | Houston Electric | CERC              |
|   | (in millions)           |                  |               |                       |                  |                   |
| Net changes in commercial paper outstanding .....                           | \$ (981)                | \$ —             | \$ (227)      | \$ (1,206)            | \$ —             | \$ (646)          |
| Net changes in long-term debt outstanding, excluding commercial paper ..... | 2,560                   | 373              | (778)         | (1,231)               | 386              | (936)             |
| Net changes in debt and equity issuance costs .....                         | (19)                    | 4                | —             | 2                     | (5)              | (4)               |
| Net changes in short-term borrowings .....                                  | (462)                   | —                | (462)         | 479                   | —                | 479               |
| Redemption of Series A Preferred Stock .....                                | (800)                   | —                | —             | —                     | —                | —                 |
| Increased payment of Common Stock dividends .....                           | (45)                    | —                | —             | (55)                  | —                | —                 |
| Decreased (increased) payment of Preferred Stock dividends .....            | (1)                     | —                | —             | 58                    | —                | —                 |
| Payment of obligation for finance lease .....                               | 485                     | 485              | —             | (306)                 | (306)            | —                 |
| Net change in notes payable from affiliated companies .....                 | —                       | (772)            | 1,517         | —                     | (374)            | (2,007)           |
| Contribution from parent .....  | —                       | (258)            | 211           | —                     | 1,013            | 149               |
| Dividend to parent .....  | —                       | (51)             | 348           | —                     | (316)            | (827)             |
| Other .....   | (18)                    | (2)              | —             | (2)                   | —                | —                 |
|   | <u>\$ 719</u>           | <u>\$ (221)</u>  | <u>\$ 609</u> | <u>\$ (2,261)</u>     | <u>\$ 398</u>    | <u>\$ (3,792)</u> |

### Future Sources and Uses of Cash

The Registrants expect that anticipated 2024 cash needs will be met with borrowings under their credit facilities, proceeds from the issuance of long-term debt, proceeds from sales of Common Stock under the Equity Distribution Agreement further described in Note 21 to the consolidated financial statements, anticipated cash flows from operations, and with respect to CenterPoint Energy and CERC, proceeds from commercial paper. Discretionary financing or refinancing may result in the issuance of equity securities of CenterPoint Energy or debt securities of the Registrants in the capital markets or the arrangement of additional credit facilities or term bank loans. Issuances of equity or debt in the capital markets, funds raised in the commercial paper markets and additional credit facilities may not, however, be available on acceptable terms.

*Material Current and Long-term Cash Requirements.* The liquidity and capital requirements of the Registrants are affected primarily by results of operations, capital expenditures, debt service requirements, tax payments, working capital needs and various regulatory actions. Capital expenditures are expected to be used for investment in infrastructure for electric and natural gas distribution operations. These capital expenditures are anticipated to maintain reliability and safety, increase resiliency and

expand our systems through value-added projects. In addition to dividend payments on CenterPoint Energy's Common Stock and interest payments on debt, the Registrants' principal anticipated cash requirements for 2024 include the following:

|  | CenterPoint<br>Energy | Houston<br>Electric | CERC     |
|--|-----------------------|---------------------|----------|
|  | (in millions)         |                     |          |
| Estimated capital expenditures .....   | \$ 3,669              | \$ 1,895            | \$ 1,385 |
| Maturing CenterPoint Energy senior notes .....                               | 850                   | —                   | —        |
| Scheduled principal payments on Securitization Bonds .....                   | 178                   | 161                 | —        |
| Maturing SIGECO first mortgage bonds .....                                   | 22                    | —                   | —        |
| Minimum contributions to pension plans and other post-retirement plans ..... | 17                    | 1                   | 4        |

The following table sets forth the Registrants' estimates of the Registrants' capital expenditures currently planned for projects for 2024 through 2028. See Note 17 to the consolidated financial statements for CenterPoint Energy's actual capital expenditures by reportable segment for 2023.

|                                   | 2024            | 2025            | 2026            | 2027            | 2028            |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
|                                   | (in millions)   |                 |                 |                 |                 |
| <b>CenterPoint Energy</b>         |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 |
| Electric .....                    | \$ 2,205        | \$ 3,341        | \$ 3,589        | \$ 3,080        | \$ 3,018        |
| Natural Gas .....                 | 1,450           | 1,432           | 1,604           | 1,469           | 1,344           |
| Corporate and Other .....         | 14              | 20              | 20              | 20              | 20              |
| Total .....                       | <u>\$ 3,669</u> | <u>\$ 4,793</u> | <u>\$ 5,213</u> | <u>\$ 4,569</u> | <u>\$ 4,382</u> |
| <b>Houston Electric (1)</b> ..... | <u>\$ 1,895</u> | <u>\$ 2,598</u> | <u>\$ 2,663</u> | <u>\$ 2,822</u> | <u>\$ 2,816</u> |
| <b>CERC (1)</b> .....             | <u>\$ 1,385</u> | <u>\$ 1,370</u> | <u>\$ 1,486</u> | <u>\$ 1,391</u> | <u>\$ 1,271</u> |

(1) Houston Electric and CERC each consist of a single reportable segment.

*Capital Expenditures for Climate-Related Projects.* As part of its approximately \$44.5 billion 10-year capital expenditure plan, which concludes in 2030, CenterPoint Energy anticipates spending over \$3 billion in cleaner energy investments and enablement, which may be used to support, among other things, renewable energy generation and electric vehicle expansion.

The following table summarizes the Registrants' material current and long-term cash requirements as of December 31, 2023.

|  | Total            | 2024            | 2025-2026       | 2027-2028       | 2029 and<br>thereafter |
|--|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------------------|
|  | (in millions)    |                 |                 |                 |                        |
| <b>CenterPoint Energy</b>                          |                  |                 |                 |                 |                        |
| Securitization Bonds (1) .....                     | \$ 502           | \$ 178          | \$ 27           | \$ 29           | \$ 268                 |
| Other long-term debt (1) (2) .....                 | 18,282           | 872             | 2,311           | 3,894           | 11,205                 |
| Interest payments — Securitization Bonds (3) ..... | 187              | 27              | 32              | 29              | 99                     |
| Interest payments — other long-term debt (3) ..... | 9,238            | 835             | 1,652           | 1,317           | 5,434                  |
| Short-term borrowings .....                        | 4                | 4               | —               | —               | —                      |
| Commodity and other commitments (4) .....          | 6,749            | 993             | 2,002           | 982             | 2,772                  |
| Total cash requirements .....                      | <u>\$ 34,962</u> | <u>\$ 2,909</u> | <u>\$ 6,024</u> | <u>\$ 6,251</u> | <u>\$ 19,778</u>       |
| <b>Houston Electric</b>                            |                  |                 |                 |                 |                        |
| Securitization Bonds (1) .....                     | \$ 161           | \$ 161          | \$ —            | \$ —            | \$ —                   |
| Other long-term debt (1) .....                     | 7,513            | —               | 300             | 800             | 6,413                  |
| Interest payments — Securitization Bonds (3) ..... | 4                | 4               | —               | —               | —                      |
| Interest payments — other long-term debt (3) ..... | 5,340            | 306             | 610             | 583             | 3,841                  |
| Total cash requirements .....                      | <u>\$ 13,018</u> | <u>\$ 471</u>   | <u>\$ 910</u>   | <u>\$ 1,383</u> | <u>\$ 10,254</u>       |

|  | <u>Total</u>     | <u>2024</u>   | <u>2025-2026</u> | <u>2027-2028</u> | <u>2029 and thereafter</u> |
|--|------------------|---------------|------------------|------------------|----------------------------|
|  | (in millions)    |               |                  |                  |                            |
| <b>CERC</b>                                  |                  |               |                  |                  |                            |
| Long-term debt .....                         | \$ 4,700         | \$ —          | \$ 70            | \$ 1,740         | \$ 2,890                   |
| Interest payments — long-term debt (3) ..... | 2,213            | 240           | 478              | 398              | 1,097                      |
| Short-term borrowings .....                  | 4                | 4             | —                | —                | —                          |
| Commodity and other commitments (4) .....    | 4,245            | 679           | 1,083            | 799              | 1,684                      |
| Total cash requirements .....                | <u>\$ 11,162</u> | <u>\$ 923</u> | <u>\$ 1,631</u>  | <u>\$ 2,937</u>  | <u>\$ 5,671</u>            |

- (1) Balances reflect aggregate principal amounts outstanding and do not include unamortized discounts, premiums or issuance costs. See Note 13 to the consolidated financial statements for additional information.
- (2) ZENS obligations are included in the 2029 and thereafter column at their contingent principal amount of \$18 million as of December 31, 2023. These obligations are exchangeable for cash at any time at the option of the holders for 95% of the current value of the reference shares attributable to each ZENS (\$538 million as of December 31, 2023), as discussed in Note 11 to the consolidated financial statements.
- (3) The Registrants calculated estimated interest payments for long-term debt as follows: for fixed-rate debt and term debt, the Registrants calculated interest based on the applicable rates and payment dates; for variable-rate debt and/or non-term debt, the Registrants used interest rates in place as of December 31, 2023. The Registrants typically expect to settle such interest payments with cash flows from operations and short-term borrowings.
- (4) For a discussion of commodity and other commitments, see Note 15(a) to the consolidated financial statements.

The table above does not include the following:

- estimated future payments for expected future AROs primarily estimated to be incurred after 2026. See Note 3(c) to the consolidated financial statements for further information.
- expected contributions to pension plans and other postretirement plans in 2024. See Note 8(g) to the consolidated financial statements for further information.
- operating leases. See Note 20 to the consolidated financial statements for further information.

*Off-Balance Sheet Arrangements.* Other than Houston Electric's general mortgage bonds issued as collateral for tax-exempt long-term debt of CenterPoint Energy (see Note 13 to the consolidated financial statements) and short-term leases, the Registrants have no off-balance sheet arrangements.

## Regulatory Matters

### *February 2021 Winter Storm Event*

For information about the February 2021 Winter Storm Event, see Note 7 to the consolidated financial statements.

### *Indiana Electric Securitization of Generation Retirements (CenterPoint Energy)*

For further information about the issuance of SIGECO Securitization Bonds, see Note 7 to the consolidated financial statements.

### *Indiana Electric CPCN (CenterPoint Energy)*

#### *BTAs*

On February 23, 2021, Indiana Electric filed a CPCN with the IURC seeking approval to purchase the Posey solar project. On October 27, 2021, the IURC issued an order approving the CPCN, authorizing Indiana Electric to purchase the Posey solar project through a BTA to acquire its solar array assets for a fixed purchase price and approved recovery of costs via a levelized rate over the anticipated 35-year life. Due to community feedback and rising project costs caused by inflation and supply chain issues affecting the energy industry, Indiana Electric, along with Arevon, the developer, announced plans in January 2022 to downsize the Posey solar project to 191 MW. Indiana Electric collaboratively agreed to the scope change, and on February 1, 2023, Indiana Electric entered into an amended and restated BTA that is contingent on further IURC review and approval. On February 7, 2023, Indiana Electric filed a CPCN with the IURC to approve the amended BTA. With the passage of the IRA,

Indiana Electric can now pursue PTCs for solar projects. Indiana Electric requested that project costs, net of PTCs, be recovered in rate base rather than a levelized rate, through base rates or the CECA mechanism, depending on which provides more timely recovery. On September 6, 2023 the IURC issued an order approving the CPCN. The Posey solar project is expected to be placed in service in 2025 and recovered through base rates.

On July 5, 2022, Indiana Electric entered into a BTA to acquire a 130 MW solar array in Pike County, Indiana through a special purpose entity for a capped purchase price. A CPCN for the project was filed with the IURC on July 29, 2022. On September 21, 2022, an agreement in principle was reached resolving all the issues between Indiana Electric and OUCC. The Stipulation and Settlement agreement was filed on October 6, 2022 and a settlement hearing was held on November 1, 2022. On January 11, 2023, the IURC issued an order approving the settlement agreement authorizing Indiana Electric to purchase and acquire the Pike County solar project through a BTA and approved the estimated cost. The IURC also designated the project as a clean energy project under Ind. Code Ch. 8-1-8.8, approved the proposed levelized rate and associated ratemaking and accounting treatment. Due to inflationary pressures, the developer disclosed that costs have exceeded the agreed upon levels in the BTA. Once pricing is updated and parties determine whether to continue with the project, Indiana Electric may have to refile for approval of the project with the IURC, which could delay the in-service date from 2025 to 2026. If Indiana Electric is not able to reach a mutually acceptable solution with the developers of the Pike County Solar project, Indiana Electric may seek to terminate the project.

On January 10, 2023, Indiana Electric filed a CPCN with the IURC to acquire a wind energy generating facility with installed capacity of 200 MWs through a BTA, consistent with its 2019/2020 IRP that calls for up to 300 MWs of wind generation. The wind project is located in MISO's Central Region. Indiana Electric has approval to recover the costs of the wind facility via the CECA mechanism, which is expected to be placed in service by the end of 2026. On June 6, 2023 the IURC issued an order approving the CPCN, and thereby authorizing Indiana Electric to purchase the wind generating facility. However, as of the date of this Form 10-K, Indiana Electric has not entered into any definitive agreement relating to this wind energy generating facility, and it is not certain that a definitive agreement will be entered into at all.

#### ***PPAs***

Indiana Electric also sought approval in February 2021 for a 100 MW solar PPA with Clenera LLC in Warrick County, Indiana. The request accounted for increased cost of debt related to this PPA, which provides equivalent equity return to offset imputed debt during the 25 year life of the PPA. In October 2021, the IURC approved the Warrick County solar PPA but denied the request to preemptively offset imputed debt in the PPA cost. Due to rising project costs caused by inflation and supply chain issues affecting the energy industry, Clenera LLC and Indiana Electric were compelled to renegotiate terms of the agreement to increase the PPA price. On January 17, 2023, Indiana Electric filed a request with the IURC to amend the previously approved PPA with certain modifications. Revised purchase power costs are requested to be recovered through the fuel adjustment clause proceedings over the term of the amended PPA. On May 30, 2023, the IURC approved the Warrick County solar amended PPA; however, due to MISO interconnection study delays, the developer disclosed the project in-service date could be delayed from 2025 to 2026.

On August 25, 2021, Indiana Electric filed with the IURC seeking approval to purchase 185 MW of solar power, under a 15-year PPA, from Oriden, which is developing a solar project in Vermillion County, Indiana, and 150 MW of solar power, under a 20-year PPA, from Origis, which is developing a solar project in Knox County, Indiana. On May 4, 2022, the IURC issued an order approving Indiana Electric to enter into both PPAs. In March 2022, when the results of the MISO interconnection study were completed, Origis advised Indiana Electric that the costs to construct the solar project in Knox County, Indiana had increased. The increase was largely driven by escalating commodity and supply chain costs impacting manufacturers worldwide. In August 2022, Indiana Electric and Origis entered into an amended PPA, which reiterated the terms contained in the 2021 PPA with certain modifications. On February 22, 2023 the IURC approved the Knox County solar amended PPA; however, due to MISO interconnection delays, the project in-service date could be delayed from 2024 to 2025. On January 17, 2023, Indiana Electric filed a request with the IURC to amend the previously approved PPA with Oriden with certain modifications. Revised purchase power costs were approved to be recovered through the fuel adjustment clause proceedings over the term of the amended PPA with Oriden. On May 30, 2023, the IURC approved the Vermillion County solar amended PPA; however, due to MISO interconnection study delays, the developer disclosed the project in-service date could be delayed from 2025 to 2026.

#### ***Natural Gas Combustion Turbines***

On June 17, 2021, Indiana Electric filed a CPCN with the IURC seeking approval to construct two natural gas combustion turbines to replace portions of its existing coal-fired generation fleet. On June 28, 2022, the IURC approved the CPCN. The

estimated \$334 million turbine facility is being constructed at the previous site of the A.B. Brown power plant in Posey County, Indiana and will provide a combined output of 460 MW. Indiana Electric received approval for depreciation expense and post in-service carrying costs to be deferred in a regulatory asset until the date Indiana Electric's base rates include a return on and recovery of depreciation expense on the facility. A new approximately 23.5 mile pipeline will be constructed and operated by Texas Gas Transmission, LLC to supply natural gas to the turbine facility. FERC granted a certificate to construct the pipeline on October 20, 2022. The period to challenge FERC's certificate in a federal district court expired on February 20, 2023. Indiana Electric granted its contractor a full notice to proceed to construct the turbines on December 9, 2022. The facility is targeted to be operational by mid year 2025. Recovery of the proposed natural gas combustion turbines and regulatory asset is included in the forecasted test year in the Indiana Electric rate case, which was filed with the IURC on December 5, 2023.

For more information regarding uncertainties related to our solar projects, see Item 1A of Part I of this combined Form 10-K and "—Solar Panel Issues" below.

### ***Culley Unit 3 Operations***

In June 2022, F.B. Culley Unit 3, an Indiana Electric coal-fired electric generation unit with an installed generating capacity of 270 MW, experienced an operating issue relating to its boiler feed pump turbine. The unit returned to service in March 2023. In testimony filed September 13, 2023, the OUCC and an intervenor that represents industrial customers filed testimony with the IURC alleging that Indiana Electric did not act prudently which led to the unplanned outage and recommended disallowances between \$21 million to \$27 million. On October 23, 2023, Indiana Electric filed rebuttal testimony with the IURC and an evidentiary hearing was held on November 2, 2023. Indiana Electric expects a decision from the IURC in the first half of 2024.

### ***Space City Solar Transmission Interconnection Project (CenterPoint Energy and Houston Electric)***

On December 17, 2020, Houston Electric filed a CPCN with the PUCT for approval to build a 345 kV transmission line in Wharton County, Texas connecting the Hillje substation on Houston Electric's transmission system to the planned 610 MW Space City Solar Generation facility being developed by third-party developer EDF Renewables. In November 2021, the PUCT approved a route that was estimated to cost \$25 million and issued a final order on January 12, 2022. There have been project delays due to supply chain constraints in the developer acquiring solar panels. Houston Electric substantially completed construction in the fall of 2023, and the transmission line is expected to be energized shortly after the generation facility is complete, which is anticipated to occur in the first quarter of 2025.

### ***Kilgore Transmission Project (CenterPoint Energy and Houston Electric)***

On August 30, 2023, Houston Electric filed a CCN application with the PUCT for approval to build a 138 kV double circuit transmission line in Chambers County, Texas that will loop the existing 138 kV Chevron to Langston circuit number 86 on Houston Electric's transmission system to Houston Electric's planned Kilgore substation. The actual capital costs of the project, including the transmission line and the planned Kilgore substation, will depend on actual land acquisition costs, construction costs, and other factors and have been estimated to be \$60 million to \$99 million. A decision on the approval of the project in the PUCT proceeding is expected in the first quarter of 2024.

### ***Mill Creek Transmission Project (CenterPoint Energy and Houston Electric)***

On November 17, 2023, Houston Electric filed a CCN application with the PUCT for approval to build a 138 kV double circuit transmission line in Harris and Montgomery Counties, Texas that will connect Houston Electric's transmission system to Houston Electric's planned Mill Creek substation. The actual capital costs of the project, including the transmission line and the planned Kilgore substation, will depend on actual land acquisition costs, construction costs, and other factors and have been estimated to be \$61 million to \$90 million. A decision on the approval of the project in the PUCT proceeding is expected in the second or third quarter of 2024.

### ***Texas Legislation (CenterPoint Energy, Houston Electric and CERC)***

Houston Electric and CERC are reviewing legislation passed in 2023 and associated PUCT rulemaking projects, including the following pieces of legislation that became law during the 88th Texas Legislature, including:



- House Bill 1500 is effective September 1, 2023 and continues the functions of the PUCT, the Office of Public Utility Counsel, and ERCOT through 2029. This bill also includes an amendment that clarifies the use cases under which TDUs may lease and operate temporary generation during “significant” power outages;
- House Bill 2263 is effective June 12, 2023 and authorizes local distribution companies to offer programs to promote energy conservation and to recover costs prudently incurred to implement such programs under Railroad Commission authority;
- House Bill 2555 is effective June 13, 2023 and allows an electric utility to create a transmission and distribution system resiliency plan with the PUCT and associated cost recovery to enhance its system through hardening, undergrounding certain lines, flood mitigation measures, and vegetation management. On January 18, 2024 the PUCT issued an Order adopting its Resiliency Plan Rule (16 TAC 25.62);
- Senate Bill 947 is effective September 1, 2023 and creates severe criminal offenses for intentional damage to critical infrastructure facilities that create extended power outages;
- Senate Bill 1015 is effective June 18, 2023 and allows utilities to file the DCRF twice a year, on any day the PUCT is open (at least 185 days after filing a full base rate proceeding) and setting an administrative approval timeline of 60 days;
- Senate Bill 1016 is effective May 5, 2023 and requires the PUCT to presume that all employee compensation and benefits are reasonable and necessary when establishing a utility’s rates if based upon market compensation studies issued within the last three years; it includes exceptions for utility officer incentives that are based on financial metrics. Certain incentive compensation that is in-line with market studies will be presumed reasonable and recoverable; and
- Senate Bill 1076 is effective June 2, 2023 and moves the timeline for the PUCT to approve CCN for transmission projects to 180 days after the date of filing, rather than the first anniversary of the day it was filed.

### ***Minnesota Legislation (CenterPoint Energy and CERC)***

The Natural Gas Innovation Act was passed by the Minnesota legislature in June 2021 with bipartisan support. This law establishes a regulatory framework to enable the state’s investor-owned natural gas utilities to provide customers with access to renewable energy resources and innovative technologies, with the goal of reducing GHG emissions and advancing the state’s clean energy future. The maximum allowable cost for an innovation plan will start at 1.75% of the utility’s revenue in the state and could increase to 4% by 2033, subject to review and approval by the MPUC. Specifically, the Natural Gas Innovation Act allows a natural gas utility to submit an innovation plan for approval by the MPUC which could propose the use of renewable energy resources and innovative technologies such as:

- renewable natural gas (produces energy from organic materials such as wastewater, agricultural manure, food waste, agricultural or forest waste);
- renewable hydrogen gas (produces energy from water through electrolysis with renewable electricity such as solar);
- energy efficiency measures (avoids energy consumption in excess of the utility’s existing conservation programs); and
- innovative technologies (reduces or avoids greenhouse gas emissions using technologies such as carbon capture).

On June 28, 2023, CERC submitted its first innovation plan to the MPUC; the five-year plan includes 18 pilot projects and seven smaller research-and-development projects. These projects will deploy and evaluate a broad array of innovative resources including made-in-Minnesota alternative gases such as renewable natural gas and green hydrogen as well as pioneering technologies such as a networked geothermal district energy system and end-use carbon capture. The proposed plan requires approval from the MPUC through a review process that is expected to take about one year. The MPUC requested comments by September 15, 2023 if parties believe that the filing is incomplete based on the reporting requirements or if parties do not believe that that the MPUC’s standard informal proceeding process is appropriate. No parties filed comments regarding completeness or raising concerns that the MPUC’s standard informal procedural process is inappropriate. The initial comment period closed January 15, 2024, reply comments are due March 15, 2024 and supplemental comments are due May 15, 2024; CERC anticipates the MPUC will hear this matter after the final comments are received.

### ***Solar Panel Issues (CenterPoint Energy)***

CenterPoint Energy’s current and future solar projects have been impacted by delays and/or increased costs. The potential delays and inflationary cost pressures communicated from the developers of our solar projects have been primarily due to (i) unavailability of solar panels and other uncertainties related to a DOC investigation on anti-dumping and countervailing duties petition filed by a domestic solar manufacturer, (ii) the December 2021 Uyghur Forced Labor Prevention Act on solar modules and other products manufactured in China’s Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region and (iii) persistent general global supply chain and labor availability issues. On December 2, 2022, the DOC issued its preliminary determination, finding four of the eight companies being investigated are attempting to bypass U.S. duties. On August 18, 2023, the DOC announced its final determination and found that five of the eight companies investigated are attempting to bypass U.S. duties by doing minor

processing in one of the Southeast Asian countries before shipment to the United States. Pursuant to President Biden’s executive order issued in June 2022, duties will not be collected on any solar module and cell imports from these Southeast Asian countries until June 2024, as long as the imports are consumed in the U.S. market within six months of the termination of the executive order. The executive order could be subject to legal challenges and its effects remain uncertain. The resolution of these issues will determine what additional costs or delays our solar projects will be subject to. These impacts have resulted in cost increases for certain projects, and may result in cost increases in other projects, and such impacts have resulted in, or are expected to result in, the need for us to seek additional regulatory review and approvals. Additionally, significant changes to project costs and schedules as a result of these factors could impact the viability of the projects. For more information regarding potential delays, cancellations and supply chain disruptions, see “Item 1A. Risk Factors— Risk Factors Affecting Operations — Electric Generation, Transmission and Distribution — Increases in the cost or...” in this report.

### ***TDSIC 2.0 (CenterPoint Energy)***

On May 24, 2023, Indiana Electric filed its petition and case-in-chief with the IURC requesting, among other things, approval of its five-year plan for transmission, distribution, and storage improvements pursuant to Ind. Code ch. 8-1-39 (TDSIC Plan). Intervenor filed their case in chief on August 16, 2023 and Indiana Electric filed rebuttal on August 29, 2023. A hearing was held on September 13, 2023 and an order approving the TDSIC Plan was issued on December 27, 2023. The approved five-year TDSIC Plan, covering the period January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2028, consists of approximately \$454 million in proposed investments across seven different programs: (1) Distribution 12kV Circuit Rebuild, (2) Distribution Underground Rebuild, (3) Distribution Automation, (4) Wood pole replacement, (5) Transmission Line Rebuild, (6) Substation Rebuild, and (7) Substation Physical Security.

### ***Rate Change Applications***

The Registrants are routinely involved in rate change applications before state regulatory authorities. Those applications include general rate cases, where the entire cost of service of the utility is assessed and reset. In addition, Registrants are periodically involved in proceedings to adjust its capital tracking mechanisms (e.g., CSIA, DCRF, DRR, GRIP, TCOS, ECA, CECA and TDSIC), its cost of service adjustments (e.g., RSP and RRA), its decoupling mechanism (e.g., Decoupling and SRC), and its energy efficiency cost trackers (e.g., CIP, DSMA, EECR, EECRF, EEFC and EEFR).

*Houston Electric Rate Case.* Texas law mandates that electric utilities file a base rate proceeding no later than every four years from the date of their last base rate proceeding final order. Houston Electric’s most recent base rate proceeding order was approved by the PUCT on March 9, 2020, in Docket No. 49421. Therefore, Houston Electric is required to file its next base rate proceeding no later than March 9, 2024.

*Texas Gas Rate Case.* On October 30, 2023 CERC filed an application with the Railroad Commission and municipal regulatory authorities to set new natural gas base rates that would be applied consistently across the approximately 1.9 million customers. The requested increase is approximately 3.1% or \$37 million based on an historical test year ending June 30, 2023. The need for a rate change is primarily driven by the continuing investment in the safety and reliability of the natural gas system, including new Intelis natural gas meters that feature an integrated safety shutoff valve, changes to depreciation rates that better reflect the actual life and salvage characteristics of assets, and changes in other costs to serve customers. The request reflects a proposed 10.50% ROE on a 60.61% equity ratio. Intervenor testimony is due in early March 2024, followed by staff testimony. Rebuttal testimony is due in late March 2024 and a hearing on the merits is scheduled for mid-April 2024. A final order is expected in Q2 2024.

*Minnesota Rate Case.* On November 1, 2023, CERC filed an application with the MPUC requesting an adjustment to delivery charges in 2024 and 2025 for the natural gas business in Minnesota. The requested increase is approximately 6.5% or \$85 million for 2024 and an additional approximately 3.7% or \$52 million for 2025. The need for a rate change is primarily driven by the continuing investment in the safety and reliability of the natural gas system, including new Intelis natural gas meters that feature an integrated safety shutoff valve, changes to depreciation rates that better reflect the actual life and salvage characteristics of assets, and changes in other costs to serve customers. The request reflects a proposed 10.3% ROE on a 52.5% equity ratio. Interim rates of \$69 million were implemented as of January 1, 2024. A decision on 2025 interim rates was delayed until the fourth quarter of 2024. The anticipated decision date of the rate case is July 1, 2025.

*Indiana Electric Rate Case.* On December 5, 2023, Indiana Electric filed a petition with the IURC for authority to modify its rates and charges for electric utility service through a phase-in of rates. The requested increase is approximately 16% or \$119 million based on a forward looking 2025 test year. The need for a rate increase is primarily driven by the continuing investment that is being made to ensure the safety and reliability of the system and normal increases in operating expenses. The rate case

reflects a proposed 10.4% ROE on a 55% equity ratio. A hearing is scheduled for late-April through mid-May 2024. A final order is expected in the fourth quarter of 2024.

The table below reflects significant applications pending or completed since the Registrants' combined 2022 Form 10-K was filed with the SEC through February 20, 2024.

| Mechanism  | Annual Increase (Decrease) <sup>(1)</sup><br>(in millions of dollars) | Filing Date   | Effective Date | Approval Date  | Additional Information  |
|--|---|---------------|----------------|----------------|---|
| <b>CenterPoint Energy and Houston Electric (PUCT)</b>  |   |               |                |                |   |
| DCRF (1)   | 86  | December 2023 | TBD            | TBD            | Based on the net change in distribution invested capital since its last base rate proceeding of approximately \$2.5 billion for the period January 1, 2019 through September 30, 2023 for a revenue increase of \$86 million, adjusted for load growth. This is the second DCRF filing made in 2023; filing two DCRFs in a year was authorized in 2023 legislative session. A request for interim rates to be implemented on February 12, 2024 was also made on December 14, 2023; the interim rate request was denied on January 9, 2024. On December 28, 2023, an intervenor requested a good cause extension, on January 5, 2024, certain parties supported it, and it was granted on January 9, 2024. On January 24, 2024, certain intervenors requested an evidentiary hearing, and the request was denied on January 25, 2024. On February 5, 2024, Houston Electric notified the ALJ that the parties have reached an agreement in principle on all issues in this proceeding, and filed an agreed expedited motion for interim rates. On February 6, 2024, the PUCT ALJ issued an order denying to abate the proceeding and retaining the procedural schedule already established. On February 7, 2024, Houston Electric on behalf of itself and all parties responded to the February 6, 2024 order to clarify that the abatement request was not intended to alter the statutory timeframe for a decision. On February 9, 2024, the PUCT ALJ issued an order setting filing deadlines and requesting briefing on interim rates. On February 13, 2024, interim rates designed to collect \$220 million (\$73 million incremental) were approved, to be effective April 2024. |
| TCOS   | 44  | August 2023   | October 2023   | October 2023   | Based on net change in invested capital of \$405 million for the period February 1, 2023 through June 30, 2023. Notice of Approval issued October 6, 2023.  |
| EECRF (1)  | 16  | June 2023     | March 2024     | November 2023  | The requested \$53 million is comprised primarily of the following: 2024 program costs of \$38 million; a credit of \$2 million related to the over-recovery of 2022 program costs; the 2022 earned bonus of \$16 million; and 2024 projected evaluation, measurement and verification costs of \$1 million. An order approving performance bonus and rates was issued November 3, 2023.  |
| DCRF   | 70  | April 2023    | September 2023 | September 2023 | The net change in distribution invested capital since its last base rate proceeding of approximately \$1.9 billion for the period January 1, 2019 through December 31, 2022 for a revenue increase of \$85 million, adjusted for load growth. On July 14, 2023 a settlement was filed that results in a revenue increase of \$70 million adjusted for load growth. Order approving the rates included in the settlement was issued September 14, 2023.  |
| TEEEF (1)  | 114   | April 2023    | December 2023  | February 2024  | A total Rider TEEEF revenue requirement of \$188 million for cost incurred through December 31, 2022. The revenue change between the rates resulting from the 2022 TEEEF and this application is \$149 million. Interim rates effective September 1, 2023. Settlement in principle announced and motion to abate filed October 12, 2023 and updated interim rates were effective December 15, 2023. The settlement incorporates an 8 1/2 year amortization period. The PUCT approved the settlement in its order that was issued February 1, 2024.  |
| TCOS   | 40  | March 2023    | May 2023       | May 2023       | Based on net change in invested capital of \$367 million for the period August 1, 2022 through January 31, 2023.  |
| DCRF and TEEEF   | 117   | April 2022    | April 2023     | April 2023     | Original filing included both capital that has traditionally been recovered under DCRF and TEEEF capital; the filing was separated into traditional DCRF and TEEEF in June 2022. The traditional DCRF portion revenue requirement of \$78 million was approved and was implemented September 1, 2022. A final order was issued on April 5, 2023 approving a TEEEF revenue requirement of \$39 million with rates effective April 15, 2023. On April 28, 2023 and May 1, 2023 certain intervenors filed motions for rehearing of the PUCT's April 5, 2023 order. On May 25, 2023 the PUCT issued its order on rehearing which clarified some of the findings, but did not change the approval of TEEEF cost recovery. On June 19, 2023 certain intervenors filed motions for rehearing of the May 25, 2023 order on rehearing. The PUCT denied the motions for rehearing in an order issued on August 3, 2023. See Note 7 to the consolidated financial statements for further information.  |
| <b>CenterPoint Energy and CERC - Beaumont/East Texas, South Texas, Houston and Texas Coast (Railroad Commission)</b> |   |               |                |                |   |
| GRIP   | 60  | March 2023    | June 2023      | June 2023      | Based on net change in invested capital for calendar year 2022 of \$390 million.  |
| Rate Case (1)  | 37  | October 2023  | TBD            | TBD            | See discussion above under <i>Texas Gas Rate Case</i> .   |

| Mechanism  | Annual Increase (Decrease) <sup>(1)</sup><br>(in millions of dollars) | Filing Date            | Effective Date | Approval Date | Additional Information  |
|--|---|------------------------|----------------|---------------|---|
| <b>CenterPoint Energy and CERC - Louisiana (LPSC)</b>  |   |                        |                |               |   |
| RSP  | 6   | September 2022         | May 2023       | April 2023    | Based on ROE of 9.95% with 50 basis point (+/-) earnings band. The North Louisiana increase, net of TCJA effects considered outside of the earnings band, is \$3 million based on a test year ended June 2022 and adjusted ROE of 7.05%. The South Louisiana increase, net of TCJA effects considered outside of the earnings band, is \$5 million based on a test year ended June 2022 and adjusted ROE of 4.19%. The TCJA refund impact to North Louisiana and South Louisiana was \$1 million and \$1 million, respectively. North Louisiana and South Louisiana also seek to recover regulatory assets due to COVID-19 bad debt expenses in the amounts of \$0.7 million and \$0.3 million, respectively. On April 5, 2023 the LPSC issued an order approving a joint settlement for \$2.7 million in North Louisiana and \$4.6 million in South Louisiana in addition to the full impacts of TCJA and COVID-19 recoveries. Implementation occurred in May 2023 upon approval of compliance tariff.   |
| RSP <sup>(1)</sup>                                     | 12  | September/October 2023 | TBD            | TBD           | Based on ROE of 9.95% with 50 basis point (+/-) earnings band. The North Louisiana increase, net of TCJA effects considered outside of the earnings band and completion of COVID-19 asset recovery, is \$8 million based on a test year ended June 2023 and adjusted ROE of 3.67%. The South Louisiana increase, net of TCJA effects considered outside of the earnings band and completion of COVID-19 asset recovery, is \$5 million based on a test year ended June 2023 and adjusted ROE of 5.47%. The TCJA refund impact to North Louisiana and South Louisiana was \$0.6 million and \$0.4 million, respectively. South Louisiana interim rates were implemented on December 28, 2023, subject to refund. North Louisiana interim rates were implemented on January 29, 2024. Staff reports issued on January 31, 2024 recommended disallowances of \$0.3 million and \$0.2 million in North and South Louisiana, respectively.   |
| <b>CenterPoint Energy and CERC - Minnesota (MPUC)</b>  |   |                        |                |               |   |
| CIP Financial Incentive                                | 8   | May 2023               | September 2023 | October 2023  | CIP Financial Incentive based on 2022 CIP program activity.   |
| Rate Case <sup>(1)</sup>                               | 136   | November 2023          | TBD            | TBD           | See discussion above under <i>Minnesota Rate Case</i> .   |
| <b>CenterPoint Energy and CERC - Mississippi</b>       |   |                        |                |               |   |
| RRA  | 7   | May 2023               | October 2023   | October 2023  | Based ROE of 10.098% with 100 basis point (+/-) earnings band. Revenue increase of approximately \$8 million based on 2022 test year adjusted earned ROE of 5.66%. Interim increase of approximately \$1 million implemented May 31, 2023. Settled increase of approximately \$7 million approved and implemented October 3, 2023. Order authorized recovery of regulatory assets due to COVID-19 in the amount of \$0.3 million over the 2024 calendar year.   |
| <b>CenterPoint Energy - Indiana South - Gas (IURC)</b> |   |                        |                |               |   |
| CSIA   | 3   | April 2023             | July 2023      | July 2023     | Requested an increase of \$33 million to rate base, which reflects approximately \$3 million annual increase in current revenues. 80% of revenue requirement is included in requested rate increase and 20% is deferred until the next rate case. The mechanism also includes a change in (over)/under-recovery variance of \$1 million annually. Also included are unrecovered deferred operations and maintenance expenses of \$9 million. OUCC filed on June 2, 2023, recommending approval of the proposed CSIA rates and updated plan as filed, with non-cost recommendations. Rebuttal testimony filed June 16, 2023. A hearing was held June 28, 2023. The IURC issued an Order approving the CSIA on July 26, 2023.   |
| CSIA   | 3   | October 2023           | February 2024  | January 2024  | Requested an increase of \$31 million to rate base, which reflects approximately \$3 million annual increase in current revenues. 80% of revenue requirement is included in requested rate increase and 20% is deferred until the next rate case. The mechanism also includes a change in (over)/under-recovery variance of \$1 million annually. OUCC filed on December 8, 2023, recommending disallowance of two projects for customer-side replacements. Engineering rebuttal testimony was filed December 15, 2023, stating why costs were necessary for safety and integrity of customers and system. Responded to IURC docket entry requesting additional information on January 2, 2024. A hearing was held January 3, 2024. The IURC issued an order on January 31, 2024, approving the CSIA with the exception of the two projects for customer-side replacements which are not authorized for recovery. Indiana South filed revised revenue requirement schedules removing the two project costs with its compliance filing. Revised rates were effective February 1, 2024. |

| Mechanism   | Annual Increase (Decrease) <sup>(1)</sup><br>(in millions of dollars) | Filing Date   | Effective Date | Approval Date | Additional Information  |
|---|---|---------------|----------------|---------------|---|
| <b>CenterPoint Energy and CERC - Indiana North - Gas (IURC)</b> |   |               |                |               |   |
| CSIA  | 9   | April 2023    | July 2023      | July 2023     | Requested an increase of \$95 million to rate base, which reflects approximately \$9 million annual increase in current revenues. 80% of revenue requirement is included in requested rate increase and 20% is deferred until the next rate case. The mechanism also includes a change in (over)/under-recovery variance of \$5 million annually. Also included are unrecovered deferred operations and maintenance expenses of \$20 million. OUCC filed on June 2, 2023, recommending approval of the proposed CSIA rates and updated plan as filed, with non-cost recommendations. Rebuttal testimony was filed on June 16, 2023. A hearing was held June 28, 2023. The IURC issued an Order approving the CSIA on July 26, 2023.   |
| CSIA  | 9   | October 2023  | January 2024   | January 2024  | Requested an increase of \$98 million to rate base, which reflects approximately \$9 million annual increase in current revenues. 80% of revenue requirement is included in requested rate increase and 20% is deferred until the next rate case. The mechanism also includes a change in (over)/under-recovery variance of \$1 million annually. OUCC filed on December 8, 2023, recommending approval as filed. Responded to IURC Docket entry requesting additional information on January 2, 2024. A hearing was held January 3, 2024. The IURC issued an Order approving the CSIA on January 31, 2024 with rates effective January 31, 2024.   |
| <b>CenterPoint Energy and CERC - Ohio (PUCO)</b>                |   |               |                |               |   |
| DRR <sup>(1)</sup>  | 6   | May 2023      | September 2023 | August 2023   | Requested an increase of \$46 million to rate base for investments made in 2022, which reflects a \$6 million annual increase in current revenues. A change in (over)/under-recovery variance of \$0.3 million annually is also included in rates. PUCO staff review and recommendation filed June 29, 2023, recommending approval as proposed. VEDO statement of issues resolved in case filed July 14, 2023. PUCO issued a Finding & Order approving the DRR August 23, 2023, and revised rates effective September 1, 2023.  |
| <b>CenterPoint Energy - Indiana Electric (IURC)</b>             |   |               |                |               |   |
| TDSIC   | 2   | February 2023 | June 2023      | May 2023      | Requested an increase of \$31 million to rate base, which reflects a \$5 million annual increase in current revenues. 80% of the revenue requirement is included in requested rate increase and 20% is deferred until next rate case. The mechanism also includes a change in (over)/under-recovery variance and a tax reform credit for a total of (\$1 million). OUCC filed on April 3, 2023, recommending approval of the proposed TDSIC rates and updated plan as filed. A hearing was held on May 3, 2023. On May 30, 2023, the IURC issued an order approving the TDSIC rates and updated plan as filed with rates effective June 1, 2023.  |
| CECA  | —   | February 2023 | June 2023      | May 2023      | Requested an increase of less than \$1 million to rate base, which reflects an annual increase of less than \$1 million in current revenues. The mechanism also includes a change in (over)/under-recovery variance of less than (\$1 million). OUCC filed on March 31, 2023, recommending approval of the proposed CECA cost recovery with a reduction of approximately \$0.3 million. Rebuttal testimony was filed on April 6, 2023. A hearing was held on May 3, 2023. On May 30, 2023, the IURC issued an order approving the CECA rates with a cost recovery reduction of approximately \$0.3 million with rates effective June 6, 2023.   |
| ECA <sup>(1)</sup>  | 1   | May 2023      | February 2024  | February 2024 | Requested an increase of \$51 million to rate base, which reflects a \$1 million annual increase in current revenues. 80% of the revenue requirement is included in requested rate increase and 20% is deferred until next rate case. The mechanism also includes a change in (over)/under-recovery variance of less than \$1 million. A hearing was held on October 24, 2023. Indiana Electric filed a proposed order on October 31, 2023. The OUCC filed a proposed order on November 8, 2023. Indiana Electric filed a response to the OUCC proposed order on November 15, 2023. A final order was issued February 7, 2024 with rates effective February 8, 2024.  |
| DSMA <sup>(1)</sup>   | 16  | July 2023     | January 2024   | November 2023 | The requested \$45 million is comprised primarily of the following: 2024 program costs of \$11 million and \$26 million of lost revenue, \$3 million related to the over-recovery of 2022 program costs and \$11 million under-recovery related to a prior period variance adjustment; the requested \$45 million is an increase of \$16 million compared to the prior DSMA. A settlement between Indiana Electric and the OUCC was reached concerning the \$11 million under-recovery which resolves all issues related to the DSMA for January through December 2024 including the \$11 million under-recovery. The settlement provides that the IURC should approve the DSMA and that Indiana Electric will arrange for educational training on demand side management offerings. A settlement hearing was held on October 24, 2023. The IURC issued an Order approving the settlement on November 22, 2023, with rates effective January 1, 2024. |

| Mechanism     | Annual Increase (Decrease) <sup>(1)</sup><br>(in millions of dollars) | Filing Date   | Effective Date | Approval Date | Additional Information   |
|---------------|---|---------------|----------------|---------------|--|
| TDSIC (1)     | 3   | August 2023   | November 2023  | November 2023 | Requested an increase of \$27 million to rate base, which reflects a \$3 million annual increase in current revenues. 80% of the revenue requirement is included in requested rate increase and 20% is deferred until next rate case. The mechanism also includes a change in (over)/under-recovery variance and a tax reform credit for a total of (\$0.2 million). OUCC filed on October 2, 2023 recommending approval of the proposed TDSIC rates. A hearing was held on October 31, 2023. The IURC issued an Order approving the TDSIC on November 29, 2023, with rates effective November 30, 2023. |
| Rate Case (1) | 119   | December 2023 | TBD            | TBD           | See discussion above under <i>Indiana Electric Rate Case</i> .   |
| TDSIC(1)      | 5   | February 2024 | TBD            | TBD           | Requested an increase of \$36 million to rate base, which reflects a \$5 million annual increase in current revenues. 80% of the revenue requirement is included in requested rate increase and 20% is deferred until next rate case. The mechanism also includes a change in (over)/under-recovery variance and a tax reform credit for a total of (\$1 million). OUCC is expected to file testimony on April 2, 2024 and a hearing is scheduled for April 30, 2024.  |
| CECA (1)      | —   | February 2024 | TBD            | TBD           | Requested a decrease of \$1 million to rate base, which reflects no change in current revenues. The mechanism also includes a change in (over)/under-recovery variance of \$0.1 million.   |

(1) Represents proposed increases (decreases) when effective date and/or approval date is not yet determined. Approved rates could differ materially from proposed rates.

### ***Inflation Reduction Act (IRA)***

On August 16, 2022, the IRA was signed into law. The new law extends or creates tax-related energy incentives for solar, wind and alternative clean energy sources, implements, subject to certain exceptions, a 1% tax on share repurchases after December 31, 2022, and implements a 15% CAMT based on the adjusted financial statement income of certain large corporations. Corporations are entitled to a CAMT credit to the extent CAMT liability exceeds regular tax liability, which can be carried forward indefinitely and used in future years when regular tax exceeds the CAMT. The IRA did not have a material impact on the Registrants' 2023 financial results. It is likely that CenterPoint Energy and the Registrant Subsidiaries will owe CAMT in excess of their regular tax liability beginning in 2024. As a result, CenterPoint Energy and the Registrant Subsidiaries expect a temporary increase in federal cash tax payments due to this provision.

### ***Greenhouse Gas Regulation and Compliance (CenterPoint Energy)***

On August 3, 2015, the EPA released its CPP rule, which required a 32% reduction in carbon emissions from 2005 levels. The final rule was published in the Federal Register on October 23, 2015, and that action was immediately followed by litigation ultimately resulting in the U.S. Supreme Court staying implementation of the rule. On July 8, 2019, the EPA published the ACE rule, which (i) repealed the CPP rule; (ii) replaced the CPP rule with a program that requires states to implement a program of energy efficiency improvement targets for individual coal-fired electric generating units; and (iii) amended the implementing regulations for Section 111(d) of the Clean Air Act. On January 19, 2021, the majority of the ACE rule — including the CPP repeal, CPP replacement, and the timing-related portions of the Section 111(d) implementing rule — was struck down by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit and on October 29, 2021, the U.S. Supreme Court agreed to consider four petitions filed by various coal interests and a coalition of 19 states. On June 30, 2022, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that the EPA exceeded its authority in promulgating the CPP. On May 11, 2023, the EPA announced proposed emission limits and guidelines for carbon dioxide from fossil fuel-fired power plants under Section 111 of the Clean Air Act which, if finalized, apply new GHG performance standards for those existing coal-fired units expected to continue operation beyond December 31, 2029. We will continue to evaluate the applicability of the rule to existing and new gas-fired generating units, but would note that CenterPoint Energy does not currently have plans to operate any of its coal-fired units beyond December 2029.

The Biden administration recommitted the United States to the Paris Agreement, which has driven a renewed regulatory push to require further GHG emission reductions from the energy sector and proceeded to lead negotiations at the global climate conference in Glasgow, Scotland. On April 22, 2021, President Biden announced new goals of 50% reduction of economy-wide GHG emissions, and 100% carbon-free electricity by 2035, which formed the basis of the U.S. commitments announced in Glasgow. In September 2021, CenterPoint Energy announced its net zero emissions goals for both Scope 1 emissions and certain Scope 2 emissions by 2035 as well as a goal to reduce certain Scope 3 emissions by 20% to 30% by 2035.

Because Texas is an unregulated market, CenterPoint Energy's Scope 2 estimates do not take into account Texas electric transmission and distribution assets in the line loss calculation and, in addition, exclude emissions related to purchased power in Indiana between 2024 and 2026 as estimated. CenterPoint Energy's Scope 3 emissions estimates are based on the total natural gas supply delivered to residential and commercial customers as reported in the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA) Form EIA-176 reports and do not take into account the emissions of transport customers and emissions related to upstream extraction. These emission goals are expected to be used to position CenterPoint Energy to comply with anticipated future regulatory requirements from the current and future administrations to further reduce GHG emissions. CenterPoint Energy's and CERC's revenues, operating costs and capital requirements could be adversely affected as a result of any regulatory action that would require installation of new control technologies or a modification of their operations or would have the effect of reducing the consumption of natural gas. The IRA established the Methane Emissions Reduction Program, which imposes a charge on methane emissions from certain natural gas transmission facilities, and the EPA has proposed new regulations targeting reductions in methane emissions, which if implemented will increase costs related to production, transmission and storage of natural gas. Houston Electric, in contrast to some electric utilities including Indiana Electric, does not generate electricity, other than TEEEF, and thus is not directly exposed to the risk of high capital costs and regulatory uncertainties that face electric utilities that burn fossil fuels to generate electricity. CenterPoint Energy's net zero emissions goals are aligned with Indiana Electric's generation transition plan and are expected to position Indiana Electric to comply with anticipated future regulatory requirements related to GHG emissions reductions. Nevertheless, Houston Electric's and Indiana Electric's revenues could be adversely affected to the extent any resulting regulatory action has the effect of reducing consumption of electricity by ultimate consumers within their respective service territories. Likewise, incentives to conserve energy or to use energy sources other than natural gas could result in a decrease in demand for the Registrants' services. For example, Minnesota has enacted the Natural Gas Innovation Act that seeks to provide customers with access to renewable energy resources and innovative technologies, with the goal of reducing GHG emissions. Further, certain local government bodies have introduced or are considering requirements and/or incentives to reduce energy consumption by certain specified dates. For example, Minneapolis has adopted carbon emission reduction goals in an effort to decrease reliance on fossil natural gas. Additionally, cities in Minnesota within CenterPoint Energy's Natural Gas operational footprint are considering initiatives to eliminate natural gas use in buildings and focus on electrification. Also, Minnesota cities may consider seeking legislative authority for the ability to enact voluntary enhanced energy standards for all development projects. These initiatives could have a significant impact on CenterPoint Energy and its operations, and this impact could increase if other cities and jurisdictions in its service area enact similar initiatives. Further, our third-party suppliers, vendors and partners may also be impacted by climate change laws and regulations, which could impact CenterPoint Energy's business by, among other things, causing permitting and construction delays, project cancellations or increased project costs passed on to CenterPoint Energy. Conversely, regulatory actions that effectively promote the consumption of natural gas because of its lower emissions characteristics would be expected to benefit CenterPoint Energy and CERC and their natural gas-related businesses. At this time, however, we cannot quantify the magnitude of the impacts from possible new regulatory actions related to GHG emissions, either positive or negative, on the Registrants' businesses.

Compliance costs and other effects associated with climate change, reductions in GHG emissions and obtaining renewable energy sources remain uncertain. Although the amount of compliance costs remains uncertain, any new regulation or legislation relating to climate change will likely result in an increase in compliance costs. While the requirements of a federal or state rule remain uncertain, CenterPoint Energy will continue to monitor regulatory activity regarding GHG emission standards that may affect its business. Currently, CenterPoint Energy does not purchase carbon credits. In connection with its net zero emissions goals, CenterPoint Energy is expected to purchase carbon credits in the future; however, CenterPoint Energy does not currently expect the number of credits, or cost for those credits, to be material.

### *Climate Change Trends and Uncertainties*

As a result of increased awareness regarding climate change, coupled with adverse economic conditions, availability of alternative energy sources, including private solar, microturbines, fuel cells, energy-efficient buildings and energy storage devices, and new regulations restricting emissions, including potential regulations of methane emissions, some consumers and companies may use less energy, meet their own energy needs through alternative energy sources or avoid expansions of their facilities, including natural gas facilities, resulting in less demand for the Registrants' services. As these technologies become a more cost-competitive option over time, whether through cost effectiveness or government incentives and subsidies, certain customers may choose to meet their own energy needs and subsequently decrease usage of the Registrants' systems and services, which may result in, among other things, Indiana Electric's generating facilities becoming less competitive and economical. Further, evolving investor sentiment related to the use of fossil fuels and initiatives to restrict continued production of fossil fuels have had significant impacts on CenterPoint Energy's electric generation and natural gas businesses. For example, because Indiana Electric's current generating facilities substantially rely on coal for their operations, certain financial institutions choose not to participate in CenterPoint Energy's financing arrangements. Conversely, demand for the Registrants'

services may increase as a result of customer changes in response to climate change. For example, as the utilization of electric vehicles increases, demand for electricity may increase, resulting in increased usage of CenterPoint Energy's systems and services. Any negative opinions with respect to CenterPoint Energy's environmental practices or its ability to meet the challenges posed by climate change formed by regulators, customers, investors, legislators or other stakeholders could harm its reputation.

To address these developments, CenterPoint Energy announced its net zero emissions goals for both Scope 1 emissions and certain Scope 2 emissions by 2035. Indiana Electric's 2019/2020 IRP identified a preferred portfolio that retires 730 MW of coal-fired generation facilities and replaces these resources with a mix of generating resources composed primarily of renewables, including solar, wind, and solar with storage, supported by dispatchable natural gas combustion turbines including a pipeline to serve such natural gas generation. Indiana Electric continues to execute on its 2019/2020 IRP and has received initial approvals for 756 MWs of the 700-1,000 MWs identified within Indiana Electric's 2019/2020 IRP. Additionally, as reflected in its 10-year capital plan announced in September 2021, CenterPoint Energy anticipates spending over \$3 billion in cleaner energy investments and enablement, which may be used to support, among other things, renewable energy generation and electric vehicle expansion. CenterPoint Energy believes its planned investments in renewable energy generation and corresponding planned reduction in its GHG emissions as part of its net zero emissions goals support global efforts to reduce the impacts of climate change. Indiana Electric has conducted a new IRP, which was submitted to the IURC in May 2023, to identify an appropriate generation resource portfolio to satisfy the needs of its customers and comply with environmental regulations. The proposed preferred portfolio is the second evolution to the generation transition plan to move away from coal-fired generation to a more sustainable portfolio of resources. Indiana Electric plans to convert its last remaining coal unit to natural gas by 2027 and to add a significant amount of additional renewable resources through 2033. For more information regarding CenterPoint Energy's net zero emission goals and the risks associated with them, see "Risk Factors — Risk Factors Affecting Regulatory, Environmental and Legal Risks — CenterPoint Energy is subject to operational and financial risks..."

To the extent climate changes result in warmer temperatures in the Registrants' service territories, financial results from the Registrants' businesses could be adversely impacted. For example, CenterPoint Energy's and CERC's Natural Gas could be adversely affected through lower natural gas sales. On the other hand, warmer temperatures in CenterPoint Energy's and Houston Electric's electric service territory may increase revenues from transmission and distribution and generation through increased demand for electricity used for cooling. Another possible result of climate change is more frequent and more severe weather events, such as hurricanes, tornadoes and flooding, including such storms as the February 2021 Winter Storm Event. Since many of the Registrants' facilities are located along or near the Texas gulf coast, increased or more severe hurricanes or tornadoes could increase costs to repair damaged facilities and restore service to customers. CenterPoint Energy's current 10-year capital plan includes capital expenditures to maintain reliability and safety and increase resiliency of its systems as climate change may result in more frequent significant weather events. Houston Electric does not own or operate any electric generation facilities other than, since September 2021, its operation of TEEEF. Houston Electric transmits and distributes to customers of REPs electric power that the REPs obtain from power generation facilities owned by third parties. To the extent adverse weather conditions affect the Registrants' suppliers, results from their energy delivery businesses may suffer. For example, in Texas, the February 2021 Winter Storm Event caused an electricity generation shortage that was severely disruptive to Houston Electric's service territory and the wholesale generation market and also caused a reduction in available natural gas capacity. When the Registrants cannot deliver electricity or natural gas to customers, or customers cannot receive services, the Registrants' financial results can be impacted by lost revenues, and they generally must seek approval from regulators to recover restoration costs. To the extent the Registrants are unable to recover those costs, or if higher rates resulting from recovery of such costs result in reduced demand for services, the Registrants' future financial results may be adversely impacted. Further, as the intensity and frequency of significant weather events continues, it may impact our ability to secure cost-efficient insurance.

## **Other Matters**

### ***Credit Facilities***

The Registrants may draw on their respective revolving credit facilities from time to time to provide funds used for general corporate and limited liability company purposes, including to backstop CenterPoint Energy's and CERC's commercial paper programs. The facilities may also be utilized to obtain letters of credit. For further details related to the Registrants' revolving credit facilities, please see Note 13 to the consolidated financial statements.

Based on the consolidated debt to capitalization covenant in the Registrants' revolving credit facilities, the Registrants would have been permitted to utilize the full capacity of such revolving credit facilities, which aggregated approximately \$4.0 billion as of December 31, 2023.



As of February 12, 2024, the Registrants had the following revolving credit facilities and utilization of such facilities:

| Registrant                   | Size of Facility | Amount Utilized as of February 12, 2024 |                   |                  | Weighted Average Interest Rate | Termination Date |
|------------------------------|------------------|---|-------------------|------------------|--------------------------------|------------------|
|                              |                  | Loans                                   | Letters of Credit | Commercial Paper |                                |                  |
|                              |                  | (in millions)                           |                   |                  |                                |                  |
| CenterPoint Energy .....     | \$ 2,400         | \$ —                                    | \$ —              | \$ 1,272         | 5.51%                          | December 6, 2027 |
| CenterPoint Energy (1) ..... | 250              | —                                       | —                 | —                | —%                             | December 6, 2027 |
| Houston Electric .....       | 300              | —                                       | —                 | —                | —%                             | December 6, 2027 |
| CERC .....                   | 1,050            | —                                       | 1                 | 359              | 5.49%                          | December 6, 2027 |
| Total .....                  | <u>\$ 4,000</u>  | <u>\$ —</u>                             | <u>\$ 1</u>       | <u>\$ 1,631</u>  |                                |                  |

(1) This credit facility was issued by SIGECO.

Borrowings under each of the revolving credit facilities are subject to customary terms and conditions. However, there is no requirement that the borrower makes representations prior to borrowing as to the absence of material adverse changes or litigation that could be expected to have a material adverse effect. Borrowings under each of the revolving credit facilities are subject to acceleration upon the occurrence of events of default that we consider customary. The revolving credit facilities also provide for customary fees, including commitment fees, administrative agent fees, fees in respect of letters of credit and other fees. In each of the revolving credit facilities, the spread to SOFR and the commitment fees fluctuate based on the borrower's credit rating. Each of the Registrant's credit facilities provide for a mechanism to replace SOFR with possible alternative benchmarks upon certain benchmark replacement events. The borrowers are currently in compliance with the various business and financial covenants in the four revolving credit facilities.

### ***Debt Transactions***

For detailed information about the Registrants' debt transactions in 2023, see Note 13 to the consolidated financial statements.

### ***Securities Registered with the SEC***

On May 17, 2023, the Registrants filed a joint shelf registration statement with the SEC registering indeterminate principal amounts of Houston Electric's general mortgage bonds, CERC Corp.'s senior debt securities and CenterPoint Energy's senior debt securities and junior subordinated debt securities and an indeterminate number of shares of Common Stock, shares of preferred stock, depositary shares, as well as stock purchase contracts and equity units. The joint shelf registration statement will expire on May 17, 2026. For information related to the Registrants' debt issuances in 2023, see Note 13 to the consolidated financial statements.

### ***Temporary Investments***

As of February 12, 2024, the Registrants had no temporary investments.

### ***Money Pool***

The Registrants participate in a money pool through which they and certain of their subsidiaries can borrow or invest on a short-term basis. Funding needs are aggregated and external borrowing or investing is based on the net cash position. The net funding requirements of the CenterPoint Energy money pool are expected to be met with borrowings under CenterPoint Energy's revolving credit facility or the sale of CenterPoint Energy's commercial paper. The net funding requirements of the CERC money pool are expected to be met with borrowings under CERC's revolving credit facility or the sale of CERC's commercial paper. The money pool may not provide sufficient funds to meet the Registrants' cash needs.

The table below summarizes CenterPoint Energy money pool activity by Registrant as of February 12, 2024:

|                              | Weighted Average Interest Rate | Houston Electric |    | CERC |   |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------|----|------|---|
|                              |                                | (in millions)    |    |      |   |
| Money pool investments ..... | 5.57%                          | \$               | 60 | \$   | — |

### ***Impact on Liquidity of a Downgrade in Credit Ratings***

The interest rate on borrowings under the Registrants' credit facilities is based on their respective credit ratings. As of February 12, 2024, Moody's, S&P and Fitch had assigned the following credit ratings to senior debt of the Registrants:

| Registrant         | Borrower/Instrument                           | Moody's |             | S&P    |             | Fitch  |             |
|--------------------|---|---------|-------------|--------|-------------|--------|-------------|
|                    |   | Rating  | Outlook (1) | Rating | Outlook (2) | Rating | Outlook (3) |
| CenterPoint Energy | CenterPoint Energy Senior Unsecured Debt..... | Baa2    | Stable      | BBB    | Stable      | BBB    | Stable      |
| CenterPoint Energy | Vectren Corp. Issuer Rating ....              | n/a     | n/a         | BBB+   | Stable      | n/a    | n/a         |
| CenterPoint Energy | SIGECO Senior Secured Debt.                   | A1      | Stable      | A      | Stable      | n/a    | n/a         |
| Houston Electric   | Houston Electric Senior Secured Debt.....     | A2      | Stable      | A      | Stable      | A      | Stable      |
| CERC               | CERC Corp. Senior Unsecured Debt .....        | A3      | Stable      | BBB+   | Stable      | A-     | Stable      |
| CERC               | Indiana Gas Senior Unsecured Debt.....        | n/a     | n/a         | BBB+   | Stable      | n/a    | n/a         |

- (1) A Moody's rating outlook is an opinion regarding the likely direction of an issuer's rating over the medium term.
- (2) An S&P outlook assesses the potential direction of a long-term credit rating over the intermediate to longer term.
- (3) A Fitch rating outlook indicates the direction a rating is likely to move over a one- to two-year period.

The Registrants cannot assure that the ratings set forth above will remain in effect for any given period of time or that one or more of these ratings will not be lowered or withdrawn entirely by a rating agency. The Registrants note that these credit ratings are included for informational purposes and are not recommendations to buy, sell or hold the Registrants' securities and may be revised or withdrawn at any time by the rating agency. Each rating should be evaluated independently of any other rating. Any future reduction or withdrawal of one or more of the Registrants' credit ratings could have a material adverse impact on the Registrants' ability to obtain short- and long-term financing, the cost of such financings and the execution of the Registrants' commercial strategies.

A decline in credit ratings could increase borrowing costs under the Registrants' revolving credit facilities. If the Registrants' credit ratings had been downgraded one notch by S&P and Moody's from the ratings that existed as of December 31, 2023, the impact on the borrowing costs under the four revolving credit facilities would have been insignificant. A decline in credit ratings would also increase the interest rate on long-term debt to be issued in the capital markets and could negatively impact the Registrants' ability to complete capital market transactions and to access the commercial paper market. Additionally, a decline in credit ratings could increase cash collateral requirements and reduce earnings of CenterPoint Energy's and CERC's Natural Gas reportable segments.

Pipeline tariffs and contracts typically provide that if the credit ratings of a shipper or the shipper's guarantor drop below a threshold level, which is generally investment grade ratings from both Moody's and S&P, cash or other collateral may be demanded from the shipper in an amount equal to the sum of three months' charges for pipeline services plus the unrecouped cost of any lateral built for such shipper. If the credit ratings of CERC Corp. decline below the applicable threshold levels, CERC might need to provide cash or other collateral of as much as \$256 million as of December 31, 2023. The amount of collateral will depend on seasonal variations in transportation levels.

### ***ZENS and Securities Related to ZENS (CenterPoint Energy)***

If CenterPoint Energy's creditworthiness were to drop such that ZENS holders thought its liquidity was adversely affected or the market for the ZENS were to become illiquid, some ZENS holders might decide to exchange their ZENS for cash. Funds for the payment of cash upon exchange could be obtained from the sale of the shares of ZENS-Related Securities that CenterPoint Energy owns or from other sources. CenterPoint Energy owns shares of ZENS-Related Securities equal to approximately 100% of the reference shares used to calculate its obligation to the holders of the ZENS. ZENS exchanges result in a cash outflow because tax deferrals related to the ZENS and shares of ZENS-Related Securities would typically cease when ZENS are exchanged or otherwise retired and shares of ZENS-Related Securities are sold. The ultimate tax liability related to the ZENS and ZENS-Related Securities continues to increase by the amount of the tax benefit realized each year, and there could be a significant cash outflow when the taxes are paid as a result of the retirement or exchange of the ZENS. If all ZENS had been exchanged for cash on December 31, 2023, deferred taxes of approximately \$728 million would have been payable in 2023. If all the ZENS-Related Securities had been sold on December 31, 2023, capital gains taxes of approximately \$81 million

would have been payable in 2023 based on 2023 tax rates in effect. For additional information about ZENS, see Note 11 to the consolidated financial statements.

### ***Cross Defaults***

Under each of CenterPoint Energy's, Houston Electric's and CERC's respective revolving credit facilities and CERC's term loan agreement, a payment default on, or a non-payment default, event or condition that permits acceleration of, any indebtedness for borrowed money and certain other specified types of obligations (including guarantees) exceeding \$125 million by the borrower or any of their respective significant subsidiaries will cause a default under such borrower's respective credit facility or term loan agreement. Under SIGECO's revolving credit facility, a payment default on, or a non-payment default, event or condition that permits acceleration of, any indebtedness for borrowed money and certain other specific types of obligations (including guarantees) exceeding \$75 million by SIGECO or any of its significant subsidiaries will cause a default under SIGECO's credit facility. A default by CenterPoint Energy would not trigger a default under its subsidiaries' debt instruments or revolving credit facilities.

### ***Possible Acquisitions, Divestitures and Joint Ventures***

From time to time, the Registrants consider the acquisition or the disposition of assets or businesses or possible joint ventures, strategic initiatives or other joint ownership arrangements with respect to assets or businesses. Any determination to take action in this regard will be based on market conditions and opportunities existing at the time, and accordingly, the timing, size or success of any efforts and the associated potential capital commitments are unpredictable. The Registrants may seek to fund all or part of any such efforts with proceeds from debt and/or equity issuances. Debt or equity financing may not, however, be available to the Registrants at that time due to a variety of events, including, among others, maintenance of our credit ratings, industry conditions, general economic conditions, market conditions and market perceptions. CenterPoint Energy has increased its planned capital expenditures in its Electric and Natural Gas businesses multiple times over the recent years to support rate base growth. The Registrants may continue to explore asset sales as a means to efficiently finance a portion of its increased capital expenditures in the future, subject to the conditions listed above. For further information, see Note 4.

On February 19, 2024, CenterPoint Energy, through its subsidiary CERC Corp., entered into the LAMS Asset Purchase Agreement to sell its Louisiana and Mississippi natural gas local distribution company businesses. The transaction is expected to close in the first quarter of 2025. For further information, see Note 21 to the consolidated financial statements.

### ***Hedging of Interest Expense for Future Debt Issuances***

From time to time, the Registrants may enter into interest rate agreements to hedge, in part, volatility in the U.S. treasury rates by reducing variability in cash flows related to interest payments. For further information, see Note 9(a) to the consolidated financial statements.

### ***Collection of Receivables from REPs (CenterPoint Energy and Houston Electric)***

Houston Electric's receivables from the distribution of electricity are collected from REPs that supply the electricity Houston Electric distributes to their customers. Before conducting business, a REP must register with the PUCT and must meet certain financial qualifications. Nevertheless, adverse economic conditions, structural problems in the market served by ERCOT or financial difficulties of one or more REPs could impair the ability of these REPs to pay for Houston Electric's services or could cause them to delay such payments. Houston Electric depends on these REPs to remit payments on a timely basis, and any delay or default in payment by REPs could adversely affect Houston Electric's cash flows. In the event of a REP's default, Houston Electric's tariff provides a number of remedies, including the option for Houston Electric to request that the PUCT suspend or revoke the certification of the REP. Applicable regulatory provisions require that customers be shifted to another REP or a provider of last resort if a REP cannot make timely payments. However, Houston Electric remains at risk for payments related to services provided prior to the shift to the replacement REP or the provider of last resort. If a REP were unable to meet its obligations, it could consider, among various options, restructuring under the bankruptcy laws, in which event such REP might seek to avoid honoring its obligations and claims might be made against Houston Electric involving payments it had received from such REP. If a REP were to file for bankruptcy, Houston Electric may not be successful in recovering accrued receivables owed by such REP that are unpaid as of the date the REP filed for bankruptcy. However, PUCT regulations authorize utilities, such as Houston Electric, to defer bad debts resulting from defaults by REPs for recovery in future rate cases, subject to a review of reasonableness and necessity.

### ***Other Factors that Could Affect Cash Requirements***

In addition to the above factors, the Registrants' liquidity and capital resources could also be negatively affected by:

- cash collateral requirements that could exist in connection with certain contracts, including weather hedging arrangements, and natural gas purchases, natural gas price and natural gas storage activities of CenterPoint Energy's and CERC's Natural Gas reportable segment;
- acceleration of payment dates on certain gas supply contracts, under certain circumstances, as a result of increased natural gas prices, and concentration of natural gas suppliers (CenterPoint Energy and CERC);
- increased costs related to the acquisition of natural gas (CenterPoint Energy and CERC);
- increases in interest expense in connection with debt refinancings and borrowings under credit facilities or term loans or the use of alternative sources of financings on capital and other financial markets;
- various legislative or regulatory actions;
- incremental collateral, if any, that may be required due to regulation of derivatives (CenterPoint Energy and CERC);
- the ability of REPs, including REP affiliates of NRG and Vistra Energy Corp., to satisfy their obligations to CenterPoint Energy and Houston Electric;
- slower customer payments and increased write-offs of receivables due to higher natural gas prices, changing economic conditions, public health threats or severe weather events (CenterPoint Energy and CERC);
- the satisfaction of any obligations pursuant to guarantees;
- the outcome of litigation, including litigation related to the February 2021 Winter Storm Event;
- contributions to pension and postretirement benefit plans;
- restoration costs and revenue losses resulting from future natural disasters such as hurricanes and the timing of recovery of such restoration costs; and
- various other risks identified in "Risk Factors" in Item 1A of Part I of this report.

### ***Certain Contractual Limits on Our Ability to Issue Securities and Borrow Money***

Certain provisions in certain note purchase agreements relating to debt issued by CERC have the effect of restricting the amount of secured debt issued by CERC and debt issued by subsidiaries of CERC Corp. Additionally, Houston Electric and SIGECO are limited in the amount of mortgage bonds they can issue by the General Mortgage and SIGECO's mortgage indenture, respectively. For information about the total debt to capitalization financial covenants in the Registrants' and SIGECO's revolving credit facilities, see Note 13 to the consolidated financial statements.

## **CRITICAL ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

A critical accounting policy is one that is both important to the presentation of the Registrants' financial condition and results of operations and requires management to make difficult, subjective or complex accounting estimates. An accounting estimate is an approximation made by management of a financial statement element, item or account in the financial statements. Accounting estimates in the Registrants' historical consolidated financial statements measure the effects of past business transactions or events, or the present status of an asset or liability. The accounting estimates described below require the Registrants to make assumptions about matters that are highly uncertain at the time the estimate is made. Additionally, different estimates that the Registrants could have used or changes in an accounting estimate that are reasonably likely to occur could have a material impact on the presentation of their financial condition, results of operations or cash flows. The circumstances that make these judgments difficult, subjective and/or complex have to do with the need to make estimates about the effect of matters that are inherently uncertain. Estimates and assumptions about future events and their effects cannot be predicted with certainty. The Registrants base their estimates on historical experience and on various other assumptions that they believe to be reasonable under the circumstances, the results of which form the basis for making judgments. These estimates may change as new events occur, as more experience is acquired, as additional information is obtained and as the Registrants' operating environment changes. The Registrants' significant accounting policies are discussed in Note 2 to the consolidated financial statements. The Registrants believe the following accounting policies involve the application of critical accounting estimates. Accordingly, these accounting estimates have been reviewed and discussed with the Audit Committee of CenterPoint Energy's Board of Directors.

### **Accounting for Rate Regulation**

Accounting guidance for regulated operations provides that rate-regulated entities account for and report assets and liabilities consistent with the recovery of those incurred costs in rates if the rates established are designed to recover the costs of providing the regulated service and if the competitive environment makes it probable that such rates can be charged and collected. CenterPoint Energy, for its Electric and Natural Gas reportable segments, Houston Electric and CERC apply this

accounting guidance. Certain expenses and revenues subject to utility regulation or rate determination normally reflected in income are deferred on the balance sheet as regulatory assets or liabilities and are recognized in income as the related amounts are included in service rates and recovered from or refunded to customers. Regulatory assets and liabilities are recorded when it is probable that these items will be recovered or reflected in future rates. Determining probability requires significant judgment on the part of management and includes, but is not limited to, consideration of testimony presented in regulatory hearings, proposed regulatory decisions, final regulatory orders and the strength or status of applications for rehearing or state court appeals. If events were to occur that would make the recovery of these assets and liabilities no longer probable, the Registrants would be required to write off or write down these regulatory assets and liabilities. For further detail on the Registrants' regulatory assets and liabilities, see Note 7 to the consolidated financial statements.

### **Impairment of Long-Lived Assets, Including Goodwill**

The Registrants review the carrying value of long-lived assets, including goodwill, whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that such carrying values may not be recoverable, and at least annually, goodwill is tested for impairment as required by accounting guidance for goodwill and other intangible assets. Unforeseen events, changes in market conditions, and probable regulatory disallowances, where applicable, could have a material effect on the value of long-lived assets, including goodwill, future cash flows, interest rate, and regulatory matters, and could result in an impairment charge. The Registrants recorded no impairments to long-lived assets, including goodwill during 2023, 2022 and 2021.

Fair value is the amount at which an asset, liability or business could be bought or sold in a current transaction between willing parties and may be estimated using a number of techniques, including quoted market prices or valuations by third parties, present value techniques based on estimates of cash flows, or multiples of earnings or revenue performance measures. The fair value could be different using different estimates and assumptions in these valuation techniques.

Fair value measurements require significant judgment and unobservable inputs, including (i) projected timing and amount of future cash flows, which factor in planned growth initiatives, (ii) the regulatory environment, as applicable, and (iii) discount rates reflecting risk inherent in the future market prices. Determining the discount rates for the businesses that are not rate-regulated, such as for Energy Systems Group, requires the estimation of the appropriate company-specific risk premiums for such businesses based on evaluation of industry and entity-specific risks, which includes expectations about future market or economic conditions existing on the date of the impairment test. Changes in these assumptions could have a significant impact on results of the impairment tests.

#### *Annual goodwill impairment test*

CenterPoint Energy and CERC completed their 2023 annual goodwill impairment test during the third quarter of 2023 and determined, based on an income approach or a weighted combination of income and market approaches, that no goodwill impairment charge was required for any reporting unit. The fair values of each reporting unit significantly exceeded the carrying value of the reporting unit.

Although no goodwill impairment resulted from the 2023 annual test, an interim goodwill impairment test could be triggered by the following: actual earnings results that are materially lower than expected, significant adverse changes in the operating environment, an increase in the discount rate, changes in other key assumptions which require judgment and are forward looking in nature, if CenterPoint Energy's market capitalization falls below book value for an extended period of time, or events affecting a reporting unit such as a contemplated disposal of all or part of a reporting unit.

#### *Assets Held for Sale and Discontinued Operations*

Generally, a long-lived asset to be sold is classified as held for sale in the period in which management, with approval from the Board of Directors, as applicable, commits to a plan to sell, and a sale is expected to be completed within one year. The Registrants record assets and liabilities held for sale, or the disposal group, at the lower of their carrying value or their estimated fair value less cost to sell. If the disposal group reflects a component of a reporting unit and meets the definition of a business, the goodwill within that reporting unit is allocated to the disposal group based on the relative fair value of the components representing a business that will be retained and disposed. Goodwill is not allocated to a portion of a reporting unit that does not meet the definition of a business. A disposal group that meets the held for sale criteria and also represents a strategic shift to the Registrant is also reflected as discontinued operations on the Statements of Consolidated Income, and prior periods are recast to reflect the earnings or losses from such businesses as income from discontinued operations, net of tax.

As described further in Note 4 to the consolidated financial statements, certain assets and liabilities of Energy Systems Group representing a business were disposed of on June 30, 2023. As a result of the held for sale criteria being met during the same period as the completion of the sale, goodwill attributable to Energy Systems Group of \$134 million was reflected in the pre-tax loss on sale of \$13 million based on the actual sale proceeds received at closing on June 30, 2023.

### **Accounting for Securitization of Coal Generation Facility Retirements**

Accounting guidance for rate regulated long-lived asset abandonment requires that the carrying value of an operating asset or an asset under construction is removed from property, plant and equipment when it becomes probable that the asset will be abandoned. The Registrants recognize either a loss on abandonment or regulatory asset when they concluded it is probable the cost will be recovered in future rates. The portion of property, plant and equipment that will remain used and useful until abandonment and recovered through depreciation expense in rates will continue to be classified as property, plant and equipment until the asset is abandoned. The Registrants evaluate if an adjustment to the estimated life of the asset and, accordingly, the rate of depreciation, is required to recover the asset while it is still providing service. Determining probability of abandonment or probability of recovery requires significant judgment on the part of management and includes, but is not limited to, consideration of testimony presented in regulatory hearings, proposed regulatory decisions, final regulatory orders and the strength or status of applications for rehearing or state court appeals.

In connection with the securitization financing of qualified costs in the second quarter of 2023 associated with the completed retirement of SIGECO's A.B. Brown coal generation facilities, CenterPoint Energy evaluated the VIE consisting of the SIGECO Securitization Subsidiary, a wholly-owned, bankruptcy-remote, special purpose entity, for possible consolidation, including review of qualitative factors such as the power to direct the activities of the VIE and the obligation to absorb losses of the VIE. CenterPoint Energy has the power to direct the significant activities of the VIE and is most closely associated with the VIE as compared to other interests held by the holders of the SIGECO Securitization Bonds. CenterPoint Energy is, therefore, considered the primary beneficiary and consolidated the VIE.

For purposes of reporting cash flows, the Registrants consider cash equivalents to be short-term, highly-liquid investments with maturities of three months or less from the date of purchase. Cash and cash equivalents held by the SIGECO Securitization Subsidiary solely to support servicing the SIGECO Securitization Bonds as of December 31, 2023 are reflected on CenterPoint Energy's Consolidated Balance Sheet.

In connection with the issuance of the SIGECO Securitization Bonds, CenterPoint Energy was required to establish a restricted cash account to collateralize the SIGECO Securitization Bonds that were issued in the financing transaction. The restricted cash account is not available for withdrawal until the maturity of the SIGECO Securitization Bonds and is not included in cash and cash equivalents.

### **Unbilled Revenues**

Revenues related to electricity delivery and natural gas sales and services are generally recognized upon delivery to customers. However, the determination of deliveries to individual customers is based on the reading of their meters, which is performed on a systematic basis throughout the month either electronically through AMS meter communications or manual readings. At the end of each month, deliveries to non-AMS customers since the date of the last meter reading are estimated and the corresponding unbilled revenue is estimated. Information regarding deliveries to AMS customers after the last billing is obtained from actual AMS meter usage data. Unbilled electricity delivery revenue is estimated each month based on actual AMS meter data, daily supply volumes and applicable rates. Unbilled natural gas sales are estimated based on estimated purchased gas volumes, estimated lost and unaccounted for gas and tariffed rates in effect. As additional information becomes available, or actual amounts are determinable, the recorded estimates are revised. Consequently, operating results can be affected by revisions to prior accounting estimates.

### **Pension and Other Retirement Plans**

CenterPoint Energy sponsors pension and other retirement plans in various forms covering all employees who meet eligibility requirements. CenterPoint Energy uses several statistical and other factors that attempt to anticipate future events in calculating the expense and liability related to its plans. These factors include assumptions about the discount rate, expected return on plan assets and rate of future compensation increases as estimated by management, within certain guidelines. In addition, CenterPoint Energy's actuarial consultants use subjective factors such as withdrawal and mortality rates. The actuarial assumptions used may differ materially from actual results due to changing market and economic conditions, higher or lower withdrawal rates or longer or shorter life spans of participants. These differences may result in a significant impact to the

amount of pension and other retirement plans expense recorded. Please read “— Other Significant Matters — Pension Plans” for further discussion.

## NEW ACCOUNTING PRONOUNCEMENTS

See Note 2(t) to the consolidated financial statements, incorporated herein by reference, for a discussion of new accounting pronouncements that affect the Registrants.

## OTHER SIGNIFICANT MATTERS

*Pension Plans (CenterPoint Energy).* As discussed in Note 8(b) to the consolidated financial statements, CenterPoint Energy maintains non-contributory qualified defined benefit pension plans covering eligible employees. Employer contributions for the qualified plans are based on actuarial computations that establish the minimum contribution required under ERISA and the maximum deductible contribution for income tax purposes.

Under the terms of CenterPoint Energy’s pension plans, it reserves the right to change, modify or terminate the plan. CenterPoint Energy’s funding policy is to review amounts annually and contribute an amount at least equal to the minimum contribution required under ERISA.

Additionally, CenterPoint Energy maintains unfunded non-qualified benefit restoration plans which allow participants to receive the benefits to which they would have been entitled under the non-contributory qualified pension plan except for federally mandated limits on qualified plan benefits or on the level of compensation on which qualified plan benefits may be calculated.

CenterPoint Energy’s funding requirements and employer contributions for the years ended December 31, 2023, 2022 and 2021 were as follows:

|   | Year Ended December 31, |      |      |
|---|-------------------------|------|------|
|   | 2023                    | 2022 | 2021 |
| <b>CenterPoint Energy</b>   | (in millions)           |      |      |
| Minimum funding requirements for qualified pension plans .....              | \$ —                    | \$ — | \$ — |
| Employer contributions to the qualified pension plans .....                 | 24                      | 27   | 53   |
| Employer contributions to the non-qualified benefit restoration plans ..... | 8                       | 8    | 8    |

CenterPoint Energy expects to make contributions of approximately \$2 million and \$7 million to the qualified pension plans and non-qualified benefit restoration plans in 2024, respectively.

Changes in pension obligations and plan assets may not be immediately recognized as pension expense in CenterPoint Energy’s Statements of Consolidated Income, but generally are recognized in future years over the remaining average service period of plan participants. As such, significant portions of pension expense recorded in any period may not reflect the actual level of benefit payments provided to plan participants.

As the sponsor of a plan, CenterPoint Energy is required to (a) recognize on its Consolidated Balance Sheet an asset for the plan’s over-funded status or a liability for the plan’s under-funded status, (b) measure a plan’s assets and obligations as of the end of the fiscal year and (c) recognize changes in the funded status of the plans in the year that changes occur through adjustments to other comprehensive income and, when related to its rate-regulated utilities with recoverability of cost, to regulatory assets.

The projected benefit obligation for all defined benefit pension plans was \$1.5 billion and \$1.6 billion as of December 31, 2023 and 2022, respectively. This decrease was primarily due to increases in discount rates, as well as the impact of lump sum settlement payments.

In December 2022, the CenterPoint Energy pension plan completed an annuity lift-out, a transaction that provided for the purchase of an irrevocable group annuity contract to fund pension plan annuities of retirees from previously divested businesses, as part of a de-risking strategy. This annuity lift-out impacted 1,119 retirees and beneficiaries, as well as reduced \$138 million in pension obligations and \$136 million in plan assets which were transferred to an insurance company. The transfer of plan assets is considered to be a lump sum settlement payment that reduced CenterPoint Energy pension plan’s projected benefit obligation in 2022.

As of December 31, 2023, the projected benefit obligation exceeded the market value of plan assets of CenterPoint Energy's pension plans by \$344 million. Changes in interest rates or the market values of the securities held by the plan during a year could materially, positively or negatively, change the funded status and affect the level of pension expense and required contributions at the next remeasurement.

Houston Electric and CERC participate in CenterPoint Energy's qualified and non-qualified pension plans covering substantially all employees. Pension cost by Registrant were as follows:

|                    | Year Ended December 31, |                  |       |                    |                  |       |                    |                  |       |
|--------------------|-------------------------|------------------|-------|--------------------|------------------|-------|--------------------|------------------|-------|
|                    | 2023                    |                  |       | 2022               |                  |       | 2021               |                  |       |
|                    | CenterPoint Energy      | Houston Electric | CERC  | CenterPoint Energy | Houston Electric | CERC  | CenterPoint Energy | Houston Electric | CERC  |
|                    | (in millions)           |                  |       |                    |                  |       |                    |                  |       |
| Pension cost ..... | \$ 53                   | \$ 27            | \$ 19 | \$ 172             | \$ 59            | \$ 88 | \$ 69              | \$ 34            | \$ 24 |

The calculation of pension cost and related liabilities requires the use of assumptions. Changes in these assumptions can result in different expense and liability amounts, and future actual experience can differ from the assumptions. Two of the most critical assumptions are the expected long-term rate of return on plan assets and the assumed discount rate.

As of December 31, 2023, CenterPoint Energy's qualified pension plans had an expected long-term rate of return on plan assets of 6.50%, which is the same as the 6.50% rate assumed as of December 31, 2022. The expected rate of return assumption was developed using the targeted asset allocation of our plans and the expected return for each asset class. CenterPoint Energy regularly reviews its actual asset allocation and periodically rebalances plan assets to reduce volatility and better match plan assets and liabilities.

As of December 31, 2023, the projected benefit obligation was calculated assuming a discount rate of 4.95%, which is 0.2% lower than the 5.15% discount rate assumed as of December 31, 2022 attributed primarily to rising interest rates. The discount rate was determined by reviewing yields on high-quality bonds that receive one of the two highest ratings given by a recognized rating agency and the expected duration of pension obligations specific to the characteristics of CenterPoint Energy's plans.

CenterPoint Energy's actuarially determined pension and other postemployment cost for 2023 and 2022 that is greater or less than the amounts being recovered through rates in the majority of Texas jurisdictions is deferred as a regulatory asset or liability, respectively. Pension cost for 2024, including the nonqualified benefit restoration plan, is estimated to be \$51 million before applicable regulatory deferrals and capitalization, based on an expected return on plan assets of 6.50% and a discount rate of 4.95% as of December 31, 2023. If the expected return assumption were lowered by 0.50% from 6.50% to 6.00%, 2024 pension cost would increase by approximately \$6 million.

As of December 31, 2023, the pension plans projected benefit obligation, including the unfunded nonqualified pension plans, exceeded plan assets by \$344 million. If the discount rate were lowered by 0.50% from 4.95% to 4.45%, the assumption change would increase CenterPoint Energy's projected benefit obligation by approximately \$66 million and decrease its 2024 pension cost by approximately \$2 million. The expected reduction in pension cost due to the decrease in discount rate is a result of the expected correlation between the reduced interest rate and appreciation of fixed income assets in pension plans with significantly more fixed income instruments than equity instruments. In addition, the assumption change would impact CenterPoint Energy's Consolidated Balance Sheets by increasing the regulatory asset recorded as of December 31, 2023 by \$57 million and would result in a charge to comprehensive income in 2023 of \$7 million, net of tax of \$2 million, due to the increase in the projected benefit obligation.

Future changes in plan asset returns, assumed discount rates and various other factors related to the pension plans will impact CenterPoint Energy's future pension expense and liabilities. CenterPoint Energy cannot predict with certainty what these factors will be in the future.



## Item 7A. *Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk*

### **Impact of Changes in Interest Rates, Equity Prices and Energy Commodity Prices**

The Registrants are exposed to various market risks. These risks arise from transactions entered into in the normal course of business and are inherent in the Registrants' consolidated financial statements. Most of the revenues and income from the Registrants' business activities are affected by market risks. Categories of market risk include exposure to commodity prices through non-trading activities, interest rates and equity prices. A description of each market risk is set forth below:

- Interest rate risk primarily results from exposures to changes in the level of borrowings and changes in interest rates.
- Equity price risk results from exposures to changes in prices of individual equity securities (CenterPoint Energy).
- Commodity price risk results from exposures to price volatilities of commodities, such as natural gas, NGLs and other energy commodities (CenterPoint Energy).

Management has established comprehensive risk management policies to monitor and manage these market risks.

### **Interest Rate Risk**

As of December 31, 2023, the Registrants had outstanding long-term debt and lease obligations and CenterPoint Energy had obligations under its ZENS that subject them to the risk of loss associated with movements in market interest rates.

CenterPoint Energy's floating rate obligations aggregated \$1.9 billion and \$4.5 billion as of December 31, 2023 and 2022, respectively. If the floating interest rates were to increase by 100 basis points from December 31, 2023 rates, CenterPoint Energy's combined interest expense would increase by approximately \$19 million annually. CenterPoint Energy has \$350 million aggregate principal amount of floating rate notes maturing in 2024 that will be refinanced at current rates.

Houston Electric did not have any floating rate obligations as of either December 31, 2023 or 2022.

CERC's floating rate obligations aggregated \$484 million and \$1.4 billion as of December 31, 2023 and 2022, respectively. If the floating interest rates were to increase by 100 basis points from December 31, 2023 rates, CERC's combined interest expense would increase by approximately \$5 million annually. CERC has no floating rate notes maturing in 2024.

As of December 31, 2023 and 2022, CenterPoint Energy had outstanding fixed-rate debt (excluding indexed debt securities) aggregating \$16.9 billion and \$12.5 billion, respectively, in principal amount and having a fair value of \$16.1 billion and \$11.1 billion, respectively. Because these instruments are fixed-rate, they do not expose CenterPoint Energy to the risk of loss in earnings due to changes in market interest rates. However, the fair value of these instruments would increase by approximately \$635 million if interest rates were to decline by 10% from their levels as of December 31, 2023. CenterPoint Energy has \$500 million of fixed-rate senior notes and \$23 million of SIGECO first mortgage bonds maturing in 2024 that will be refinanced at current rates.

As of December 31, 2023 and 2022, Houston Electric had outstanding fixed-rate debt aggregating \$7.7 billion and \$6.4 billion, respectively, in principal amount and having a fair value of approximately \$7 billion and \$5.6 billion, respectively. Because these instruments are fixed-rate, they do not expose Houston Electric to the risk of loss in earnings due to changes in market interest rates. However, the fair value of these instruments would increase by approximately \$374 million if interest rates were to decline by 10% from their levels as of December 31, 2023. Houston Electric has no fixed-rate general mortgage bonds maturing in 2024.

As of December 31, 2023 and 2022, CERC had outstanding fixed-rate debt aggregating \$4.2 billion and \$3.5 billion, respectively, in principal amount and having a fair value of \$4.2 billion and \$3.3 billion, respectively. Because these instruments are fixed-rate, they do not expose CERC to the risk of loss in earnings due to changes in market interest rates. However, the fair value of these instruments would increase by approximately \$152 million if interest rates were to decline by 10% from their levels at December 31, 2023. CERC has no fixed-rate senior notes maturing in 2024.

In general, such an increase in fair value would impact earnings and cash flows only if the Registrants were to reacquire all or a portion of these instruments in the open market prior to their maturity.

As discussed in Note 11 to the consolidated financial statements, the ZENS obligation is bifurcated into a debt component and a derivative component. The debt component of \$5 million at December 31, 2023 was a fixed-rate obligation and, therefore, did not expose CenterPoint Energy to the risk of loss in earnings due to changes in market interest rates. However,

the fair value of the debt component would increase by approximately \$1 million if interest rates were to decline by 10% from levels at December 31, 2023. Changes in the fair value of the derivative component, a \$605 million recorded liability at December 31, 2023, are recorded in CenterPoint Energy's Statements of Consolidated Income and, therefore, it is exposed to changes in the fair value of the derivative component as a result of changes in the underlying risk-free interest rate. If the risk-free interest rate were to increase by 10% from December 31, 2023 levels, the fair value of the derivative component liability would decrease by approximately \$1 million, which would be recorded as an unrealized gain in CenterPoint Energy's Statements of Consolidated Income.

### **Equity Market Value Risk (CenterPoint Energy)**

CenterPoint Energy is exposed to equity market value risk through its ownership of 10.2 million shares of AT&T Common, 0.9 million shares of Charter Common and 2.5 million shares of WBD Common, which CenterPoint Energy holds to facilitate its ability to meet its obligations under the ZENS. See Note 11 to the consolidated financial statements for a discussion of CenterPoint Energy's ZENS obligation. Changes in the fair value of the ZENS-Related Securities held by CenterPoint Energy are expected to substantially offset changes in the fair value of the derivative component of the ZENS. A decrease of 10% from the December 31, 2023 aggregate market value of these shares would result in a net loss of less than \$1 million, which would be recorded as a loss on debt securities in CenterPoint Energy's Statements of Consolidated Income.

### **Commodity Price Risk From Non-Trading Activities (CenterPoint Energy)**

CenterPoint Energy's regulated operations are exposed to commodity price risk during severe weather events such as hurricanes, tornadoes and severe winter weather conditions. Severe weather events can increase commodity prices related to natural gas, coal and purchased power, which may increase our costs of providing service, and those costs may not be recoverable in rates. Recovery of cost increases driven by rising commodity prices during severe weather events could be resisted by our regulators and our regulators might attempt to deny or defer timely recovery of those costs.

However, CenterPoint Energy's regulated operations in Indiana have limited exposure to commodity price risk for transactions involving purchases and sales of natural gas, coal and purchased power for the benefit of retail customers due to current state regulations, which, subject to compliance with those regulations, allow for recovery of the cost of such purchases through natural gas and fuel cost adjustment mechanisms. CenterPoint Energy's utility natural gas operations in Indiana have regulatory authority to lock in pricing for up to 50% of annual natural gas purchases using arrangements with an original term of up to 10 years. This authority has been utilized to secure fixed price natural gas using both physical purchases and financial derivatives. As of December 31, 2023, the recorded fair value of non-trading energy derivative liability was \$12 million for CenterPoint Energy's utility natural gas operations in Indiana, which is offset by a regulatory asset.

Natural gas and coal prices have other effects on working capital requirements, interest costs, and some level of price-sensitivity in volumes sold or delivered. Constructive regulatory orders, such as those authorizing lost margin recovery, other innovative rate designs and recovery of unaccounted for natural gas and other natural gas-related expenses, also mitigate the effect natural gas costs may have on CenterPoint Energy's financial condition. In 2008, the PUCO approved an exit of the merchant function in CenterPoint Energy's Ohio natural gas service territory, allowing Ohio customers to purchase substantially all natural gas directly from retail marketers rather than from CenterPoint Energy.

## Item 8. *Financial Statements and Supplementary Data*

### REPORT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM

To the Shareholders and the Board of Directors of  
CenterPoint Energy, Inc.

#### **Opinion on the Financial Statements**

We have audited the accompanying consolidated balance sheets of CenterPoint Energy, Inc. and subsidiaries (the "Company") as of December 31, 2023 and 2022, the related statements of consolidated income, comprehensive income, changes in equity, and cash flows, for each of the three years in the period ended December 31, 2023, and the related notes (collectively referred to as the "financial statements"). In our opinion, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Company as of December 31, 2023 and 2022, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for each of the three years in the period ended December 31, 2023, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

We have also audited, in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States) (PCAOB), the Company's internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2023, based on criteria established in *Internal Control — Integrated Framework (2013)* issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission and our report dated February 20, 2024, expressed an unqualified opinion on the Company's internal control over financial reporting.

#### **Basis for Opinion**

These financial statements are the responsibility of the Company's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the Company's financial statements based on our audits. We are a public accounting firm registered with the PCAOB and are required to be independent with respect to the Company in accordance with the U.S. federal securities laws and the applicable rules and regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission and the PCAOB.

We conducted our audits in accordance with the standards of the PCAOB. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement, whether due to error or fraud. Our audits included performing procedures to assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to error or fraud, and performing procedures that respond to those risks. Such procedures included examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. Our audits also included evaluating the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

#### **Critical Audit Matter**

The critical audit matter communicated below is a matter arising from the current-period audit of the financial statements that was communicated or required to be communicated to the audit committee and that (1) relates to accounts or disclosures that are material to the financial statements and (2) involved especially challenging, subjective, or complex judgments. The communication of critical audit matters does not alter in any way our opinion on the financial statements, taken as a whole, and we are not, by communicating the critical audit matter below, providing a separate opinion on the critical audit matter or on the accounts or disclosures to which it relates.

#### ***Impact of Rate Regulation on the Financial Statements — Refer to Note 7 to the financial statements***

##### *Critical Audit Matter Description*

The Company is subject to rate regulation by regulators and commissions in various jurisdictions (collectively, the "Commissions") that have jurisdiction with respect to the rates of electric and gas transmission and distribution companies in those jurisdictions. Management has determined its regulated operations meet the requirements under accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America to prepare its financial statements applying the specialized rules to account for the effects of cost-based rate regulation. The impacts of accounting for the economics of rate regulation are pervasive to the financial statements and disclosures.

The Company's rates are subject to regulatory rate-setting processes by the Commissions. Rates are determined and approved in regulatory proceedings based on an analysis of the Company's costs to provide utility service and a return on, and recovery of, the Company's investment in the utility business. Regulatory decisions can have an impact on the recovery of costs, the rate of return earned on investment, and the timing and amount of assets to be recovered in rates. The Commissions' regulation of rates is premised on the full recovery of prudently incurred costs and a reasonable rate of return on invested capital. Decisions to be made by the Commissions in the future will impact the accounting for regulated operations, including decisions about the amount of allowable costs and return on invested capital included in rates and any refunds that may be required. While the Company has indicated it expects to recover costs from customers through regulated rates, there is a risk that the Commissions will not approve: (1) full recovery of the costs of providing utility service, or (2) full recovery of all amounts invested in the utility business and a reasonable return on that investment.

We identified rate regulation as a critical audit matter due to the significant judgments made by management to support its assertions about certain affected account balances and disclosures and the high degree of subjectivity involved in assessing the impact of regulatory actions on the financial statements. Management's judgments include assessing the likelihood of (1) recovery in future rates of incurred costs, (2) a disallowance of capital investments made by the Company and (3) refunds to customers. Given that certain of management's accounting judgments are based on assumptions about the outcome of decisions by the Commissions, auditing these judgments required specialized knowledge of accounting for rate regulation and the rate setting process.

*How the Critical Audit Matter Was Addressed in the Audit*

Our audit procedures related to the potential uncertainty of decisions by the Commissions included the following, among others:

- We evaluated the Company's disclosures related to the effects of rate regulation by testing certain recorded balances and evaluating regulatory developments.
- We read relevant regulatory orders issued by the Commissions, regulatory statutes, filings made by the Company and intervenors, and other external information. We evaluated relevant external information and compared it to certain recorded regulatory asset and liability balances for completeness.
- For certain regulatory matters, we inspected the Company's filings with the Commissions and the filings with the Commissions by intervenors to assess the likelihood of recovery in future rates or of a future reduction in rates based on precedents of the Commissions' treatment of similar costs under similar circumstances.

/s/ DELOITTE & TOUCHE LLP

Houston, Texas  
February 20, 2024

We have served as the Company's auditor since 1932.

**CENTERPOINT ENERGY, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES**  
**STATEMENTS OF CONSOLIDATED INCOME**

|  | Year Ended December 31,                 |                 |                 |
|--|---|-----------------|-----------------|
|  | 2023                                    | 2022            | 2021            |
|  | (in millions, except per share amounts) |                 |                 |
| <b>Revenues:</b>   |   |                 |                 |
| Utility revenues .....   | \$ 8,524                                | \$ 9,018        | \$ 8,042        |
| Non-utility revenues .....   | 172                                     | 303             | 310             |
| Total .....  | <u>8,696</u>                            | <u>9,321</u>    | <u>8,352</u>    |
| <b>Expenses:</b>   |   |                 |                 |
| Utility natural gas, fuel and purchased power .....  | 2,061                                   | 2,887           | 2,127           |
| Non-utility cost of revenues, including natural gas .....  | 99                                      | 204             | 208             |
| Operation and maintenance .....  | 2,850                                   | 2,833           | 2,810           |
| Depreciation and amortization .....  | 1,401                                   | 1,288           | 1,316           |
| Taxes other than income taxes .....  | 525                                     | 543             | 528             |
| Total .....  | <u>6,936</u>                            | <u>7,755</u>    | <u>6,989</u>    |
| <b>Operating Income</b> .....  | <u>1,760</u>                            | <u>1,566</u>    | <u>1,363</u>    |
| <b>Other Income (Expense):</b>   |   |                 |                 |
| Gain (loss) on equity securities .....   | 31                                      | (227)           | (172)           |
| Gain (loss) on indexed debt securities .....   | (27)                                    | 325             | 50              |
| Gain (loss) on sale .....  | (13)                                    | 303             | 8               |
| Interest expense and other finance charges .....   | (684)                                   | (511)           | (508)           |
| Interest expense on Securitization Bonds .....   | (17)                                    | (13)            | (21)            |
| Other income (expense), net .....  | 37                                      | (26)            | 58              |
| Total .....  | <u>(673)</u>                            | <u>(149)</u>    | <u>(585)</u>    |
| <b>Income from Continuing Operations Before Income Taxes</b> .....   | <u>1,087</u>                            | <u>1,417</u>    | <u>778</u>      |
| Income tax expense .....   | 170                                     | 360             | 110             |
| <b>Income from Continuing Operations</b> .....   | <u>917</u>                              | <u>1,057</u>    | <u>668</u>      |
| Income from Discontinued Operations (net of tax expense of \$-0-, \$-0-,<br>and \$201, respectively) ..... | —                                       | —               | 818             |
| <b>Net Income</b> .....  | <u>917</u>                              | <u>1,057</u>    | <u>1,486</u>    |
| Income allocated to preferred shareholders .....   | 50                                      | 49              | 95              |
| <b>Income Available to Common Shareholders</b> .....   | <u>\$ 867</u>                           | <u>\$ 1,008</u> | <u>\$ 1,391</u> |
| Basic earnings per common share - continuing operations .....  | \$ 1.37                                 | \$ 1.60         | \$ 0.97         |
| Basic earnings per common share - discontinued operations .....  | —                                       | —               | 1.38            |
| <b>Basic Earnings Per Common Share</b> .....   | <u>\$ 1.37</u>                          | <u>\$ 1.60</u>  | <u>\$ 2.35</u>  |
| Diluted earnings per common share - continuing operations .....  | \$ 1.37                                 | \$ 1.59         | \$ 0.94         |
| Diluted earnings per common share - discontinued operations .....  | —                                       | —               | 1.34            |
| <b>Diluted Earnings Per Common Share</b> .....   | <u>\$ 1.37</u>                          | <u>\$ 1.59</u>  | <u>\$ 2.28</u>  |
| <b>Weighted Average Common Shares Outstanding, Basic</b> .....   | 631                                     | 629             | 593             |
| <b>Weighted Average Common Shares Outstanding, Diluted</b> .....   | 633                                     | 632             | 610             |

See Combined Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

**CENTERPOINT ENERGY, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES**  
**STATEMENTS OF CONSOLIDATED COMPREHENSIVE INCOME**

|   | Year Ended December 31, |                 |                 |
|---|-------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
|   | 2023                    | 2022            | 2021            |
|   | (in millions)           |                 |                 |
| Net Income .....  | \$ 917                  | \$ 1,057        | \$ 1,486        |
| Other comprehensive income (loss):  |                         |                 |                 |
| Adjustment to pension and other postemployment plans (net of tax expense (benefit) of (\$1), \$2 and \$7, respectively) .....                     | (5)                     | 32              | 21              |
| Net deferred gain from cash flow hedges (net of tax benefit of \$-0-, \$-0- and \$-0-, respectively) .....  | 1                       | —               | —               |
| Reclassification of deferred loss from cash flow hedges realized in net income (net of tax expense of \$-0-, \$-0- and \$-0-, respectively) ..... | —                       | 1               | 2               |
| Other comprehensive income (loss) from unconsolidated affiliates (net of tax of \$-0-, \$-0-, and \$-0-, respectively) .....                      | —                       | —               | 3               |
| Total .....   | (4)                     | 33              | 26              |
| Comprehensive income .....  | 913                     | 1,090           | \$ 1,512        |
| Income allocated to preferred shareholders .....  | 50                      | 49              | 95              |
| Comprehensive income available to common shareholders .....   | <u>\$ 863</u>           | <u>\$ 1,041</u> | <u>\$ 1,417</u> |

See Combined Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

**CENTERPOINT ENERGY, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES**  
**CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS**

|  | December 31,<br>2023 | December 31,<br>2022 |
|--|----------------------|----------------------|
| (in millions)  |                      |                      |
| <b>ASSETS</b>  |                      |                      |
| <b>Current Assets:</b>   |                      |                      |
| Cash and cash equivalents (\$90 and \$75 related to VIEs, respectively) .....  | \$ 90                | \$ 74                |
| Investment in equity securities .....  | 541                  | 510                  |
| Accounts receivable (\$21 and \$22 related to VIEs, respectively), less allowance for credit losses of \$27 and \$38, respectively .....     | 710                  | 889                  |
| Accrued unbilled revenues (\$2 and \$-0- related to VIEs, respectively), less allowance for credit losses of \$2 and \$4, respectively ..... | 516                  | 764                  |
| Natural gas and coal inventory .....   | 197                  | 241                  |
| Materials and supplies .....   | 573                  | 635                  |
| Non-trading derivative assets .....  | —                    | 10                   |
| Taxes receivable .....   | 94                   | 20                   |
| Regulatory assets .....  | 161                  | 1,385                |
| Prepaid expenses and other current assets (\$15 and \$13 related to VIEs, respectively) .....  | 145                  | 171                  |
| Total current assets .....   | 3,027                | 4,699                |
| <b>Property, Plant and Equipment:</b>  |                      |                      |
| Property, plant and equipment .....  | 40,396               | 37,728               |
| Less: accumulated depreciation and amortization .....  | 10,543               | 10,585               |
| Property, plant and equipment, net .....   | 29,853               | 27,143               |
| <b>Other Assets:</b>   |                      |                      |
| Goodwill .....   | 4,160                | 4,294                |
| Regulatory assets (\$402 and \$229 related to VIEs, respectively) .....  | 2,513                | 2,193                |
| Non-trading derivative assets .....  | —                    | 2                    |
| Other non-current assets .....   | 162                  | 215                  |
| Total other assets .....   | 6,835                | 6,704                |
| <b>Total Assets</b> .....  | <b>\$ 39,715</b>     | <b>\$ 38,546</b>     |

See Combined Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

**CENTERPOINT ENERGY, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES**  
**CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS, cont.**

|   | December 31,<br>2023 | December 31,<br>2022 |
|---|----------------------|----------------------|
| (in millions, except par value and shares)  |                      |                      |
| <b>LIABILITIES AND SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY</b>   |                      |                      |
| <b>Current Liabilities:</b>   |                      |                      |
| Short-term borrowings.....  | \$ 4                 | \$ 511               |
| Current portion of VIE Securitization Bonds long-term debt.....   | 178                  | 156                  |
| Indexed debt, net.....  | 5                    | 7                    |
| Current portion of other long-term debt.....  | 872                  | 1,346                |
| Indexed debt securities derivative.....   | 605                  | 578                  |
| Accounts payable.....   | 917                  | 1,352                |
| Taxes accrued.....  | 291                  | 298                  |
| Interest accrued.....   | 236                  | 159                  |
| Dividends accrued.....  | 126                  | 144                  |
| Customer deposits.....  | 111                  | 110                  |
| Non-trading derivative liabilities.....   | 9                    | —                    |
| Other.....  | 510                  | 452                  |
| Total current liabilities.....  | 3,864                | 5,113                |
| <b>Other Liabilities:</b>   |                      |                      |
| Deferred income taxes, net.....   | 4,079                | 3,986                |
| Non-trading derivative liabilities.....   | 3                    | —                    |
| Benefit obligations.....  | 572                  | 547                  |
| Regulatory liabilities.....   | 3,208                | 3,245                |
| Other.....  | 763                  | 774                  |
| Total other liabilities.....  | 8,625                | 8,552                |
| <b>Long-term Debt, net:</b>   |                      |                      |
| VIE Securitization Bonds, net.....  | 320                  | 161                  |
| Other long-term debt, net.....  | 17,239               | 14,675               |
| Total long-term debt, net.....  | 17,559               | 14,836               |
| <b>Commitments and Contingencies (Note 15)</b>  |                      |                      |
| <b>Temporary Equity (Note 12)</b> .....   | —                    | 3                    |
| <b>Shareholders' Equity:</b>  |                      |                      |
| Cumulative preferred stock, \$0.01 par value, 20,000,000 shares authorized, no shares and 800,000 shares outstanding, respectively, \$-0- and \$800 liquidation preference, respectively (Note 12)..... | —                    | 790                  |
| Common stock, \$0.01 par value, 1,000,000,000 shares authorized, 631,225,829 shares and 629,535,631 shares outstanding, respectively.....   | 6                    | 6                    |
| Additional paid-in capital.....   | 8,604                | 8,568                |
| Retained earnings.....  | 1,092                | 709                  |
| Accumulated other comprehensive loss.....   | (35)                 | (31)                 |
| Total shareholders' equity.....   | 9,667                | 10,042               |
| <b>Total Liabilities and Shareholders' Equity</b> .....   | \$ 39,715            | \$ 38,546            |

See Combined Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements



**CENTERPOINT ENERGY, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES**  
**STATEMENTS OF CONSOLIDATED CASH FLOWS**

|  | Year Ended December 31, |                     |                      |
|--|-------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|
|  | 2023                    | 2022                | 2021                 |
|  | (in millions)           |                     |                      |
| <b>Cash Flows from Operating Activities:</b>                                       |                         |                     |                      |
| Net income .....   | \$ 917                  | \$ 1,057            | \$ 1,486             |
| Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash provided by operating activities:  |                         |                     |                      |
| Depreciation and amortization .....  | 1,401                   | 1,288               | 1,316                |
| Deferred income taxes .....  | 31                      | 20                  | 213                  |
| Loss (gain) on divestitures .....  | 13                      | (303)               | (681)                |
| Loss (gain) on equity securities .....   | (31)                    | 227                 | 172                  |
| Loss (gain) on indexed debt securities .....                                       | 27                      | (325)               | (50)                 |
| Equity in earnings of unconsolidated affiliates .....                              | —                       | —                   | (339)                |
| Distributions from unconsolidated affiliates .....                                 | —                       | —                   | 155                  |
| Pension contributions .....  | (32)                    | (35)                | (61)                 |
| Changes in other assets and liabilities:   |                         |                     |                      |
| Accounts receivable and unbilled revenues, net .....                               | 423                     | (461)               | (98)                 |
| Inventory .....  | 167                     | (259)               | (140)                |
| Taxes receivable .....   | (74)                    | (19)                | 81                   |
| Accounts payable .....   | (302)                   | 203                 | 175                  |
| Net regulatory assets and liabilities .....  | 1,043                   | 234                 | (2,295)              |
| Other current assets and liabilities .....   | 162                     | (5)                 | 56                   |
| Other non-current assets and liabilities .....                                     | 72                      | 109                 | (53)                 |
| Other operating activities, net .....  | 60                      | 79                  | 85                   |
| Net cash provided by operating activities .....                                    | <u>3,877</u>            | <u>1,810</u>        | <u>22</u>            |
| <b>Cash Flows from Investing Activities:</b>                                       |                         |                     |                      |
| Capital expenditures .....   | (4,401)                 | (4,419)             | (3,164)              |
| Transaction costs related to Enable Merger (Note 4) .....                          | —                       | —                   | (49)                 |
| Cash received related to Enable Merger .....                                       | —                       | —                   | 5                    |
| Proceeds from sale of equity securities, net of transaction costs .....            | —                       | 702                 | 1,320                |
| Proceeds from divestitures (Note 4) .....  | 144                     | 2,075               | 22                   |
| Other investing activities, net .....  | 24                      | 14                  | 15                   |
| Net cash used in investing activities .....  | <u>(4,233)</u>          | <u>(1,628)</u>      | <u>(1,851)</u>       |
| <b>Cash Flows from Financing Activities:</b>                                       |                         |                     |                      |
| Increase (decrease) in short-term borrowings, net .....                            | (10)                    | 452                 | (27)                 |
| Payment of obligation for finance lease .....                                      | —                       | (485)               | (179)                |
| Proceeds from (payments of) commercial paper, net .....                            | (1,055)                 | (74)                | 1,132                |
| Proceeds from long-term debt and term loans .....                                  | 6,044                   | 2,089               | 4,493                |
| Payments of long-term debt and term loans, including make-whole premiums .....     | (3,190)                 | (1,795)             | (2,968)              |
| Payment of debt issuance costs .....   | (55)                    | (36)                | (38)                 |
| Payment of dividends on Common Stock .....   | (485)                   | (440)               | (385)                |
| Payment of dividends on Preferred Stock .....                                      | (50)                    | (49)                | (107)                |
| Redemption of Series A Preferred Stock .....                                       | (800)                   | —                   | —                    |
| Other financing activities, net .....  | (25)                    | (7)                 | (5)                  |
| Net cash provided by (used in) financing activities .....                          | <u>374</u>              | <u>(345)</u>        | <u>1,916</u>         |
| <b>Net Increase (Decrease) in Cash, Cash Equivalents and Restricted Cash .....</b> | <b>18</b>               | <b>(163)</b>        | <b>87</b>            |
| <b>Cash, Cash Equivalents and Restricted Cash at Beginning of Year .....</b>       | <b>91</b>               | <b>254</b>          | <b>167</b>           |
| <b>Cash, Cash Equivalents and Restricted Cash at End of Year .....</b>             | <b><u>\$ 109</u></b>    | <b><u>\$ 91</u></b> | <b><u>\$ 254</u></b> |

See Combined Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

**CENTERPOINT ENERGY, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES**  
**STATEMENTS OF CONSOLIDATED CHANGES IN EQUITY**

|   | 2023  |                 | 2022       |                  | 2021       |                 |
|---|---|-----------------|------------|------------------|------------|-----------------|
|   | Shares  | Amount          | Shares     | Amount           | Shares     | Amount          |
|   | (in millions of dollars and shares, except authorized shares and per share amounts) |                 |            |                  |            |                 |
| <b>Cumulative Preferred Stock, \$0.01 par value; authorized 20,000,000 shares</b> |   |                 |            |                  |            |                 |
| Balance, beginning of year .....  | 1   | \$ 790          | 1          | \$ 790           | 3          | \$ 2,363        |
| Conversion of Series B Preferred Stock and Series C Preferred Stock .....         | —   | —               | —          | —                | (2)        | (1,573)         |
| Redemption of Series A Preferred Stock .....                                      | (1)   | (790)           | —          | —                | —          | —               |
| Balance, end of year .....  | <u>—</u>  | <u>—</u>        | <u>1</u>   | <u>790</u>       | <u>1</u>   | <u>790</u>      |
| <b>Common Stock, \$0.01 par value; authorized 1,000,000,000 shares</b>            |   |                 |            |                  |            |                 |
| Balance, beginning of year .....  | 630   | 6               | 629        | 6                | 551        | 6               |
| Issuances related to benefit and investment plans .....                           | 1   | —               | 1          | —                | 1          | —               |
| Issuances of Common Stock .....   | —   | —               | —          | —                | 77         | —               |
| Balance, end of year .....  | <u>631</u>  | <u>6</u>        | <u>630</u> | <u>6</u>         | <u>629</u> | <u>6</u>        |
| <b>Additional Paid-in-Capital</b>   |   |                 |            |                  |            |                 |
| Balance, beginning of year .....  |   | 8,568           |            | 8,529            |            | 6,914           |
| Issuances related to benefit and investment plans .....                           |   | 36              |            | 39               |            | 41              |
| Issuances of Common Stock, net of issuance costs .....                            |   | —               |            | —                |            | 1               |
| Conversion of Series B Preferred Stock and Series C Preferred Stock .....         |   | —               |            | —                |            | 1,573           |
| Balance, end of year .....  |   | <u>8,604</u>    |            | <u>8,568</u>     |            | <u>8,529</u>    |
| <b>Retained Earnings (Accumulated Deficit)</b>                                    |   |                 |            |                  |            |                 |
| Balance, beginning of year .....  |   | 709             |            | 154              |            | (845)           |
| Net income (loss) .....   |   | 917             |            | 1,057            |            | 1,486           |
| Common Stock dividends declared (see Note 12) .....                               |   | (492)           |            | (453)            |            | (404)           |
| Series A Preferred Stock dividends declared (see Note 12) .....                   |   | (42)            |            | (49)             |            | (49)            |
| Series B Preferred Stock dividends declared (see Note 12) .....                   |   | —               |            | —                |            | (34)            |
| Balance, end of year .....  |   | <u>1,092</u>    |            | <u>709</u>       |            | <u>154</u>      |
| <b>Accumulated Other Comprehensive Loss</b>                                       |   |                 |            |                  |            |                 |
| Balance, beginning of year .....  |   | (31)            |            | (64)             |            | (90)            |
| Other comprehensive income .....  |   | (4)             |            | 33               |            | 26              |
| Balance, end of year .....  |   | <u>(35)</u>     |            | <u>(31)</u>      |            | <u>(64)</u>     |
| <b>Total Shareholders' Equity</b> .....   |   | <u>\$ 9,667</u> |            | <u>\$ 10,042</u> |            | <u>\$ 9,415</u> |

See Combined Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

## REPORT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM

To the Member of  
CenterPoint Energy Houston Electric, LLC

### Opinion on the Financial Statements

We have audited the accompanying consolidated balance sheets of CenterPoint Energy Houston Electric, LLC and subsidiaries (an indirect wholly-owned subsidiary of CenterPoint Energy, Inc.) (the "Company") as of December 31, 2023 and 2022, the related statements of consolidated income, comprehensive income, changes in equity, and cash flows, for each of the three years in the period ended December 31, 2023, and the related notes (collectively referred to as the "financial statements"). In our opinion, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Company as of December 31, 2023 and 2022, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for each of the three years in the period ended December 31, 2023, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

### Basis for Opinion

These financial statements are the responsibility of the Company's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the Company's financial statements based on our audits. We are a public accounting firm registered with the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States) (PCAOB) and are required to be independent with respect to the Company in accordance with the U.S. federal securities laws and the applicable rules and regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission and the PCAOB.

We conducted our audits in accordance with the standards of the PCAOB. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement, whether due to error or fraud. The Company is not required to have, nor were we engaged to perform, an audit of its internal control over financial reporting. As part of our audits, we are required to obtain an understanding of internal control over financial reporting but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Company's internal control over financial reporting. Accordingly, we express no such opinion.

Our audits included performing procedures to assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to error or fraud, and performing procedures that respond to those risks. Such procedures included examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. Our audits also included evaluating the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

### Critical Audit Matter

The critical audit matter communicated below is a matter arising from the current-period audit of the financial statements that was communicated or required to be communicated to the audit committee and that (1) relates to accounts or disclosures that are material to the financial statements and (2) involved especially challenging, subjective, or complex judgments. The communication of critical audit matters does not alter in any way our opinion on the financial statements, taken as a whole, and we are not, by communicating the critical audit matter below, providing a separate opinion on the critical audit matter or on the accounts or disclosures to which it relates.

#### ***Impact of Rate Regulation on the Financial Statements — Refer to Note 7 to the financial statements***

##### *Critical Audit Matter Description*

The Company is subject to rate regulation by the Public Utility Commission of Texas ("PUCT"), which has jurisdiction with respect to the rates of electric transmission and distribution companies in Texas. Management has determined it meets the requirements under accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America to prepare its financial statements applying the specialized rules to account for the effects of cost-based rate regulation. The impacts of accounting for the economics of rate regulation are pervasive to the financial statements and disclosures.

The Company's rates are subject to regulatory rate-setting processes by the PUCT. Rates are determined and approved in regulatory proceedings based on an analysis of the Company's costs to provide utility service and a return on, and recovery of, the Company's investment in the utility business. Regulatory decisions can have an impact on the recovery of costs, the rate of return earned on investment, and the timing and amount of assets to be recovered in rates. The PUCT's regulation of rates is

premised on the full recovery of prudently incurred costs and a reasonable rate of return on invested capital. Decisions to be made by the PUCT in the future will impact the accounting for regulated operations, including decisions about the amount of allowable costs and return on invested capital included in rates and any refunds that may be required. While the Company has indicated it expects to recover costs from customers through regulated rates, there is a risk that the PUCT will not approve: (1) full recovery of the costs of providing utility service, or (2) full recovery of all amounts invested in the utility business and a reasonable return on that investment.

We identified rate regulation as a critical audit matter due to the significant judgments made by management to support its assertions about certain affected account balances and disclosures and the high degree of subjectivity involved in assessing the impact of regulatory actions on the financial statements. Management's judgments include assessing the likelihood of (1) recovery in future rates of incurred costs, (2) a disallowance of capital investments made by the Company, and (3) refunds to customers. Given that certain of management's accounting judgments are based on assumptions about the outcome of decisions by the PUCT, auditing these judgments required specialized knowledge of accounting for rate regulation and the rate setting process.

*How the Critical Audit Matter Was Addressed in the Audit*

Our audit procedures related to the potential uncertainty of decisions by the PUCT included the following, among others:

- We evaluated the Company's disclosures related to the effects of rate regulation by testing certain recorded balances and evaluating regulatory developments.
- We read relevant regulatory orders issued by the PUCT, regulatory statutes, filings made by the Company and intervenors, and other external information. We evaluated relevant external information and compared it to certain recorded regulatory asset and liability balances for completeness.
- For certain regulatory matters, we inspected the Company's filings with the Commissions and the filings with the PUCT by intervenors to assess the likelihood of recovery in future rates or of a future reduction in rates based on precedents of the PUCT's treatment of similar costs under similar circumstances.

/s/ DELOITTE & TOUCHE LLP

Houston, Texas  
February 20, 2024

We have served as the Company's auditor since 1932.

**CENTERPOINT ENERGY HOUSTON ELECTRIC, LLC AND SUBSIDIARIES**  
**(An Indirect, Wholly-Owned Subsidiary of CenterPoint Energy, Inc.)**

**STATEMENTS OF CONSOLIDATED INCOME**

|  | Year Ended December 31, |          |          |
|--|-------------------------|----------|----------|
|  | 2023                    | 2022     | 2021     |
|  | (in millions)           |          |          |
| <b>Revenues</b> .....                            | \$ 3,677                | \$ 3,412 | \$ 3,134 |
| <b>Expenses:</b>                                 |                         |          |          |
| Operation and maintenance .....                  | 1,673                   | 1,650    | 1,597    |
| Depreciation and amortization .....              | 748                     | 670      | 642      |
| Taxes other than income taxes .....              | 262                     | 261      | 251      |
| Total .....                                      | 2,683                   | 2,581    | 2,490    |
| <b>Operating Income</b> .....                    | 994                     | 831      | 644      |
| <b>Other Income (Expense):</b>                   |                         |          |          |
| Interest expense and other finance charges ..... | (259)                   | (202)    | (183)    |
| Interest expense on Securitization Bonds .....   | (8)                     | (13)     | (21)     |
| Other income, net .....                          | 34                      | 19       | 17       |
| Total .....                                      | (233)                   | (196)    | (187)    |
| <b>Income Before Income Taxes</b> .....          | 761                     | 635      | 457      |
| Income tax expense .....                         | 168                     | 125      | 76       |
| <b>Net Income</b> .....                          | \$ 593                  | \$ 510   | \$ 381   |

See Combined Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

**CENTERPOINT ENERGY HOUSTON ELECTRIC, LLC AND SUBSIDIARIES**  
**(An Indirect, Wholly-Owned Subsidiary of CenterPoint Energy, Inc.)**

**CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS**

|  | December 31,<br>2023 | December 31,<br>2022 |
|--|----------------------|----------------------|
| (in millions)  |                      |                      |
| <b>ASSETS</b>  |                      |                      |
| <b>Current Assets:</b>   |                      |                      |
| Cash and cash equivalents (\$76 and \$75 related to VIEs, respectively) .....  | \$ 76                | \$ 75                |
| Accounts and notes receivable, net (\$19 and \$22 related to VIEs, respectively), less allowance<br>for credit losses of \$1 and \$1, respectively ..... | 295                  | 311                  |
| Accounts and notes receivable—affiliated companies .....   | 251                  | 21                   |
| Accrued unbilled revenues .....  | 142                  | 142                  |
| Materials and supplies .....   | 409                  | 471                  |
| Taxes receivable .....   | 38                   | —                    |
| Prepaid expenses and other current assets (\$13 and \$13 related to VIEs, respectively) .....  | 48                   | 41                   |
| Total current assets .....   | 1,259                | 1,061                |
| <b>Property, Plant and Equipment, net</b>  |                      |                      |
| Property, plant and equipment .....  | 19,515               | 17,753               |
| Less: accumulated depreciation and amortization .....  | 4,469                | 4,292                |
| Property, plant and equipment, net .....   | 15,046               | 13,461               |
| <b>Other Assets:</b>   |                      |                      |
| Regulatory assets (\$74 and \$229 related to VIEs, respectively) .....   | 752                  | 778                  |
| Other non-current assets .....   | 29                   | 39                   |
| Total other assets .....   | 781                  | 817                  |
| <b>Total Assets</b> .....  | <b>\$ 17,086</b>     | <b>\$ 15,339</b>     |

See Combined Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

**CENTERPOINT ENERGY HOUSTON ELECTRIC, LLC AND SUBSIDIARIES**  
**(AN INDIRECT, WHOLLY-OWNED SUBSIDIARY OF CENTERPOINT ENERGY, INC.)**  
**CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS – (continued)**

**LIABILITIES AND MEMBER'S EQUITY**

|  | December 31,<br>2023 | December 31,<br>2022 |
|--|----------------------|----------------------|
|  | (in millions)        |                      |
| <b>LIABILITIES AND MEMBER'S EQUITY</b>                           |                      |                      |
| <b>Current Liabilities:</b>                                      |                      |                      |
| Current portion of VIE Securitization Bonds long-term debt ..... | \$ 161               | \$ 156               |
| Accounts payable .....   | 351                  | 413                  |
| Accounts and notes payable—affiliated companies .....            | 104                  | 755                  |
| Taxes accrued .....  | 155                  | 150                  |
| Interest accrued .....   | 99                   | 83                   |
| Other current liabilities .....                                  | 111                  | 88                   |
| Total current liabilities .....                                  | 981                  | 1,645                |
| <b>Other Liabilities:</b>  |                      |                      |
| Deferred income taxes, net .....                                 | 1,406                | 1,229                |
| Benefit obligations .....  | 32                   | 38                   |
| Regulatory liabilities .....                                     | 1,025                | 1,155                |
| Other non-current liabilities .....                              | 107                  | 77                   |
| Total other liabilities .....                                    | 2,570                | 2,499                |
| <b>Long-Term Debt, net:</b>                                      |                      |                      |
| VIE Securitization Bonds, net .....                              | —                    | 161                  |
| Other long-term debt, net .....                                  | 7,426                | 6,036                |
| Total long-term debt, net .....                                  | 7,426                | 6,197                |
| <b>Commitments and Contingencies (Note 15)</b>                   |                      |                      |
| <b>Member's Equity:</b>  |                      |                      |
| Common stock .....   | —                    | —                    |
| Additional paid-in capital .....                                 | 4,745                | 3,860                |
| Retained earnings .....  | 1,364                | 1,138                |
| Total member's equity .....                                      | 6,109                | 4,998                |
| <b>Total Liabilities and Member's Equity</b> .....               | \$ 17,086            | \$ 15,339            |

See Combined Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

**CENTERPOINT ENERGY HOUSTON ELECTRIC, LLC AND SUBSIDIARIES**  
**(An Indirect, Wholly-Owned Subsidiary of CenterPoint Energy, Inc.)**

**STATEMENTS OF CONSOLIDATED CASH FLOWS**

|  | Year Ended December 31, |                     |                      |
|--|-------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|
|  | 2023                    | 2022                | 2021                 |
|  | (in millions)           |                     |                      |
| <b>Cash Flows from Operating Activities:</b>                                       |                         |                     |                      |
| Net income .....   | \$ 593                  | \$ 510              | \$ 381               |
| Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash provided by operating activities:  |                         |                     |                      |
| Depreciation and amortization .....  | 748                     | 670                 | 642                  |
| Deferred income taxes .....  | 160                     | 86                  | 32                   |
| Changes in other assets and liabilities:   |                         |                     |                      |
| Accounts and notes receivable, net .....   | 16                      | (63)                | (17)                 |
| Accounts receivable/payable—affiliated companies .....                             | (1)                     | 47                  | (36)                 |
| Inventory .....  | 62                      | (179)               | (97)                 |
| Accounts payable .....   | (60)                    | (7)                 | 66                   |
| Taxes receivable .....   | (38)                    | —                   | —                    |
| Net regulatory assets and liabilities .....  | (130)                   | (41)                | (237)                |
| Other current assets and liabilities .....   | 28                      | (20)                | 39                   |
| Other non-current assets and liabilities .....                                     | 35                      | (25)                | 6                    |
| Other operating activities, net .....  | (12)                    | (12)                | (9)                  |
| Net cash provided by operating activities .....                                    | <u>1,401</u>            | <u>966</u>          | <u>770</u>           |
| <b>Cash Flows from Investing Activities:</b>                                       |                         |                     |                      |
| Capital expenditures .....   | (2,279)                 | (2,436)             | (1,619)              |
| Increase in notes receivable—affiliated companies .....                            | (238)                   | —                   | —                    |
| Other investing activities, net .....  | 14                      | 1                   | 2                    |
| Net cash used in investing activities .....  | <u>(2,503)</u>          | <u>(2,435)</u>      | <u>(1,617)</u>       |
| <b>Cash Flows from Financing Activities:</b>                                       |                         |                     |                      |
| Proceeds from long-term debt .....   | 1,398                   | 1,589               | 1,096                |
| Payments of long-term debt .....   | (156)                   | (720)               | (613)                |
| Dividend to parent .....   | (367)                   | (316)               | —                    |
| Increase (decrease) in notes payable—affiliated companies .....                    | (642)                   | 130                 | 504                  |
| Payment of debt issuance costs .....   | (13)                    | (17)                | (12)                 |
| Contribution from parent .....   | 885                     | 1,143               | 130                  |
| Payment of obligation for finance lease .....                                      | —                       | (485)               | (179)                |
| Other financing activities, net .....  | (2)                     | —                   | —                    |
| Net cash provided by financing activities .....                                    | <u>1,103</u>            | <u>1,324</u>        | <u>926</u>           |
| <b>Net Increase (Decrease) in Cash, Cash Equivalents and Restricted Cash .....</b> | <b>1</b>                | <b>(145)</b>        | <b>79</b>            |
| <b>Cash, Cash Equivalents and Restricted Cash at Beginning of the Year .....</b>   | <b>88</b>               | <b>233</b>          | <b>154</b>           |
| <b>Cash, Cash Equivalents and Restricted Cash at End of the Year .....</b>         | <b><u>\$ 89</u></b>     | <b><u>\$ 88</u></b> | <b><u>\$ 233</u></b> |

See Combined Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements



**CENTERPOINT ENERGY HOUSTON ELECTRIC, LLC AND SUBSIDIARIES**  
**(An Indirect, Wholly-Owned Subsidiary of CenterPoint Energy, Inc.)**

**STATEMENTS OF CONSOLIDATED CHANGES IN EQUITY**

|   | 2023                                |                 | 2022         |                 | 2021         |                 |
|---|-------------------------------------|-----------------|--------------|-----------------|--------------|-----------------|
|   | Shares                              | Amount          | Shares       | Amount          | Shares       | Amount          |
|   | (in millions, except share amounts) |                 |              |                 |              |                 |
| <b>Common Stock</b>                     |                                     |                 |              |                 |              |                 |
| Balance, beginning of year .....        | 1,000                               | \$ —            | 1,000        | \$ —            | 1,000        | \$ —            |
| Balance, end of year .....              | <u>1,000</u>                        | <u>—</u>        | <u>1,000</u> | <u>—</u>        | <u>1,000</u> | <u>—</u>        |
| <b>Additional Paid-in-Capital</b>       |                                     |                 |              |                 |              |                 |
| Balance, beginning of year .....        |                                     | 3,860           |              | 2,678           |              | 2,548           |
| Non-cash contribution from parent ..... |                                     | —               |              | 38              |              | —               |
| Contribution from parent .....          |                                     | 885             |              | 1,143           |              | 130             |
| Other .....                             |                                     | —               |              | 1               |              | —               |
| Balance, end of year .....              |                                     | <u>4,745</u>    |              | <u>3,860</u>    |              | <u>2,678</u>    |
| <b>Retained Earnings</b>                |                                     |                 |              |                 |              |                 |
| Balance, beginning of year .....        |                                     | 1,138           |              | 944             |              | 563             |
| Net income .....                        |                                     | 593             |              | 510             |              | 381             |
| Dividend to parent .....                |                                     | (367)           |              | (316)           |              | —               |
| Balance, end of year .....              |                                     | <u>1,364</u>    |              | <u>1,138</u>    |              | <u>944</u>      |
| <b>Total Member's Equity</b> .....      |                                     | <u>\$ 6,109</u> |              | <u>\$ 4,998</u> |              | <u>\$ 3,622</u> |

See Combined Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

## REPORT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM

To the Stockholder of  
CenterPoint Energy Resources Corp.

### Opinion on the Financial Statements

We have audited the accompanying consolidated balance sheets of CenterPoint Energy Resources Corp. and subsidiaries (an indirect wholly-owned subsidiary of CenterPoint Energy, Inc.) (the "Company") as of December 31, 2023 and 2022, the related statements of consolidated income, comprehensive income, changes in equity, and cash flows, for each of the three years in the period ended December 31, 2023, and the related notes (collectively referred to as the "financial statements"). In our opinion, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Company as of December 31, 2023 and 2022, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for each of the three years in the period ended December 31, 2023, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

### Basis for Opinion

These financial statements are the responsibility of the Company's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the Company's financial statements based on our audits. We are a public accounting firm registered with the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States) (PCAOB) and are required to be independent with respect to the Company in accordance with the U.S. federal securities laws and the applicable rules and regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission and the PCAOB.

We conducted our audits in accordance with the standards of the PCAOB. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement, whether due to error or fraud. The Company is not required to have, nor were we engaged to perform, an audit of its internal control over financial reporting. As part of our audits, we are required to obtain an understanding of internal control over financial reporting but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Company's internal control over financial reporting. Accordingly, we express no such opinion.

Our audits included performing procedures to assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to error or fraud, and performing procedures that respond to those risks. Such procedures included examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. Our audits also included evaluating the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

### Critical Audit Matter

The critical audit matter communicated below is a matter arising from the current-period audit of the financial statements that was communicated or required to be communicated to the audit committee and that (1) relates to accounts or disclosures that are material to the financial statements and (2) involved especially challenging, subjective, or complex judgments. The communication of critical audit matters does not alter in any way our opinion on the financial statements, taken as a whole, and we are not, by communicating the critical audit matter below, providing a separate opinion on the critical audit matter or on the accounts or disclosures to which it relates.

#### ***Impact of Rate Regulation on the Financial Statements — Refer to Note 7 to the financial statements***

##### *Critical Audit Matter Description*

The Company is subject to rate regulation by regulators and commissions in various jurisdictions (collectively, the "Commissions") that have jurisdiction with respect to the rates of gas transmission and distribution companies in those jurisdictions. Management has determined its regulated operations meet the requirements under accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America to prepare its financial statements applying the specialized rules to account for the effects of cost-based rate regulation. The impacts of accounting for the economics of rate regulation are pervasive to the financial statements and disclosures.

The Company's rates are subject to regulatory rate-setting processes by the Commissions. Rates are determined and approved in regulatory proceedings based on an analysis of the Company's costs to provide utility service and a return on, and recovery of, the Company's investment in the utility business. Regulatory decisions can have an impact on the recovery of costs, the rate

of return earned on investment, and the timing and amount of assets to be recovered in rates. The Commissions' regulation of rates is premised on the full recovery of prudently incurred costs and a reasonable rate of return on invested capital. Decisions to be made by the Commissions in the future will impact the accounting for regulated operations, including decisions about the amount of allowable costs and return on invested capital included in rates and any refunds that may be required. While the Company has indicated it expects to recover costs from customers through regulated rates, there is a risk that the Commissions will not approve: (1) full recovery of the costs of providing utility service, or (2) full recovery of all amounts invested in the utility business and a reasonable return on that investment.

We identified rate regulation as a critical audit matter due to the significant judgments made by management to support its assertions about certain affected account balances and disclosures and the high degree of subjectivity involved in assessing the impact of regulatory actions on the financial statements. Management's judgments include assessing the likelihood of (1) recovery in future rates of incurred costs, (2) a disallowance of capital investments made by the Company and (3) refunds to customers. Given that certain of management's accounting judgments are based on assumptions about the outcome of decisions by the Commissions, auditing these judgments required specialized knowledge of accounting for rate regulation and the rate setting process.

*How the Critical Audit Matter Was Addressed in the Audit*

Our audit procedures related to the potential uncertainty of decisions by the Commissions included the following, among others:

- We evaluated the Company's disclosures related to the effects of rate regulation by testing certain recorded balances and evaluating regulatory developments.
- We read relevant regulatory orders issued by the Commissions, regulatory statutes, filings made by the Company and intervenors, and other external information. We evaluated relevant external information and compared it to certain recorded regulatory asset and liability balances for completeness.
- For certain regulatory matters, we inspected the Company's filings with the Commissions and the filings with the Commissions by intervenors to assess the likelihood of recovery in future rates or of a future reduction in rates based on precedents of the Commissions' treatment of similar costs under similar circumstances.

/s/ DELOITTE & TOUCHE LLP

Houston, Texas  
February 20, 2024

We have served as the Company's auditor since 1997.

**CENTERPOINT ENERGY RESOURCES CORP. AND SUBSIDIARIES**  
**(An Indirect, Wholly-Owned Subsidiary of CenterPoint Energy, Inc.)**

**STATEMENTS OF CONSOLIDATED INCOME**

|  | Year Ended December 31, |               |               |
|--|-------------------------|---------------|---------------|
|  | 2023                    | 2022          | 2021          |
|  | (in millions)           |               |               |
| <b>Revenues:</b>   |                         |               |               |
| Utility revenues .....                                   | \$ 4,107                | \$ 4,764      | \$ 4,143      |
| Non-utility revenues .....                               | 42                      | 36            | 57            |
| Total .....  | <u>4,149</u>            | <u>4,800</u>  | <u>4,200</u>  |
| <b>Expenses:</b>   |                         |               |               |
| Utility natural gas .....                                | 1,856                   | 2,607         | 1,885         |
| Non-utility cost of revenue, including natural gas ..... | 3                       | 4             | 17            |
| Operation and maintenance .....                          | 904                     | 886           | 973           |
| Depreciation and amortization .....                      | 493                     | 448           | 483           |
| Taxes other than income taxes .....                      | 243                     | 257           | 249           |
| Total .....  | <u>3,499</u>            | <u>4,202</u>  | <u>3,607</u>  |
| <b>Operating Income</b> .....                            | <u>650</u>              | <u>598</u>    | <u>593</u>    |
| <b>Other Income (Expense):</b>                           |                         |               |               |
| Gain on sale .....                                       | —                       | 557           | 11            |
| Interest expense and other finance charges .....         | (178)                   | (130)         | (134)         |
| Other income (expense), net .....                        | 14                      | (64)          | (4)           |
| Total .....  | <u>(164)</u>            | <u>363</u>    | <u>(127)</u>  |
| <b>Income Before Income Taxes</b> .....                  | 486                     | 961           | 466           |
| Income tax expense (benefit) .....                       | (26)                    | 236           | 76            |
| <b>Net Income</b> .....                                  | <u>\$ 512</u>           | <u>\$ 725</u> | <u>\$ 390</u> |

See Combined Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

**CENTERPOINT ENERGY RESOURCES CORP. AND SUBSIDIARIES**  
**(An Indirect, Wholly-Owned Subsidiary of CenterPoint Energy, Inc.)**

**STATEMENTS OF CONSOLIDATED COMPREHENSIVE INCOME**

|   | Year Ended December 31, |        |        |
|---|-------------------------|--------|--------|
|   | 2023                    | 2022   | 2021   |
|   | (in millions)           |        |        |
| Net income.....   | \$ 512                  | \$ 725 | \$ 390 |
| Other comprehensive income:   |                         |        |        |
| Adjustment to other postemployment plans (net of tax expense of<br>\$-0-, \$4 and \$1, respectively)..... | —                       | 6      | —      |
| Other comprehensive income.....   | —                       | 6      | —      |
| Comprehensive income.....   | \$ 512                  | \$ 731 | \$ 390 |

See Combined Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

**CENTERPOINT ENERGY RESOURCES CORP. AND SUBSIDIARIES**  
**(An Indirect, Wholly-Owned Subsidiary of CenterPoint Energy, Inc.)**

**CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS**

|   | December 31,<br>2023 | December 31,<br>2022 |
|---|----------------------|----------------------|
| (in millions)   |                      |                      |
| <b>ASSETS</b>   |                      |                      |
| <b>Current Assets:</b>  |                      |                      |
| Cash and cash equivalents .....   | \$ 1                 | \$ —                 |
| Accounts receivable, less allowance for credit losses of \$25 and \$34, respectively .....    | 356                  | 463                  |
| Accrued unbilled revenue, less allowance for credit losses of \$1 and \$4, respectively ..... | 329                  | 573                  |
| Accounts and notes receivable — affiliated companies .....                                    | 43                   | 52                   |
| Material and supplies .....   | 107                  | 98                   |
| Natural gas inventory .....   | 156                  | 195                  |
| Non-trading derivative assets .....   | —                    | 7                    |
| Taxes receivable .....  | 101                  | 12                   |
| Regulatory assets .....   | 161                  | 1,336                |
| Prepaid expenses and other current assets .....   | 55                   | 78                   |
| Total current assets .....  | 1,309                | 2,814                |
| <b>Property, Plant and Equipment:</b>   |                      |                      |
| Property, plant and equipment .....   | 15,672               | 14,379               |
| Less: accumulated depreciation and amortization .....   | 4,169                | 3,973                |
| Property, plant and equipment, net .....  | 11,503               | 10,406               |
| <b>Other Assets:</b>  |                      |                      |
| Goodwill .....  | 1,583                | 1,583                |
| Regulatory assets .....   | 850                  | 844                  |
| Non-trading derivative assets .....   | —                    | 2                    |
| Other non-current assets .....  | 51                   | 55                   |
| Total other assets .....  | 2,484                | 2,484                |
| <b>Total Assets</b> .....   | <b>\$ 15,296</b>     | <b>\$ 15,704</b>     |

See Combined Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

**CENTERPOINT ENERGY RESOURCES CORP. AND SUBSIDIARIES**  
**(An Indirect, Wholly-Owned Subsidiary of CenterPoint Energy, Inc.)**

**CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS, cont.**

|   | December 31,<br>2023 | December 31,<br>2022 |
|---|----------------------|----------------------|
|   | (in millions)        |                      |
| <b>LIABILITIES AND STOCKHOLDER'S EQUITY</b>             |                      |                      |
| <b>Current Liabilities:</b>                             |                      |                      |
| Short-term borrowings .....                             | \$ 4                 | \$ 511               |
| Current portion of long-term debt .....                 | —                    | 1,331                |
| Accounts payable .....                                  | 392                  | 690                  |
| Accounts and notes payable—affiliated companies .....   | 99                   | 190                  |
| Taxes accrued .....                                     | 145                  | 140                  |
| Interest accrued .....                                  | 70                   | 50                   |
| Customer deposits .....                                 | 95                   | 94                   |
| Non-trading derivative liabilities .....                | 8                    | —                    |
| Other current liabilities .....                         | 274                  | 200                  |
| Total current liabilities .....                         | 1,087                | 3,206                |
| <b>Other Liabilities:</b>                               |                      |                      |
| Deferred income taxes, net .....                        | 1,246                | 1,262                |
| Non-trading derivative liabilities .....                | 3                    | —                    |
| Benefit obligations .....                               | 74                   | 76                   |
| Regulatory liabilities .....                            | 1,882                | 1,801                |
| Other non-current liabilities .....                     | 455                  | 501                  |
| Total other liabilities .....                           | 3,660                | 3,640                |
| <b>Long-Term Debt, net</b> .....                        | 4,670                | 3,495                |
| <b>Commitments and Contingencies (Note 15)</b>          |                      |                      |
| <b>Stockholder's Equity:</b>                            |                      |                      |
| Common stock .....                                      | —                    | —                    |
| Additional paid-in capital .....                        | 4,229                | 3,729                |
| Retained earnings .....                                 | 1,634                | 1,618                |
| Accumulated other comprehensive income .....            | 16                   | 16                   |
| Total stockholder's equity .....                        | 5,879                | 5,363                |
| <b>Total Liabilities and Stockholder's Equity</b> ..... | \$ 15,296            | \$ 15,704            |

See Combined Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

**CENTERPOINT ENERGY RESOURCES CORP. AND SUBSIDIARIES**  
**(An Indirect, Wholly-Owned Subsidiary of CenterPoint Energy, Inc.)**

**STATEMENTS OF CONSOLIDATED CASH FLOWS**

|  | Year Ended December 31, |                    |                     |
|--|-------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
|  | 2023                    | 2022               | 2021                |
|  | (in millions)           |                    |                     |
| <b>Cash Flows from Operating Activities:</b>                                       |                         |                    |                     |
| Net income .....   | \$ 512                  | \$ 725             | \$ 390              |
| Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash provided by operating activities:  |                         |                    |                     |
| Depreciation and amortization .....  | 493                     | 448                | 483                 |
| Deferred income taxes .....  | (41)                    | 178                | 101                 |
| Gain on divestitures .....   | —                       | (557)              | (11)                |
| Changes in other assets and liabilities:   |                         |                    |                     |
| Accounts receivable and unbilled revenues, net .....                               | 410                     | (376)              | (68)                |
| Accounts receivable/payable—affiliated companies .....                             | (81)                    | 41                 | 27                  |
| Inventory .....  | 101                     | (50)               | (62)                |
| Taxes receivable .....   | (89)                    | —                  | (28)                |
| Accounts payable .....   | (250)                   | 190                | 95                  |
| Net regulatory assets and liabilities .....  | 1,152                   | 244                | (2,095)             |
| Other current assets and liabilities .....   | 85                      | 13                 | (39)                |
| Other non-current assets and liabilities .....                                     | (1)                     | (2)                | (31)                |
| Other operating activities, net .....  | 21                      | 2                  | 19                  |
| Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities .....                          | <u>2,312</u>            | <u>856</u>         | <u>(1,219)</u>      |
| <b>Cash Flows from Investing Activities:</b>                                       |                         |                    |                     |
| Capital expenditures .....   | (1,619)                 | (1,661)            | (1,324)             |
| Increase in notes receivable—affiliated companies .....                            | (1)                     | —                  | —                   |
| Proceeds from divestitures (Note 4) .....  | —                       | 2,075              | 22                  |
| Other investing activities, net .....  | (23)                    | (8)                | 15                  |
| Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities .....                          | <u>(1,643)</u>          | <u>406</u>         | <u>(1,287)</u>      |
| <b>Cash Flows from Financing Activities:</b>                                       |                         |                    |                     |
| Increase (decrease) in short-term borrowings, net .....                            | (10)                    | 452                | (27)                |
| Proceeds from (payments of) commercial paper, net .....                            | (321)                   | (94)               | 552                 |
| Proceeds from long-term debt and term loans .....                                  | 2,006                   | 927                | 1,699               |
| Payments of long-term debt and term loans, including make-whole premiums .....     | (2,332)                 | (475)              | (311)               |
| Payment of debt issuance costs .....   | (14)                    | (14)               | (10)                |
| Dividends to parent .....  | (496)                   | (844)              | (17)                |
| Contribution from parent .....   | 500                     | 289                | 140                 |
| Increase (decrease) in notes payable—affiliated companies .....                    | —                       | (1,517)            | 490                 |
| Other financing activities, net .....  | (1)                     | (1)                | (1)                 |
| Net cash provided by (used in) financing activities .....                          | <u>(668)</u>            | <u>(1,277)</u>     | <u>2,515</u>        |
| <b>Net Increase (Decrease) in Cash, Cash Equivalents and Restricted Cash .....</b> | <b>1</b>                | <b>(15)</b>        | <b>9</b>            |
| <b>Cash, Cash Equivalents and Restricted Cash at Beginning of Year .....</b>       | <b>—</b>                | <b>15</b>          | <b>6</b>            |
| <b>Cash, Cash Equivalents and Restricted Cash at End of Year .....</b>             | <b><u>\$ 1</u></b>      | <b><u>\$ —</u></b> | <b><u>\$ 15</u></b> |

See Combined Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements



**CENTERPOINT ENERGY RESOURCES CORP. AND SUBSIDIARIES**  
**(An Indirect, Wholly-Owned Subsidiary of CenterPoint Energy, Inc.)**

**STATEMENTS OF CONSOLIDATED CHANGES IN EQUITY**

|  | 2023                                |                 | 2022         |                 | 2021         |                 |
|--|-------------------------------------|-----------------|--------------|-----------------|--------------|-----------------|
|  | Shares                              | Amount          | Shares       | Amount          | Shares       | Amount          |
|  | (in millions, except share amounts) |                 |              |                 |              |                 |
| <b>Common Stock</b>  |                                     |                 |              |                 |              |                 |
| Balance, beginning of year .....   | 1,000                               | \$ —            | 1,000        | \$ —            | 1,000        | \$ —            |
| Balance, end of year .....   | <u>1,000</u>                        | <u>—</u>        | <u>1,000</u> | <u>—</u>        | <u>1,000</u> | <u>—</u>        |
| <b>Additional Paid-in-Capital</b>  |                                     |                 |              |                 |              |                 |
| Balance, beginning of year .....   |                                     | 3,729           |              | 4,106           |              | 3,966           |
| Non-cash contribution from parent .....  |                                     | —               |              | 54              |              | —               |
| Contribution from parent .....   |                                     | 500             |              | 289             |              | 140             |
| Contribution to parent for sale of Arkansas<br>and Oklahoma Natural Gas businesses ..... |                                     | —               |              | (720)           |              | —               |
| Balance, end of year .....   |                                     | <u>4,229</u>    |              | <u>3,729</u>    |              | <u>4,106</u>    |
| <b>Retained Earnings</b>   |                                     |                 |              |                 |              |                 |
| Balance, beginning of year .....   |                                     | 1,618           |              | 1,017           |              | 644             |
| Net income .....   |                                     | 512             |              | 725             |              | 390             |
| Dividend to parent .....   |                                     | (496)           |              | (124)           |              | (17)            |
| Balance, end of year .....   |                                     | <u>1,634</u>    |              | <u>1,618</u>    |              | <u>1,017</u>    |
| <b>Accumulated Other Comprehensive<br/>Income</b>  |                                     |                 |              |                 |              |                 |
| Balance, beginning of year .....   |                                     | 16              |              | 10              |              | 10              |
| Other comprehensive income .....   |                                     | —               |              | 6               |              | —               |
| Balance, end of year .....   |                                     | <u>16</u>       |              | <u>16</u>       |              | <u>10</u>       |
| <b>Total Stockholder's Equity</b> .....  |                                     | <u>\$ 5,879</u> |              | <u>\$ 5,363</u> |              | <u>\$ 5,133</u> |

See Combined Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements

**CENTERPOINT ENERGY, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES**  
**CENTERPOINT ENERGY HOUSTON ELECTRIC, LLC AND SUBSIDIARIES**  
**CENTERPOINT ENERGY RESOURCES CORP. AND SUBSIDIARIES**

**COMBINED NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**(1) Background**

*General.* This combined Form 10-K is filed separately by three registrants: CenterPoint Energy, Inc., CenterPoint Energy Houston Electric, LLC and CenterPoint Energy Resources Corp. Information contained herein relating to any individual registrant is filed by such registrant solely on its own behalf. Each registrant makes no representation as to information relating exclusively to the other Registrants or the subsidiaries of CenterPoint Energy other than itself or its subsidiaries.

Except as discussed in Note 13 to the Registrants' Consolidated Financial Statements, no registrant has an obligation in respect of any other Registrant's debt securities, and holders of such debt securities should not consider the financial resources or results of operations of any Registrant other than the obligor in making a decision with respect to such securities.

Included in this combined Form 10-K are the Financial Statements of CenterPoint Energy, Houston Electric and CERC, which are referred to collectively as the Registrants. The Combined Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements apply to all Registrants and specific references to Houston Electric and CERC herein also pertain to CenterPoint Energy, unless otherwise indicated.

*Background.* CenterPoint Energy, Inc. is a public utility holding company. On June 30, 2023, CenterPoint Energy completed the sale of its indirect subsidiary, Energy Systems Group, to an unaffiliated third party. For additional information, see Note 4.

As of December 31, 2023, CenterPoint Energy's operating subsidiaries were as follows:

- Houston Electric owns and operates electric transmission and distribution facilities in the Texas gulf coast area that includes the city of Houston;
- CERC Corp. (i) directly owns and operates natural gas distribution systems in Louisiana, Minnesota, Mississippi and Texas, (ii) indirectly, through Indiana Gas and VEDO, owns and operates natural gas distribution systems in Indiana and Ohio, respectively, and (iii) owns and operates permanent pipeline connections through interconnects with various interstate and intrastate pipeline companies through CEIP; and
- SIGECO provides energy delivery services to electric and natural gas customers located in and near Evansville in southwestern Indiana and owns and operates electric generation assets to serve its electric customers and optimizes those assets in the wholesale power market.

For a description of CenterPoint Energy's reportable segments, see Note 17. Houston Electric and CERC each consist of a single reportable segment.

On February 19, 2024, CenterPoint Energy, through its subsidiary CERC Corp., entered into the LAMS Asset Purchase Agreement to sell its Louisiana and Mississippi natural gas local distribution company businesses. The transaction is expected to close in the first quarter of 2025. For further information, see Note 21 to the consolidated financial statements.

**(2) Summary of Significant Accounting Policies**

***(a) Principles of Consolidation***

The accompanying consolidated financial statements have been prepared in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles. The accounts of the Registrants and their wholly-owned and majority-owned and controlled subsidiaries are included in the consolidated financial statements. All intercompany transactions and balances are eliminated in consolidation, except as described below.

As of December 31, 2023, CenterPoint Energy, Houston Electric and SIGECO had VIEs including the Bond Companies and the SIGECO Securitization Subsidiary, which are consolidated. The consolidated VIEs are wholly-owned, bankruptcy-

remote, special purpose entities that were formed solely for the purpose of securitizing transition property or facilitating the securitization financing of qualified costs in the second quarter of 2023 associated with the completed retirement of SIGECO's A.B. Brown coal generation facilities. CenterPoint Energy, through SIGECO, has a controlling financial interest in the SIGECO Securitization Subsidiary and is the VIE's primary beneficiary. For further information, see Note 7. Creditors of CenterPoint Energy, Houston Electric and SIGECO have no recourse to any assets or revenues of the Bond Companies or the SIGECO Securitization Subsidiary, as applicable. The Securitization Bonds issued by these VIEs are payable only from and secured by transition or securitization property, as applicable, and the bondholders have no recourse to the general credit of CenterPoint Energy, Houston Electric or SIGECO.

***(b) Use of Estimates***

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities, disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements, and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

***(c) Equity Method and Investments without a Readily Determinable Fair Value (CenterPoint Energy)***

CenterPoint Energy uses the equity method for investments in entities when it exercises significant influence, does not have control and is not considered the primary beneficiary, if applicable. Generally, equity investments in limited partnerships with interest greater than approximately 3-5% is accounted for under the equity method.

Under the equity method, CenterPoint Energy adjusts its investments each period for contributions made, distributions received, respective shares of comprehensive income and amortization of basis differences, as appropriate. CenterPoint Energy evaluates its equity method investments for impairment when events or changes in circumstances indicate there is a loss in value of the investment that is other than a temporary decline.

CenterPoint Energy considers distributions received from equity method investments which do not exceed cumulative equity in earnings subsequent to the date of investment to be a return on investment and classifies these distributions as operating activities in its Statements of Consolidated Cash Flows. CenterPoint Energy considers distributions received from equity method investments in excess of cumulative equity in earnings subsequent to the date of investment to be a return of investment and classifies these distributions as investing activities in its Statements of Consolidated Cash Flows.

Investments without a readily determinable fair value will be measured at cost, less impairment, plus or minus observable prices changes of an identical or similar investment of the same issuer.

***(d) Revenues***

The Registrants record revenue for electricity delivery and natural gas sales and services under the accrual method and these revenues are recognized upon delivery to customers. Electricity deliveries not billed by month-end are accrued based on actual AMS meter data, supply volumes, estimated line loss and applicable tariff rates. Natural gas sales not billed by month-end are accrued based upon estimated purchased gas volumes, estimated lost and unaccounted for gas and currently effective tariff rates. For further discussion, see Note 5.

***(e) MISO Transactions***

Indiana Electric is a member of the MISO. MISO-related purchase and sale transactions are recorded using settlement information provided by the MISO. These purchase and sale transactions are accounted for on at least a net hourly position, meaning net purchases within that interval are recorded on CenterPoint Energy's Statements of Consolidated Income in Utility natural gas, fuel and purchased power, and net sales within that interval are recorded on CenterPoint Energy's Statements of Consolidated Income in Utility revenues. On occasion, prior period transactions are resettled outside the routine process due to a change in the MISO's tariff or a material interpretation thereof. Expenses associated with resettlements are recorded once the resettlement is probable and the resettlement amount can be estimated. Revenues associated with resettlements are recognized when the amount is determinable and collectability is reasonably assured.

***(f) Guarantees***

CenterPoint Energy recognizes guarantee obligations at fair value. CenterPoint Energy discloses parent company guarantees of a subsidiary's obligation when that guarantee results in the exposure of a material obligation of the parent company even if the probability of fulfilling such obligation is considered remote. See Note 15(c).

***(g) Long-lived Assets, Goodwill and Intangibles***

The Registrants record property, plant and equipment at historical cost and expense repair and maintenance costs as incurred.

The Registrants periodically evaluate long-lived assets, including property, plant and equipment, and specifically identifiable intangibles subject to amortization, when events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying value of these assets may not be recoverable. For rate-regulated businesses, recoverability of long-lived assets is assessed by determining if a capital disallowance from a regulator is probable through monitoring the outcome of rate cases and other proceedings. For businesses that are not rate-regulated, recoverability is assessed based on an estimate of undiscounted cash flows attributable to the assets compared to the carrying value of the assets. No long-lived asset or intangible asset impairments were recorded in 2023, 2022 or 2021.

CenterPoint Energy and CERC perform goodwill impairment tests at least annually and evaluate goodwill when events or changes in circumstances indicate that its carrying value may not be recoverable. CenterPoint Energy and CERC recognize a goodwill impairment by the amount a reporting unit's carrying value exceeds its fair value, not to exceed the carrying amount of goodwill within that reporting unit. CenterPoint Energy includes deferred tax assets and liabilities within its reporting unit's carrying value for the purposes of annual and interim impairment tests, regardless of whether the estimated fair value reflects the disposition of such assets and liabilities. For further information about the goodwill impairment tests, see Note 6.

***(h) Assets Held for Sale and Discontinued Operations***

Generally, a long-lived asset to be sold is classified as held for sale in the period in which management, with approval from the Board of Directors, as applicable, commits to a plan to sell, and a sale is expected to be completed within one year. The Registrants record assets and liabilities held for sale, or the disposal group, at the lower of their carrying value or their estimated fair value less cost to sell. If the disposal group reflects a component of a reporting unit and meets the definition of a business, the goodwill within that reporting unit is allocated to the disposal group based on the relative fair value of the components representing a business that will be retained and disposed. Goodwill is not allocated to a portion of a reporting unit that does not meet the definition of a business. A disposal group that meets the held for sale criteria and also represents a strategic shift to the Registrant is also reflected as discontinued operations on the Statements of Consolidated Income, and prior periods are recast to reflect the earnings or losses from such businesses as income from discontinued operations, net of tax.

***(i) Regulatory Assets and Liabilities***

The Registrants apply the guidance for accounting for regulated operations within the Electric reportable segment and the Natural Gas reportable segment. The Registrants' rate-regulated subsidiaries may collect revenues subject to refund pending final determination in rate proceedings. In connection with such revenues, estimated rate refund liabilities are recorded which reflect management's current judgment of the ultimate outcomes of the proceedings.

The Registrants' rate-regulated businesses recognize removal costs as a component of depreciation expense in accordance with regulatory treatment. In addition, a portion of the amount of removal costs collected from customers that relate to AROs has been reflected as an asset retirement liability in accordance with accounting guidance for AROs.

For further detail on the Registrants' regulatory assets and liabilities, see Note 7.

***(j) Depreciation and Amortization Expense***

The Registrants compute depreciation and amortization using the straight-line method based on economic lives or regulatory-mandated recovery periods. Amortization expense includes amortization of certain regulatory assets and other intangibles.

**(k) Capitalization and Deferral of Interest, including AFUDC**

The Registrants capitalize interest and AFUDC as a component of projects under construction and amortize it over the assets' estimated useful lives once the assets are placed in service. Additionally, the Registrants defer interest costs into a regulatory asset when amounts are probable of recovery. Deferred debt interest is amortized over the recovery period for rate-making purposes. AFUDC represents the composite interest cost of borrowed funds and a reasonable return on the equity funds used for construction for subsidiaries that apply the guidance for accounting for regulated operations. Although AFUDC increases both property, plant and equipment and earnings, it is realized in cash when the assets are included in rates. The table below includes interest capitalized or deferred during the periods.

|  | Year Ended December 31, |                     |      |                       |                     |      |                       |                     |      |
|--|-------------------------|---------------------|------|-----------------------|---------------------|------|-----------------------|---------------------|------|
|  | 2023                    |                     |      | 2022                  |                     |      | 2021                  |                     |      |
|  | CenterPoint<br>Energy   | Houston<br>Electric | CERC | CenterPoint<br>Energy | Houston<br>Electric | CERC | CenterPoint<br>Energy | Houston<br>Electric | CERC |
|  | (in millions)           |                     |      |                       |                     |      |                       |                     |      |
| Capitalized interest and<br>AFUDC debt (1) ..... | \$ 32                   | \$ 18               | \$ 6 | \$ 26                 | \$ 14               | \$ 7 | \$ 18                 | \$ 13               | \$ 3 |
| AFUDC equity (2) .....                           | 62                      | 32                  | 14   | 37                    | 24                  | 5    | 28                    | 20                  | 5    |
| Deferred debt interest (3) .....                 | 65                      | 16                  | 43   | 51                    | 12                  | 36   | 26                    | 1                   | 22   |

- (1) Included in Interest expense and other finance charges on the Registrants' respective Statements of Consolidated Income.
- (2) Included in Other Income (Expense) on the Registrants' respective Statements of Consolidated Income.
- (3) Represents the amount of deferred debt interest on certain regulatory assets that are authorized to earn a return, such as debt post in-service carrying costs on property, plant and equipment, gas costs, storm restoration costs, and TEEEF (including returns on both regulatory and lease assets).

**(l) Income Taxes**

Houston Electric and CERC are included in CenterPoint Energy's U.S. federal consolidated income tax return. Houston Electric and CERC report their income tax provision on a separate entity basis pursuant to a tax sharing policy with CenterPoint Energy. Current federal and certain state income taxes are payable to or receivable from CenterPoint Energy.

The Registrants use the asset and liability method of accounting for deferred income taxes. Deferred income tax assets and liabilities are recognized for the future tax consequences attributable to differences between the financial statement carrying amounts of existing assets and liabilities and their respective tax basis. A valuation allowance is established against deferred tax assets for which management believes realization is not considered to be more likely than not. The Registrants recognize interest and penalties as a component of income tax expense (benefit), as applicable, in their respective Statements of Consolidated Income. CenterPoint Energy reports the income tax provision associated with its interest in Enable in discontinued operations, net of tax in its Statements of Consolidated Income. For further information, see Note 4.

To the extent certain EDIT of the Registrants' rate-regulated subsidiaries may be recoverable or payable through future rates, regulatory assets and liabilities have been recorded, respectively. See Note 14 for further discussion.

The Registrants use the portfolio approach to recognize income tax effects on other comprehensive income from accumulated other comprehensive income.

Investment tax credits are deferred and amortized to income over the approximate lives of the related property. Production tax credits extended by the IRA may be used to reduce current federal income taxes payable.

**(m) Accounts Receivable and Allowance for Credit Losses**

Accounts receivable are recorded at the invoiced amount and do not bear interest. Management reviews historical write-offs, current available information, and reasonable and supportable forecasts to estimate and establish allowance for credit losses. Account balances are charged off against the allowance when management determines it is probable the receivable will not be recovered. See Note 7 for further information about regulatory deferrals of bad debt expense, including those related to COVID-19 and the February 2021 Winter Storm Event.

**(n) Inventory**

The Registrants' inventory consists principally of materials and supplies, and for CERC, natural gas, and for CenterPoint Energy, coal inventory. Materials and supplies are valued at the lower of average cost or market. Materials and supplies are recorded to inventory when purchased and subsequently charged to expense or capitalized to plant when installed. Inventory related to CenterPoint Energy's regulated operations is valued at historical cost consistent with ratemaking treatment. Coal inventory is valued at average cost. Certain natural gas in storage at CenterPoint Energy's and CERC's utilities are recorded using the LIFO method. CenterPoint Energy's and CERC's balances in inventory that were valued using LIFO method were as follows:

|                      | Year Ended December 31, |        |          |       |
|----------------------|-------------------------|--------|----------|-------|
|                      | 2023 (1)                | 2022   | 2023 (1) | 2022  |
|                      | CenterPoint Energy      |        | CERC     |       |
|                      | (in millions)           |        |          |       |
| LIFO inventory ..... | \$ 106                  | \$ 101 | \$ 86    | \$ 82 |

- (1) Based on the average cost of gas purchased during December 2023, CenterPoint Energy's and CERC's cost of replacing inventories carried at LIFO cost was more than the carrying value at December 31, 2023 by \$8 million and \$13 million, respectively.

**(o) Derivative Instruments**

The Registrants are exposed to various market risks. These risks arise from transactions entered into in the normal course of business. The Registrants, from time to time, utilize derivative instruments such as physical forward contracts, swaps and options to mitigate the impact of changes in commodity prices, weather and interest rates on operating results and cash flows. Such derivatives are recognized in the Registrants' Consolidated Balance Sheets at their fair value unless the Registrant elects the normal purchase and sales exemption for qualified physical transactions. A derivative may be designated as a normal purchase or normal sale if the intent is to physically receive or deliver the product for use or sale in the normal course of business. CenterPoint Energy elected to record changes in the fair value of amounts excluded from the assessment of effectiveness immediately in its Statements of Consolidated Income, and such amounts will be captured in a regulatory asset or regulatory liability if they are recoverable or refundable to customers.

**(p) Investments in Equity Securities (CenterPoint Energy)**

CenterPoint Energy reports equity securities at estimated fair value in the Consolidated Balance Sheets, and any gains and losses, net of any transaction costs, are recorded as Gain (Loss) on Equity Securities in the Statements of Consolidated Income.

**(q) Environmental Costs**

The Registrants expense or capitalize environmental expenditures, as appropriate, depending on their future economic benefit. The Registrants expense amounts that relate to an existing condition caused by past operations that do not have future economic benefit. The Registrants record undiscounted liabilities related to these future costs when environmental assessments and/or remediation activities are probable and the costs can be reasonably estimated.

**(r) Cash and Cash Equivalents and Restricted Cash**

For purposes of reporting cash flows, the Registrants consider cash equivalents to be short-term, highly-liquid investments with maturities of three months or less from the date of purchase. Cash and cash equivalents held by the Bond Companies and the SIGECO Securitization Subsidiary (VIEs) solely to support servicing the Securitization Bonds as of December 31, 2023 and 2022 are reflected on CenterPoint Energy's and Houston Electric's Consolidated Balance Sheets.

In connection with the issuance of Securitization Bonds, CenterPoint Energy and Houston Electric were required to establish restricted cash accounts to collateralize the bonds that were issued in these financing transactions. These restricted cash accounts are not available for withdrawal until the maturity of the bonds and are not included in cash and cash equivalents. For more information on restricted cash see Note 18.

**(s) Preferred Stock and Dividends**

Preferred stock is evaluated to determine balance sheet classification, and all conversion and redemption features are evaluated for bifurcation treatment. Proceeds received net of issuance costs are recognized on the settlement date. Cash dividends become a liability once declared. Income available to common stockholders is computed by deducting from net income the dividends accumulated and earned during the period on cumulative preferred stock.

**(t) New Accounting Pronouncements**

In November 2023, the FASB issued ASU 2023-07, Segment Reporting (Topic 280): Improvements to Reportable Segment Disclosures (“ASU 2023-07”). This ASU updates segment disclosure requirements through enhanced disclosures around significant segment expenses. ASU 2023-07 is effective for fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2023, and for interim periods within fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2024. Early adoption is permitted. The Registrants are currently evaluating the impact of this ASU on their respective consolidated financial statements.

In December 2023, the FASB issued ASU 2023-09, Income Taxes (Topic 740): Improvements to Income Tax Disclosures (“ASU 2023-09”). This ASU enhances the transparency of income tax disclosures related to rate reconciliation and income taxes. ASU 2023-09 is effective for annual periods beginning after December 15, 2024. Early adoption is permitted. The Registrants are currently evaluating the impact of this ASU on their respective consolidated financial statements.

Management believes that all other recently adopted and recently issued accounting standards that are not yet effective will not have a material impact on the Registrants’ financial position, results of operations or cash flows upon adoption.

**(3) Property, Plant and Equipment**

**(a) Property, Plant and Equipment**

Property, plant and equipment includes the following:

|  | Weighted<br>Average<br>Useful<br>Lives | December 31, 2023                             |  |   | December 31, 2022                             |  |   |
|--|--|---|--|---|---|--|---|
|  |  | Property,<br>Plant and<br>Equipment,<br>Gross | Accumulated<br>Depreciation<br>&<br>Amortization | Property,<br>Plant and<br>Equipment,<br>Net | Property,<br>Plant and<br>Equipment,<br>Gross | Accumulated<br>Depreciation<br>&<br>Amortization | Property,<br>Plant and<br>Equipment,<br>Net |
|  | (in years)                             | (in millions)                                 |  |   |   |  |   |
| <b>CenterPoint Energy</b>                    |  |   |  |   |   |  |   |
| Electric transmission and distribution ..... | 37                                     | \$ 19,151                                     | \$ 4,762   | \$ 14,389                                   | \$ 19,154                                     | \$ 5,317   | \$ 13,837                                   |
| Electric generation (1).....                 | 25                                     | 1,381   | 315  | 1,066                                       | 2,120   | 813  | 1,307                                       |
| Natural gas distribution.....                | 32                                     | 16,492  | 4,337  | 12,155                                      | 15,097  | 4,135  | 10,962                                      |
| Finance ROU asset mobile generation.....     | 7.5                                    | 662   | 136  | 526   | 662   | 41   | 621   |
| Other property.....                          | 22                                     | 2,710   | 993  | 1,717                                       | 695   | 279  | 416   |
| Total .....                                  |  | <u>\$ 40,396</u>                              | <u>\$ 10,543</u>                                 | <u>\$ 29,853</u>                            | <u>\$ 37,728</u>                              | <u>\$ 10,585</u>                                 | <u>\$ 27,143</u>                            |
| <b>Houston Electric</b>                      |  |   |  |   |   |  |   |
| Electric transmission and distribution ..... | 37                                     | \$ 16,800                                     | \$ 3,641   | \$ 13,159                                   | \$ 14,791                                     | \$ 3,556   | \$ 11,235                                   |
| Finance ROU asset mobile generation.....     | 7.5                                    | 662   | 136  | 526   | 662   | 41   | 621   |
| Other property.....                          | 20                                     | 2,053   | 692  | 1,361                                       | 2,300   | 695  | 1,605                                       |
| Total .....                                  |  | <u>\$ 19,515</u>                              | <u>\$ 4,469</u>                                  | <u>\$ 15,046</u>                            | <u>\$ 17,753</u>                              | <u>\$ 4,292</u>                                  | <u>\$ 13,461</u>                            |
| <b>CERC</b>                                  |  |   |  |   |   |  |   |
| Natural gas distribution.....                | 31                                     | \$ 15,591                                     | \$ 4,136   | \$ 11,455                                   | \$ 14,316                                     | \$ 3,946   | \$ 10,370                                   |
| Other property.....                          | 15                                     | 81  | 33   | 48  | 63  | 27   | 36  |
| Total .....                                  |  | <u>\$ 15,672</u>                              | <u>\$ 4,169</u>                                  | <u>\$ 11,503</u>                            | <u>\$ 14,379</u>                              | <u>\$ 3,973</u>                                  | <u>\$ 10,406</u>                            |

- (1) SIGECO and AGC own a 300 MW unit at the Warrick Power Plant (Warrick Unit 4) as tenants in common as of December 31, 2023. SIGECO’s share of the cost of this unit as of December 31, 2023, is \$198 million with accumulated depreciation totaling \$171 million. Under the operating agreement, AGC and SIGECO shared equally in the cost of operation and output of the unit. SIGECO’s share of operating costs is included in Operation and maintenance expense in CenterPoint Energy’s Statements of Consolidated Income. SIGECO exited joint operations of Warrick 4 on January 1, 2024.

### (b) Depreciation and Amortization

The following table presents depreciation and amortization expense for 2023, 2022 and 2021:

|   | Year Ended December 31, |                  |               |                    |                  |               |                    |                  |               |
|---|-------------------------|------------------|---------------|--------------------|------------------|---------------|--------------------|------------------|---------------|
|   | 2023                    |                  |               | 2022               |                  |               | 2021               |                  |               |
|   | CenterPoint Energy      | Houston Electric | CERC          | CenterPoint Energy | Houston Electric | CERC          | CenterPoint Energy | Houston Electric | CERC          |
|   | (in millions)           |                  |               |                    |                  |               |                    |                  |               |
| Depreciation .....                                  | \$ 1,092                | \$ 484           | \$ 459        | \$ 1,013           | \$ 434           | \$ 420        | \$ 1,024           | \$ 391           | \$ 466        |
| Amortization of securitized regulatory assets ..... | 163                     | 155              | —             | 191                | 191              | —             | 213                | 213              | —             |
| Other amortization .....                            | 146                     | 109              | 34            | 84                 | 45               | 28            | 79                 | 38               | 17            |
| Total .....   | <u>\$ 1,401</u>         | <u>\$ 748</u>    | <u>\$ 493</u> | <u>\$ 1,288</u>    | <u>\$ 670</u>    | <u>\$ 448</u> | <u>\$ 1,316</u>    | <u>\$ 642</u>    | <u>\$ 483</u> |

### (c) AROs

The Registrants account for an ARO at fair value in the period during which the legal obligation is incurred if a reasonable estimate of fair value and its settlement date can be made. At the timing of recording an ARO, the associated asset retirement costs are capitalized as part of the carrying amount of the related long-lived asset. The Registrants recognize a regulatory asset or liability for the timing differences between the recognition of expenses and costs recovered through the ratemaking process. The estimates of future liabilities are developed using a discounted cash flow model based upon estimates and assumptions of future costs, interest rates, credit-adjusted risk-free rates and the estimated timing of settlement.

The Registrants have recorded AROs associated with the removal of asbestos and asbestos-containing material in its buildings, including substation building structures. CenterPoint Energy recorded AROs relating to the closure of the ash ponds at A.B. Brown and F.B. Culley. CenterPoint Energy and Houston Electric also recorded AROs relating to treated wood poles for electric distribution, distribution transformers containing PCB (also known as Polychlorinated Biphenyl), and underground fuel storage tanks. CenterPoint Energy and CERC also recorded AROs relating to gas pipelines abandoned in place.

A reconciliation of the changes in the ARO liability recorded in Other non-current liabilities on each of the Registrants' respective Consolidated Balance Sheets is as follows:

|                                  | December 31, 2023  |                  |               | December 31, 2022  |                  |               |
|----------------------------------|--------------------|------------------|---------------|--------------------|------------------|---------------|
|                                  | CenterPoint Energy | Houston Electric | CERC          | CenterPoint Energy | Houston Electric | CERC          |
|                                  | (in millions)      |                  |               |                    |                  |               |
| Beginning balance .....          | \$ 610             | \$ 36            | \$ 420        | \$ 659             | \$ 42            | \$ 479        |
| Accretion expense (1) .....      | 23                 | 1                | 16            | 20                 | 1                | 15            |
| Revisions in estimates (2) ..... | (43)               | 3                | (56)          | (69)               | (7)              | (74)          |
| Ending balance .....             | <u>\$ 590</u>      | <u>\$ 40</u>     | <u>\$ 380</u> | <u>\$ 610</u>      | <u>\$ 36</u>     | <u>\$ 420</u> |

(1) Reflected in Regulatory assets on each of the Registrants' respective Consolidated Balance Sheets.

(2) In 2023 and 2022, CenterPoint Energy and CERC reflected a decrease in their respective ARO liability, which was primarily attributable to increases in the long-term interest rates used for discounting in the ARO calculation. In 2023, Houston Electric reflected an increase in its ARO liability attributable to an increase in discount rates and disposal costs, while in 2022, Houston Electric reflected a decrease in its ARO liability, which was primarily attributable to increases in the long-term interest rates used for discounting in the ARO calculation.

### (4) Divestitures (CenterPoint Energy and CERC)

**Divestiture of Energy Systems Group.** On May 21, 2023, CenterPoint Energy, through its subsidiary Vectren Energy Services, entered into an Equity Purchase Agreement to sell all of the outstanding limited liability company interests of Energy Systems Group to ESG Holdings Group, for a purchase price of \$157 million, subject to customary adjustments set forth in the Equity Purchase Agreement, including adjustments based on Energy Systems Group's net working capital at closing, indebtedness, cash and cash equivalents and transaction expenses. The transaction closed on June 30, 2023, and CenterPoint Energy received \$154 million in cash. Additionally, as of December 31, 2023, CenterPoint Energy had a payable of



approximately \$2 million to ESG Holdings Group for working capital and other adjustments set forth in the Equity Purchase Agreement.

In May 2023, certain assets and liabilities of Energy Systems Group met the held for sale criteria. The divestiture of Energy Systems Group reflects CenterPoint Energy's continued strategic focus on its core utility businesses. The historical annual revenues, net income and total assets of Energy Systems Group did not have a sufficient effect, quantitatively or qualitatively, on CenterPoint Energy's financial results to be considered a strategic shift. Therefore, the income and expenses associated with Energy Systems Group were not reflected as discontinued operations on CenterPoint Energy's Statements of Consolidated Income. For disposal groups that are classified as held for sale but that do not meet the criteria for discontinued operations reporting, the assets and liabilities of the disposal group are required to be separately presented on the face of the balance sheet only in the initial period in which it is classified as held for sale. Therefore, CenterPoint Energy's Consolidated Balance Sheets as of December 31, 2022 were not recast to reflect Energy Systems Group's assets and liabilities as held for sale. Depreciation and amortization of long-lived assets ceased at the end of the quarter in which the held for sale criteria is met. Additionally, as a result of the completion of the sale of Energy Systems Group in June 2023, there were no assets or liabilities classified as held for sale as of December 31, 2023. For a discussion of guarantees and product warranties related to Energy Systems Group, see Note 15(c).

CenterPoint Energy recognized a loss on sale of approximately \$13 million, including \$3 million of transaction costs, during the twelve months ended December 31, 2023, in connection with the closing of the sale of Energy Systems Group. Additionally, CenterPoint Energy recognized a current tax expense of \$32 million during the twelve months ended December 31, 2023, as a result of the cash taxes payable upon the closing of the sale.

The pre-tax income (loss) for Energy Systems Group, excluding interest and corporate allocations, included in CenterPoint Energy's Statements of Consolidated Income is as follows:

|  | Year Ended December 31, |      |        |
|--|-------------------------|------|--------|
|  | 2023 (1)                | 2022 | 2021   |
|  | (in millions)           |      |        |
| Income (Loss) from Continuing Operations Before Income Taxes ..... | \$ (4)                  | \$ 2 | \$ (3) |

(1) Reflects January 1, 2023 to June 30, 2023 results only due to of the sale of Energy Systems Group.

**Divestiture of Arkansas and Oklahoma Natural Gas Businesses (CenterPoint Energy and CERC).** On April 29, 2021, CenterPoint Energy, through its subsidiary CERC Corp., entered into the AROK Asset Purchase Agreement to sell its Arkansas and Oklahoma Natural Gas businesses for \$2.15 billion in cash, including recovery of approximately \$425 million in natural gas costs, including storm-related incremental natural gas costs associated with the February 2021 Winter Storm Event, subject to certain adjustments set forth in the AROK Asset Purchase Agreement. The assets included approximately 17,000 miles of main pipeline in Arkansas, Oklahoma and certain portions of Bowie County, Texas serving more than half a million customers. The transaction closed on January 10, 2022.

The sale was considered an asset sale for tax purposes, requiring net deferred tax liabilities to be excluded from held for sale balances. The deferred taxes associated with the businesses were recognized as a deferred income tax benefit by CenterPoint Energy and CERC upon closing of the sale in 2022.

Although the Arkansas and Oklahoma Natural Gas businesses met the held for sale criteria as of December 31, 2021, their disposals did not represent a strategic shift to CenterPoint Energy and CERC, as both retained significant operations in, and continued to invest in, their natural gas businesses. Therefore, the income and expenses associated with the disposed businesses were not reflected as discontinued operations on CenterPoint Energy's and CERC's Statements of Consolidated Income, as applicable. Since the depreciation on the Arkansas and Oklahoma Natural Gas assets continued to be reflected in revenues through customer rates until the closing of the transaction and will be reflected in the carryover basis of the rate-regulated assets, CenterPoint Energy and CERC continued to record depreciation on those assets through the closing of the transaction. The Registrants record assets and liabilities held for sale at the lower of their carrying value or their estimated fair value less cost to sell.

CenterPoint Energy and CERC recognized gains of \$303 million and \$557 million, respectively, net of transaction costs of \$59 million, in connection with the closing of the disposition of the Arkansas and Oklahoma Natural Gas businesses during the year ended December 31, 2022. CenterPoint Energy and CERC collected a receivable of \$15 million in May 2022 for full and final settlement of the working capital adjustment under the AROK Asset Purchase Agreement.

Neither CenterPoint Energy nor CERC recognized any gains or losses on the measurement of assets held for sale during the year ended December 31, 2021. See Note 6 for further information about the allocation of goodwill to the businesses to be disposed.

As a result of the completion of the sale of the Arkansas and Oklahoma Natural Gas businesses, there were no assets or liabilities classified as held for sale as of December 31, 2022.

The pre-tax income for the Arkansas and Oklahoma Natural Gas businesses, excluding interest and corporate allocations, included in CenterPoint Energy's and CERC's Statements of Consolidated Income is as follows:

|  | <u>Year Ended December 31,</u> |             |
|--|--------------------------------|-------------|
|  | <u>2022 (1)</u>                | <u>2021</u> |
|  | (in millions)                  |             |
| Income from Continuing Operations Before Income Taxes..... | \$ 9                           | \$ 78       |

(1) Reflects January 1, 2022 to January 9, 2022 results only due to of the sale of the Arkansas and Oklahoma Natural Gas businesses.

Effective on the date of the closing of the disposition of the Arkansas and Oklahoma Natural Gas businesses, a subsidiary of CenterPoint Energy entered into the Transition Services Agreement, whereby that subsidiary agreed to provide certain transition services such as accounting, customer operations, procurement, and technology functions for a term of up to twelve months. In November 2022, a significant majority of all services under the Transition Services Agreement were terminated, and on January 10, 2023, all remaining services were terminated.

CenterPoint Energy's charges to Southern Col Midco for reimbursement of transition services was less than \$1 million and \$40 million during the years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022, respectively. Actual transition services costs incurred are recorded net of amounts charged to Southern Col Midco. CenterPoint Energy had no accounts receivable and accounts receivable of \$1 million as of December 31, 2023 and 2022, respectively, from Southern Col Midco for transition services.

**Divestiture of MES (CenterPoint Energy and CERC).** CenterPoint Energy, through its subsidiary CERC Corp., completed the sale of MES on August 31, 2021 to Last Mile Energy. Prior to the transaction, MES provided temporary delivery of LNG and CNG throughout the contiguous 48 states and MES was reflected in CenterPoint Energy's Natural Gas reportable segment and CERC's single reportable segment, as applicable.

The MES disposal did not represent a strategic shift to CenterPoint Energy and CERC, as both retained significant operations in, and continued to invest in, their natural gas businesses. Therefore, the income and expenses associated with MES are not reflected as discontinued operations on CenterPoint Energy's and CERC's Statements of Consolidated Income, as applicable. CenterPoint Energy and CERC recognized a pre-tax gain on the sale of \$8 million and \$11 million, respectively, during year ended December 31, 2021. See Note 6 for further information about the allocation of goodwill to the MES disposal.

### Discontinued Operations (CenterPoint Energy)

CenterPoint Energy's discontinued operations reflect the disposal of its interests in Enable, which represented a strategic shift that had a major effect on CenterPoint Energy's operations and financial results. As such, the equity in earnings of unconsolidated affiliates, net of tax, associated with CenterPoint Energy's equity investment in Enable was reflected as discontinued operations on CenterPoint Energy's Statements of Consolidated Income.

A summary of discontinued operations presented in CenterPoint Energy's Statements of Consolidated Income is as follows:

|   | <u>Year Ended December 31, 2021</u> |            |
|---|-------------------------------------|------------|
|   | (in millions)                       |            |
| Equity in earnings of unconsolidated affiliate, net.....      | \$                                  | 1,019      |
| Income from discontinued operations before income taxes ..... |                                     | 1,019      |
| Income tax expense .....                                      |                                     | 201        |
| Net income from discontinued operations .....                 | <u>\$</u>                           | <u>818</u> |

CenterPoint Energy elected not to separately disclose discontinued operations on its Statements of Consolidated Cash Flows. Except as discussed in Note 2, long-lived assets are not depreciated or amortized once they are classified as held for sale. The following table summarizes CenterPoint Energy's cash flows from discontinued operations and certain supplemental cash flow disclosures as applicable:

|   | <u>Year Ended December 31, 2021</u> |       |
|---|-------------------------------------|-------|
|   | (in millions)                       |       |
| <b>Cash flows from operating activities:</b>                                      |                                     |       |
| Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash provided by operating activities: |                                     |       |
| Gain on Enable Merger .....   | \$                                  | (681) |
| Equity in earnings of unconsolidated affiliate .....                              |                                     | (339) |
| Distributions from unconsolidated affiliate .....                                 |                                     | 155   |
| <b>Cash flows from investing activities:</b>                                      |                                     |       |
| Transaction costs related to the Enable Merger .....                              |                                     | (49)  |
| Cash received related to Enable Merger .....                                      |                                     | 5     |

**Disposal of Investment in Enable (CenterPoint Energy).** On December 2, 2021, Enable completed the previously announced Enable Merger pursuant to the Enable Merger Agreement entered into on February 16, 2021. At the closing of the Enable Merger on December 2, 2021, Energy Transfer acquired 100% of Enable's outstanding common and preferred units, and, as a result, Enable Common Units owned by CenterPoint Energy were exchanged for Energy Transfer Common Units and Enable Series A Preferred Units owned by CenterPoint Energy were exchanged for Energy Transfer Series G Preferred Units.

During the year ended December 31, 2022, CenterPoint Energy sold all of its remaining Energy Transfer Common Units and Energy Transfer Series G Preferred Units. See Note 11 for further information regarding Energy Transfer equity securities.

**Distributions Received from Enable (CenterPoint Energy):**

|                                       | <u>Year Ended December 31, 2021</u> |                          |            |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|------------|
|                                       | <u>Per Unit</u>                     | <u>Cash Distribution</u> |            |
|                                       |                                     | (in millions)            |            |
| Enable Common Units .....             | \$ 0.6610                           | \$                       | 155        |
| Enable Series A Preferred Units ..... | 2.2965                              |                          | 34         |
| <b>Total</b> .....                    |                                     | <u>\$</u>                | <u>189</u> |

**Transactions with Enable (CenterPoint Energy and CERC):**

The transactions with Enable through December 2, 2021 in the following tables exclude transactions with the Energy Services Disposal Group.

|  | <u>Year Ended December 31, 2021</u> |    |
|--|-------------------------------------|----|
|  | (in millions)                       |    |
| Natural gas expenses, including transportation and storage costs (1) ..... | \$                                  | 85 |

(1) Included in Utility natural gas, fuel and purchased power on CenterPoint Energy's Statements of Consolidated Income and in Utility natural gas on CERC's Statements of Consolidated Income.

**Summarized Financial Information for Enable (CenterPoint Energy)**

Summarized consolidated income (loss) information for Enable is as follows:

|  | <u>Year Ended December 31, 2021 (1)</u> |              |
|--|---|--------------|
|  | (in millions)                           |              |
| Operating revenues.....  | \$                                      | 3,466        |
| Cost of sales, excluding depreciation and amortization.....                        |   | 1,959        |
| Depreciation and amortization.....   |   | 382          |
| Operating income.....  |   | 634          |
| Net income attributable to Enable Common Units.....                                |   | 461          |
| <b>Reconciliation of Equity in Earnings (Losses), net before income taxes:</b>     |   |              |
| CenterPoint Energy's interest.....   | \$                                      | 248          |
| Basis difference amortization (2).....   |   | 92           |
| Loss on dilution, net of proportional basis difference recognition.....            |   | (1)          |
| Gain on Enable Merger.....   |   | 680          |
| CenterPoint Energy's equity in earnings (losses), net before income taxes (3)..... | <u>\$</u>                               | <u>1,019</u> |

(1) Reflects January 1, 2021 to December 2, 2021 results only due to the closing of the Enable Merger.

(2) Equity in earnings of unconsolidated affiliate includes CenterPoint Energy's share of Enable earnings adjusted for the amortization of the basis difference of CenterPoint Energy's original investment in Enable and its underlying equity in net assets of Enable. The basis difference was being amortized through the year 2048 and ceased upon closing of the Enable Merger.

(3) Reported as discontinued operations on CenterPoint Energy's Statements of Consolidated Income.

**(5) Revenue Recognition**

In accordance with ASC 606, revenue is recognized when a customer obtains control of promised goods or services. The amount of revenue recognized reflects the consideration to which the Registrants expect to be entitled to receive in exchange for these goods or services.

ARPs are contracts between the utility and its regulators, not between the utility and a customer. The Registrants recognize ARP revenue as other revenues when the regulator-specified conditions for recognition have been met. Upon recovery of ARP revenue through incorporation in rates charged for utility service to customers, ARP revenue is reversed and recorded as revenue from contracts with customers. The recognition of ARP revenues and the reversal of ARP revenues upon recovery through rates charged for utility service may not occur in the same period.

The following tables disaggregate revenues by reportable segment and major source:

**CenterPoint Energy**

|  | <u>Year Ended December 31, 2023</u> |                    |                            |                 |
|--|-------------------------------------|--------------------|----------------------------|-----------------|
|  | <u>Electric</u>                     | <u>Natural Gas</u> | <u>Corporate and Other</u> | <u>Total</u>    |
|  | (in millions)                       |                    |                            |                 |
| Revenue from contracts with customers..... | \$ 4,275                            | \$ 4,210           | \$ 127                     | \$ 8,612        |
| Other (1).....                             | 15                                  | 69                 | 3                          | 87              |
| Eliminations.....                          | —                                   | (3)                | —                          | (3)             |
| Total revenues.....                        | <u>\$ 4,290</u>                     | <u>\$ 4,276</u>    | <u>\$ 130</u>              | <u>\$ 8,696</u> |

|  | Year Ended December 31, 2022 |                 |                     |                 |
|--|------------------------------|-----------------|---------------------|-----------------|
|  | Electric                     | Natural Gas     | Corporate and Other | Total           |
|  | (in millions)                |                 |                     |                 |
| Revenue from contracts with customers..... | \$ 4,095                     | \$ 4,969        | \$ 263              | \$ 9,327        |
| Other (1).....                             | 13                           | (23)            | 4                   | (6)             |
| Total revenues.....                        | <u>\$ 4,108</u>              | <u>\$ 4,946</u> | <u>\$ 267</u>       | <u>\$ 9,321</u> |

|  | Year Ended December 31, 2021 |                 |                     |                 |
|--|------------------------------|-----------------|---------------------|-----------------|
|  | Electric                     | Natural Gas     | Corporate and Other | Total           |
|  | (in millions)                |                 |                     |                 |
| Revenue from contracts with customers..... | \$ 3,726                     | \$ 4,281        | \$ 249              | \$ 8,256        |
| Other (1).....                             | 37                           | 55              | 4                   | 96              |
| Total revenues.....                        | <u>\$ 3,763</u>              | <u>\$ 4,336</u> | <u>\$ 253</u>       | <u>\$ 8,352</u> |

(1) Primarily consists of income from ARPs and leases. Total lease income was \$8 million, \$7 million and \$7 million for each of the years ended December 31, 2023, 2022 and 2021, respectively.

### Houston Electric

|  | Year Ended December 31, |                 |                 |
|--|-------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
|  | 2023                    | 2022            | 2021            |
|  | (in millions)           |                 |                 |
| Revenue from contracts with customers..... | \$ 3,684                | \$ 3,417        | \$ 3,117        |
| Other (1).....                             | (7)                     | (5)             | 17              |
| Total revenues.....                        | <u>\$ 3,677</u>         | <u>\$ 3,412</u> | <u>\$ 3,134</u> |

(1) Primarily consists of income from ARPs and leases. Lease income was not significant for the years ended December 31, 2023, 2022, and 2021.

### CERC

|  | Year Ended December 31, |                 |                 |
|--|-------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
|  | 2023                    | 2022            | 2021            |
|  | (in millions)           |                 |                 |
| Revenue from contracts with customers..... | \$ 4,083                | \$ 4,816        | \$ 4,148        |
| Other (1).....                             | 66                      | (16)            | 52              |
| Total revenues.....                        | <u>\$ 4,149</u>         | <u>\$ 4,800</u> | <u>\$ 4,200</u> |

(1) Primarily consists of income from ARPs and leases. Lease income was \$4 million, \$3 million and \$3 million, respectively, for the years ended December 31, 2023, 2022 and 2021.

### Revenues from Contracts with Customers

**Electric (CenterPoint Energy and Houston Electric).** Houston Electric distributes electricity to customers over time and customers consume the electricity when delivered. Indiana Electric generates, distributes and transmits electricity to customers over time, and customers consume the electricity when delivered. Revenue, consisting of both volumetric and fixed tariff rates set by state regulators, such as the PUCT and the IURC, is recognized as electricity is delivered and represents amounts both billed and unbilled. Discretionary services requested by customers are provided at a point in time with control transferring upon the completion of the service. Revenue for discretionary services provided by Houston Electric is recognized upon completion of service based on the tariff rates set by the PUCT. Payments for electricity distribution and discretionary services are aggregated and received on a monthly basis. Houston Electric performs transmission services over time as a stand-ready obligation to provide a reliable network of transmission systems. Revenue is recognized upon time elapsed, and the monthly tariff rate set by the regulator. Payments are received on a monthly basis. Indiana Electric customers are billed monthly and payment terms, set by the regulator, require payment within a month of billing.

**Natural Gas (CenterPoint Energy and CERC).** CenterPoint Energy and CERC distribute and transport natural gas to customers over time, and customers consume the natural gas when delivered. Revenue, consisting of both volumetric and fixed tariff rates set by the state governing agency for that service area, is recognized as natural gas is delivered and represents amounts both billed and unbilled. Discretionary services requested by the customer are provided at a point in time with control transferring upon completion of the service. Revenue for discretionary services is recognized upon completion of service based on the tariff rates set by the applicable state regulator. Payments of natural gas distribution, transportation and discretionary services are aggregated and received on a monthly basis.

**Contract Balances.** When the timing of delivery of service is different from the timing of the payments made by customers and when the right to consideration is conditioned on something other than the passage of time, the Registrants recognize either a contract asset (performance precedes billing) or a contract liability (customer payment precedes performance). Those customers that prepay are represented by contract liabilities until the performance obligations are satisfied. The Registrants' contract assets are included in Accrued unbilled revenues and contract liabilities are included in Accounts payable and Other current liabilities in their Consolidated Balance Sheets. CenterPoint Energy's contract assets and contract liabilities primarily related to Energy Systems Group contracts where revenue was recognized using the input method prior to the sale of Energy Systems Group that was completed on June 30, 2023.

The opening and closing balances of accounts receivable, other accrued unbilled revenue, contract assets and contract liabilities from contracts with customers are as follows:

### CenterPoint Energy

|   | Accounts<br>Receivable | Other Accrued<br>Unbilled<br>Revenues | Contract<br>Assets (1) | Contract<br>Liabilities (1) |
|---|------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|
|   | (in millions)          |                                       |                        |                             |
| Opening balance as of December 31, 2022 | \$ 858                 | \$ 764                                | \$ 4                   | \$ 45                       |
| Closing balance as of December 31, 2023 | 652                    | 516                                   | —                      | 2                           |
| Increase (decrease)                     | <u>\$ (206)</u>        | <u>\$ (248)</u>                       | <u>\$ (4)</u>          | <u>\$ (43)</u>              |

(1) Decrease primarily related to the completed sale of Energy Systems Group on June 30, 2023.

The amount of revenue recognized in the year ended December 31, 2023 that was included in the opening contract liability was \$2 million.

### Houston Electric

|   | Accounts<br>Receivable | Other Accrued<br>Unbilled Revenues | Contract Liabilities |
|---|------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------|
|   | (in millions)          |                                    |                      |
| Opening balance as of December 31, 2022 | \$ 271                 | \$ 142                             | \$ 2                 |
| Closing balance as of December 31, 2023 | 275                    | 142                                | 2                    |
| Increase                                | <u>\$ 4</u>            | <u>\$ —</u>                        | <u>\$ —</u>          |

The amount of revenue recognized in the year ended December 31, 2023 that was included in the opening contract liability was \$2 million.

### CERC

|   | Accounts Receivable | Other Accrued<br>Unbilled Revenues |
|---|---------------------|------------------------------------|
|   | (in millions)       |                                    |
| Opening balance as of December 31, 2022 | \$ 478              | \$ 573                             |
| Closing balance as of December 31, 2023 | 330                 | 329                                |
| Decrease                                | <u>\$ (148)</u>     | <u>\$ (244)</u>                    |

CERC does not have any opening or closing contract asset or contract liability balances.

**Remaining Performance Obligations (CenterPoint Energy).** Following the completed sale of Energy Systems Group on June 30, 2023, CenterPoint Energy had no remaining performance obligations.

**Practical Expedients and Exemption.** Sales taxes and other similar taxes collected from customers are excluded from the transaction price. For contracts for which revenue from the satisfaction of the performance obligations is recognized in the amount invoiced, the practical expedient was elected and revenue expected to be recognized on these contracts has not been disclosed.

### Allowance for Credit Losses and Bad Debt Expense

CenterPoint Energy and CERC segregate financial assets that fall under the scope of Topic 326, primarily trade receivables due in one year or less, into portfolio segments based on shared risk characteristics, such as geographical location and regulatory environment, for evaluation of expected credit losses. Historical and current information, such as average write-offs, are applied to each portfolio segment to estimate the allowance for losses on uncollectible receivables. Additionally, the allowance for losses on uncollectible receivables is adjusted for reasonable and supportable forecasts of future economic conditions, which can include changing weather, commodity prices, regulations, and macroeconomic factors, among others. Houston Electric had no material changes in its methodology to recognize losses on financial assets that fall under the scope of Topic 326, primarily due to the nature of its customers and regulatory environment. For a discussion of regulatory deferrals, see Note 7.

The table below summarizes the Registrants' bad debt expense amounts for 2023, 2022 and 2021, net of regulatory deferrals, including those related to COVID-19:

|   | Year Ended December 31, |                  |       |                    |                  |       |                    |                  |       |
|---|-------------------------|------------------|-------|--------------------|------------------|-------|--------------------|------------------|-------|
|   | 2023                    |                  |       | 2022               |                  |       | 2021               |                  |       |
|   | CenterPoint Energy      | Houston Electric | CERC  | CenterPoint Energy | Houston Electric | CERC  | CenterPoint Energy | Houston Electric | CERC  |
|   | (in millions)           |                  |       |                    |                  |       |                    |                  |       |
| Bad debt expense .....                              | \$ 18                   | \$ —             | \$ 16 | \$ 20              | \$ —             | \$ 17 | \$ 12              | \$ —             | \$ 10 |
| Bad debt expense deferred as regulatory asset ..... | —                       | —                | —     | —                  | —                | —     | 16                 | 8                | 8     |

### (6) Goodwill and Other Intangibles (CenterPoint Energy and CERC)

#### Goodwill (CenterPoint Energy)

CenterPoint Energy's goodwill by reportable segment is as follows:

|                           | December 31, 2022 | Disposals     | December 31, 2023 |
|---------------------------|-------------------|---------------|-------------------|
|                           | (in millions)     |               |                   |
| Electric (1) .....        | \$ 936            | \$ —          | \$ 936            |
| Natural Gas .....         | 2,920             | —             | 2,920             |
| Corporate and Other ..... | 438               | 134 (2)       | 304               |
| Total .....               | <u>\$ 4,294</u>   | <u>\$ 134</u> | <u>\$ 4,160</u>   |

(1) Amount presented is net of the accumulated goodwill impairment charge of \$185 million recorded in 2020.

(2) Represents goodwill attributable to the sale of Energy Systems Group. For further information, see Note 4.

CERC's goodwill as of both December 31, 2023 and December 31, 2022 was \$1,583 million.

When the net assets or equity interest transferred in a common-control transaction constitute a business, goodwill is included with the net assets transferred at the parent company's historical basis. CenterPoint Energy applied a relative fair value methodology to determine the amount of goodwill to allocate to CERC from its natural gas reporting unit as part of the Restructuring.

When a disposal group reflects a component of a reporting unit and meets the definition of a business, the goodwill within that reporting unit is allocated to the disposal group based on the relative fair value of the components representing a business that will be retained and disposed. As described further in Note 4, certain assets and liabilities of Energy Systems Group, including goodwill of \$134 million at CenterPoint Energy, were disposed of upon consummation of the sale of Energy Systems

Group in the second quarter of 2023. The disposal of goodwill attributable to Energy Systems Group was reflected in the loss on sale of \$13 million during the year ended December 31, 2023.

CenterPoint Energy and CERC perform goodwill impairment tests at least annually and evaluate goodwill when events or changes in circumstances indicate that its carrying value may not be recoverable. The impairment evaluation for goodwill is performed by comparing the fair value of each reporting unit with the carrying amount of the reporting unit, including goodwill. The reporting units approximate the reportable segments, with the exception of Energy Systems Group, which is a separate reporting unit but included in Corporate and Other at CenterPoint Energy. The estimated fair value of the reporting unit is primarily determined based on an income approach or a weighted combination of income and market approaches. If the carrying amount is in excess of the estimated fair value of the reporting unit, then the excess amount is recorded as an impairment charge, not to exceed the carrying amount of goodwill. See Note 2(g) for further discussion.

CenterPoint Energy and CERC performed the annual goodwill impairment tests in the third quarter of each of 2023 and 2022 and determined that no goodwill impairment charge was required for any reporting unit as a result of those tests.

### Other Intangibles (CenterPoint Energy)

The tables below present information on CenterPoint Energy's other intangible assets, excluding goodwill, recorded in Other non-current assets on the Consolidated Balance Sheets and the related amortization expense included in Depreciation and amortization on CenterPoint Energy's Statements of Consolidated Income, unless otherwise indicated in the tables below. The intangible assets and associated amortization expense were primarily related to Energy Systems Group prior to the completion of the sale in June 2023 as indicated below. As a result, there are no intangible assets to report as of December 31, 2023. See Note 4 for further information.

|  | December 31, 2022           |                             |                |
|--|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------|
|  | Gross<br>Carrying<br>Amount | Accumulated<br>Amortization | Net<br>Balance |
|  | (in millions)               |                             |                |
| Customer relationships (1) .....                   | \$ 33                       | \$ (16)                     | \$ 17          |
| Trade names (1) .....                              | 16                          | (6)                         | 10             |
| Operation and maintenance agreements (1) (2) ..... | 12                          | (2)                         | 10             |
| Other .....  | 2                           | (1)                         | 1              |
| Total .....  | <u>\$ 63</u>                | <u>\$ (25)</u>              | <u>\$ 38</u>   |

(1) Related to Energy Systems Group prior to the completion of the sale in June 2023. Amortization ceased at June 30, 2023, the end of the quarter in which the held for sale criteria was met. See Note 4 for further information.

(2) Amortization expense related to the operation and maintenance agreements is included in Non-utility cost of revenues, including natural gas on CenterPoint Energy's Statements of Consolidated Income. Amortization ceased at June 30, 2023, the end of the quarter in which the held for sale criteria was met. See Note 4 for further information.

|  | Year Ended December 31, |      |      |
|--|-------------------------|------|------|
|  | 2023                    | 2022 | 2021 |
|  | (in millions)           |      |      |
| Amortization expense of intangible assets recorded in Depreciation and amortization .....                          | \$ 3                    | \$ 6 | \$ 6 |
| Amortization expense of intangible assets recorded in Non-utility cost of revenues,<br>including natural gas ..... | —                       | 1    | 1    |



## (7) Regulatory Matters

The following is a list of regulatory assets and liabilities reflected on the Registrants' respective Consolidated Balance Sheets as of December 31, 2023 and 2022:

|   | December 31, 2023     |                  |                 |
|---|-----------------------|------------------|-----------------|
|   | CenterPoint<br>Energy | Houston Electric | CERC            |
|   | (in millions)         |                  |                 |
| <b>Regulatory Assets:</b>   |                       |                  |                 |
| <b>Future amounts recoverable from ratepayers related to:</b>         |                       |                  |                 |
| Benefit obligations (1).....  | \$ 379                | \$ —             | \$ 5            |
| Asset retirement obligations & other.....                             | 290                   | 75               | 186             |
| Net deferred income taxes.....  | 96                    | 41               | 42              |
| Total future amounts recoverable from ratepayers.....                 | <u>765</u>            | <u>116</u>       | <u>233</u>      |
| <b>Amounts deferred for future recovery related to:</b>               |                       |                  |                 |
| Cost recovery riders.....   | 113                   | —                | 73              |
| Hurricane and February 2021 Winter Storm Event restoration costs..... | 149                   | 123              | 26              |
| Other regulatory assets.....  | 147                   | 59               | 72              |
| Gas recovery costs.....   | 27                    | —                | 27              |
| Decoupling.....   | 17                    | —                | 17              |
| COVID-19 incremental costs.....                                       | 12                    | 8                | 4               |
| TEEEF costs.....  | 48                    | 48               | —               |
| Unrecognized equity return (2).....                                   | (63)                  | (39)             | (16)            |
| Total amounts deferred for future recovery.....                       | <u>450</u>            | <u>199</u>       | <u>203</u>      |
| <b>Amounts currently recovered in customer rates related to:</b>      |                       |                  |                 |
| Authorized trackers and cost deferrals.....                           | 535                   | 44               | 375             |
| Securitized regulatory assets.....                                    | 434                   | 74               | —               |
| Unamortized loss on reacquired debt and hedging.....                  | 106                   | 72               | 11              |
| Gas recovery costs.....   | 34                    | —                | 34              |
| Extraordinary gas costs.....  | 208                   | —                | 208             |
| Regulatory assets related to TCJA.....                                | 47                    | 47               | —               |
| Hurricane Harvey restoration costs.....                               | 17                    | 17               | —               |
| Benefit obligations.....  | 11                    | 11               | —               |
| Emergency Generation Costs.....                                       | 208                   | 208              | —               |
| Unrecognized equity return (3).....                                   | (141)                 | (36)             | (53)            |
| Total amounts recovered in customer rates (4).....                    | <u>1,459</u>          | <u>437</u>       | <u>575</u>      |
| <b>Total Regulatory Assets</b> .....                                  | <u>\$ 2,674</u>       | <u>\$ 752</u>    | <u>\$ 1,011</u> |
| <b>Total Current Regulatory Assets (5)</b> .....                      | <u>\$ 161</u>         | <u>\$ —</u>      | <u>\$ 161</u>   |
| <b>Total Non-Current Regulatory Assets</b> .....                      | <u>\$ 2,513</u>       | <u>\$ 752</u>    | <u>\$ 850</u>   |
| <b>Regulatory Liabilities:</b>  |                       |                  |                 |
| Regulatory liabilities related to TCJA.....                           | \$ 1,377              | \$ 695           | \$ 505          |
| Estimated removal costs.....  | 1,322                 | 91               | 1,150           |
| Other regulatory liabilities.....                                     | 548                   | 245              | 260             |
| <b>Total Regulatory Liabilities</b> .....                             | <u>\$ 3,247</u>       | <u>\$ 1,031</u>  | <u>\$ 1,915</u> |
| <b>Total Current Regulatory Liabilities (6)</b> .....                 | <u>\$ 39</u>          | <u>\$ 6</u>      | <u>\$ 33</u>    |
| <b>Total Non-Current Regulatory Liabilities</b> .....                 | <u>\$ 3,208</u>       | <u>\$ 1,025</u>  | <u>\$ 1,882</u> |

|  | December 31, 2022     |                  |                 |
|--|-----------------------|------------------|-----------------|
|  | CenterPoint<br>Energy | Houston Electric | CERC            |
|  | (in millions)         |                  |                 |
| <b>Regulatory Assets:</b>  |                       |                  |                 |
| <b>Future amounts recoverable from ratepayers related to:</b>          |                       |                  |                 |
| Benefit obligations (1) .....  | \$ 392                | \$ —             | \$ 5            |
| Asset retirement obligations & other .....                             | 237                   | 64               | 155             |
| Net deferred income taxes .....  | 83                    | 34               | 40              |
| Total future amounts recoverable from ratepayers .....                 | <u>712</u>            | <u>98</u>        | <u>200</u>      |
| <b>Amounts deferred for future recovery related to:</b>                |                       |                  |                 |
| Extraordinary gas costs .....  | 1,073                 | —                | 1,073           |
| Cost recovery riders .....   | 133                   | —                | 57              |
| Hurricane and February 2021 Winter Storm Event restoration costs ..... | 129                   | 113              | 16              |
| Other regulatory assets .....  | 129                   | 46               | 67              |
| Gas recovery costs .....   | 108                   | —                | 108             |
| Decoupling .....   | 3                     | —                | 3               |
| COVID-19 incremental costs .....                                       | 13                    | 8                | 5               |
| TEEEF costs .....  | 182                   | 182              | —               |
| Unrecognized equity return .....                                       | (54)                  | (27)             | (5)             |
| Total amounts deferred for future recovery .....                       | <u>1,716</u>          | <u>322</u>       | <u>1,324</u>    |
| <b>Amounts currently recovered in customer rates related to:</b>       |                       |                  |                 |
| Authorized trackers and cost deferrals .....                           | 499                   | 25               | 369             |
| Securitized regulatory assets .....                                    | 229                   | 229              | —               |
| Unamortized loss on reacquired debt and hedging .....                  | 88                    | 64               | 12              |
| Gas recovery costs .....   | 79                    | —                | 30              |
| Extraordinary gas costs .....  | 294                   | —                | 294             |
| Regulatory assets related to TCJA .....                                | 47                    | 47               | —               |
| Hurricane Harvey restoration costs .....                               | 30                    | 30               | —               |
| Benefit obligations .....  | 18                    | 18               | —               |
| Unrecognized equity return (3) .....                                   | (134)                 | (55)             | (49)            |
| Total amounts recovered in customer rates .....                        | <u>1,150</u>          | <u>358</u>       | <u>656</u>      |
| <b>Total Regulatory Assets</b> .....                                   | <u>\$ 3,578</u>       | <u>\$ 778</u>    | <u>\$ 2,180</u> |
| <b>Total Current Regulatory Assets (5)</b> .....                       | <u>\$ 1,385</u>       | <u>\$ —</u>      | <u>\$ 1,336</u> |
| <b>Total Non-Current Regulatory Assets</b> .....                       | <u>\$ 2,193</u>       | <u>\$ 778</u>    | <u>\$ 844</u>   |
| <b>Regulatory Liabilities:</b>   |                       |                  |                 |
| Regulatory liabilities related to TCJA .....                           | \$ 1,436              | \$ 716           | \$ 536          |
| Estimated removal costs .....  | 1,338                 | 158              | 1,097           |
| Other regulatory liabilities .....                                     | 496                   | 281              | 193             |
| <b>Total Regulatory Liabilities</b> .....                              | <u>\$ 3,270</u>       | <u>\$ 1,155</u>  | <u>\$ 1,826</u> |
| <b>Total Current Regulatory Liabilities (6)</b> .....                  | <u>\$ 25</u>          | <u>\$ —</u>      | <u>\$ 25</u>    |
| <b>Total Non-Current Regulatory Liabilities</b> .....                  | <u>\$ 3,245</u>       | <u>\$ 1,155</u>  | <u>\$ 1,801</u> |

- (1) Pension and postretirement-related regulatory assets balances are actuarially valued annually.
- (2) Represents the following: (a) CenterPoint Energy's allowed equity return on post in-service carrying cost generally associated with investments in Indiana; (b) Houston Electric's allowed equity return on TEEEF costs and storm restoration costs; and (c) CERC's allowed equity return on post in-service carrying cost associated with certain distribution facilities replacements expenditures in Texas.
- (3) Represents the following: (a) CenterPoint Energy's allowed equity return on post in-service carrying cost generally associated with investments in Indiana; (b) Houston Electric's allowed equity return on its true-up balance of stranded costs, other changes and related interest resulting from the formerly integrated electric utilities prior to Texas deregulation to be recovered in rates through 2024 and certain storm restoration balances; and (c) CERC's allowed equity return on post in-service carrying cost associated with certain distribution facilities replacements expenditures in Texas.

- (4) Of the \$1.5 billion, \$437 million and \$575 million currently being recovered in customer rates related to CenterPoint Energy, Houston Electric and CERC, respectively, \$459 million, \$365 million and \$94 million is earning a return, respectively. The weighted average recovery period of regulatory assets currently being recovered in base rates, not earning a return, which totals \$428 million, \$72 million and \$320 million for CenterPoint Energy, Houston Electric and CERC, respectively, is 12 years, 28 years and 8 years, respectively. Regulatory assets not earning a return with perpetual or undeterminable lives have been excluded from the weighted average recovery period calculation.
- (5) Current regulatory assets for both CenterPoint Energy and CERC include extraordinary gas costs of \$86 million and \$1,175 million as of December 31, 2023 and 2022, respectively.
- (6) Current regulatory liabilities are included in Other current liabilities in each of the Registrants' respective Consolidated Balance Sheets.

The table below reflects the amount of allowed equity return recognized by each Registrant in its Statements of Consolidated Income:

|  | Year Ended December 31, |                  |      |                    |                  |      |                    |                  |      |
|--|-------------------------|------------------|------|--------------------|------------------|------|--------------------|------------------|------|
|  | 2023                    |                  |      | 2022               |                  |      | 2021               |                  |      |
|  | CenterPoint Energy      | Houston Electric | CERC | CenterPoint Energy | Houston Electric | CERC | CenterPoint Energy | Houston Electric | CERC |
|  | (in millions)           |                  |      |                    |                  |      |                    |                  |      |
| Allowed equity return recognized ..... | \$ 41                   | \$ 38            | \$ 2 | \$ 45              | \$ 42            | \$ 2 | \$ 40              | \$ 37            | \$ 2 |

#### ***Indiana Electric Securitization of Generation Retirements (CenterPoint Energy)***

On January 4, 2023, the IURC issued an order in accordance with Indiana Senate Enrolled Act 386 authorizing the issuance of up to \$350 million in securitization bonds to securitize qualified costs associated with the retirements of Indiana Electric's A.B. Brown coal-fired generation facilities. Accordingly, CenterPoint Energy determined that the retirement of property, plant and equipment became probable upon the issuance of the order. No loss on abandonment was recognized in connection with issuance of the order as there was no disallowance of all or part of the cost of the abandoned property, plant and equipment. In the first quarter of 2023, upon receipt of the order, CenterPoint Energy reclassified property, plant and equipment to be recovered through securitization to a regulatory asset and such amounts continued to earn a full return until recovered through securitization.

The SIGECO Securitization Subsidiary issued \$341 million aggregate principal amount of the SIGECO Securitization Bonds on June 29, 2023. See Note 13 for further details of the issuance of the SIGECO Securitization Bonds. The SIGECO Securitization Subsidiary used a portion of the net proceeds from the issuance of the SIGECO Securitization Bonds to purchase the securitization property from SIGECO. No gain or loss was recognized.

The SIGECO Securitization Bonds are secured by the securitization property, which includes the right to recover, through non-bypassable securitization charges payable by SIGECO's retail electric customers, the qualified costs of SIGECO authorized by the IURC order. SIGECO has no payment obligations with respect to the SIGECO Securitization Bonds except to remit collections of securitization charges as set forth in a servicing agreement between SIGECO and the SIGECO Securitization Subsidiary. The non-bypassable securitization charges are subject to a true-up mechanism.

#### ***February 2021 Winter Storm Event***

In February 2021, certain of the Registrants' jurisdictions experienced an extreme and unprecedented winter weather event that resulted in prolonged freezing temperatures, which impacted their businesses. The February 2021 Winter Storm Event impacted wholesale prices of CenterPoint Energy's and CERC's natural gas purchases and their ability to serve customers in their Natural Gas service territories, including due to the reduction in available natural gas capacity and impacts to CenterPoint Energy's and CERC's natural gas supply portfolio activities, and the effects of weather on their systems and their ability to transport natural gas, among other things. The overall natural gas market, including the markets from which CenterPoint Energy and CERC sourced a significant portion of their natural gas for their operations, experienced significant impacts caused by the February 2021 Winter Storm Event, resulting in extraordinary increases in the cost of natural gas purchased by CenterPoint Energy and CERC of approximately \$2 billion. CenterPoint Energy and CERC have completed recovery of natural gas costs in Mississippi, Indiana and Texas discussed further below, and continue to recover the natural gas cost in Louisiana and Minnesota. As of December 31, 2023, CenterPoint Energy and CERC have each recorded current regulatory assets of \$86 million and non-current regulatory assets of \$130 million associated with the February 2021 Winter Storm Event. As of

December 31, 2022, CenterPoint Energy and CERC have each recorded current regulatory assets of \$1,175 million and non-current regulatory assets of \$202 million associated with the February 2021 Winter Storm Event.

In Minnesota, the MPUC issued its written order on October 19, 2022 disallowing CERC's recovery of approximately \$36 million of the \$409 million incurred, and CERC's regulatory asset balance was reduced to reflect the disallowance. CERC filed a petition for reconsideration on November 8, 2022 and a written order denying the petition for reconsideration was issued on January 6, 2023.

On August 24, 2023, the LPSC Staff issued an audit report which recommends some prospective process changes to the gas supply bid process and did not recommend any disallowance of February 2021 Winter Storm Event gas costs incurred in Louisiana. Recovery of such costs remains subject to LPSC approval. On December 19, 2023, the LPSC issued an order which accepted and approved the audit report.

As of both December 31, 2023 and 2022, as authorized by the PUCT, CenterPoint Energy and Houston Electric recorded a regulatory asset of \$8 million for bad debt expenses resulting from REPs' default on their obligation to pay delivery charges to Houston Electric net of collateral. Additionally, as of December 31, 2023 and 2022, both CenterPoint Energy and Houston Electric recorded a regulatory asset of \$17 million and \$16 million, respectively, and will request reimbursement of costs associated with the February 2021 Winter Storm Event in Houston Electric's next rate case.

See Note 15(d) for further information regarding litigation related to the February 2021 Winter Storm Event.

### ***Texas Public Securitization***

The Texas Natural Gas Securitization Finance Corporation issued customer rate relief bonds in March 2023, and on March 23, 2023, CenterPoint Energy and CERC, collectively, received approximately \$1.1 billion in cash proceeds from the issuance and sale of the state's customer rate relief bonds. The proceeds from the state's customer rate relief bonds included carrying costs incurred through August 2022. Incremental carrying costs incurred after August 2022 until the date the proceeds were received are recorded in a separate regulatory asset; the current Texas Gas rate proceeding includes a request for recovery of this regulatory asset. As CenterPoint Energy and CERC have no future financial obligations for the repayment of the state's customer rate relief bonds, the customer rate relief bonds are not recorded on CenterPoint Energy's or CERC's balance sheets. The \$1.1 billion in cash proceeds from the state's customer rate relief bonds is considered to be a government grant. The state's customer rate relief bonds are backed in part by customer rate relief property, including customer rate relief charges, which are non-bypassable uniform monthly volumetric charges to be paid by all existing and future customers as a component of each regulated utility's gas cost, separate from their base rate. CERC only acts as a collection agent, whose duties include management, servicing and administration of a portion of the customer rate relief property which is associated with the customer rate relief charge imposed on customers of CERC under the guidance and direction from the Railroad Commission. The Texas Natural Gas Securitization Finance Corporation, and not CenterPoint Energy or CERC, is the owner of the customer rate relief property. The assets of the Texas Natural Gas Securitization Finance Corporation are not available to pay creditors of CenterPoint Energy, CERC, or their affiliates. While the customer rate relief charges will be included by CERC in their monthly billings, the billing amount is established by the Railroad Commission. CERC will remit all customer rate relief charges to the financing entity set up by the Railroad Commission. Therefore, the collection and servicing of customer rate relief charges have no impact on the respective Statements of Consolidated Income of CenterPoint Energy or CERC.

As U.S. generally accepted accounting principles have no specific accounting guidance for government grants or assistance, the cash proceeds from the state's customer rate relief bonds were accounted for as a government grant by analogy to the grant model under IAS 20—Accounting for Government Grants and Disclosures of Government Assistance. CenterPoint Energy and CERC reflect the proceeds from the grant as a deduction to natural gas costs and recognized the \$1.1 billion of cash proceeds from the state's customer rate relief bonds within Utility natural gas expense on their respective Statements of Consolidated Income in the year ended December 31, 2023, net of the recognition of natural gas cost related to relieving CenterPoint Energy and CERC's regulatory assets related to the February 2021 Winter Storm Event in the same period.

### ***Houston Electric TEEEF***

Pursuant to legislation passed in 2021, Houston Electric entered into two leases for TEEEF (mobile generation) which are detailed in Note 20. Houston Electric initially sought recovery of the lease costs and the applicable return as of December 31, 2021 under these lease agreements of approximately \$200 million in its DCRF application filed with the PUCT on April 5, 2022, and subsequently amended on July 1, 2022, to show mobile generation in a separate Rider TEEEF. A final order was issued on April 5, 2023 approving a reduced revenue requirement of \$39 million that results in full recovery of costs requested

but lengthens the amortization period for the short-term lease to be collected over 82.5 months. On May 25, 2023, the PUCT issued its order on rehearing which clarified some of the findings, but did not change the approval of TEEEF cost recovery. Additional motions for rehearing were filed and the PUCT issued an order on August 3, 2023 denying the motions for rehearing. The deadline for a party to file a judicial appeal of the PUCT's decision was September 5, 2023, and no appeal was filed. As such, the PUCT's decision on the first TEEEF filing is now final and non-appealable.

On April 5, 2023, Houston Electric made its second TEEEF filing requesting recovery of TEEEF related costs incurred through December 31, 2022. Houston Electric is requesting a new annual revenue requirement of approximately \$188 million using 78 months to amortize the related deferred costs for proposed rates beginning September 2023, a net increase in TEEEF revenues of approximately \$149 million. On June 7, 2023, intervenors jointly requested a hearing, and on June 14, 2023, the PUCT staff indicated that it does not oppose a hearing in this docket. On June 21, 2023 Houston Electric made a filing that a hearing is not necessary given the PUCT's decision in the TEEEF docket filed in 2022 and indicated that if the PUCT does refer this case to the State Office of Administrative Hearings, any preliminary order issued by the PUCT should be limited. On July 18, 2023 the PUCT referred the case to the State Office of Administrative Hearings and, on July 20, 2023, the PUCT issued a preliminary order identifying the issues to be addressed. On August 28, 2023, the State Office of Administrative Hearings issued an Order setting interim rates to collect an annual revenue requirement at the filed amount. Interim rates became effective on September 1, 2023 and are subject to surcharge or refund if they differ from the final rates approved by the PUCT. On October 12, 2023, a joint motion to abate was filed because the parties reached an agreement in principle on all issues. The agreement in principle reduces the annual revenue requirement by approximately \$35 million based on recovering the balance as of December 31, 2022 over a 102 month amortization period (instead of the 78 month period in the initial filing) and also allows for revised interim rates (to incorporate the agreement in principle and the initial interim rates that have been in place since September 1, 2023). The updated interim rates were implemented December 15, 2023. The agreement in principle is subject to PUCT approval which was granted in its order issued on February 1, 2024.

Houston Electric defers costs associated with the short-term and long-term leases that are probable of recovery and would otherwise be charged to expense in a regulatory asset, including allowed debt returns, and determined that such regulatory assets remain probable of recovery as of December 31, 2023. Right of use finance lease assets, such as assets acquired under the long-term leases, are evaluated for impairment under the long-lived asset impairment model by assessing if a capital disallowance from a regulator is probable through monitoring the outcome of rate cases and other proceedings. Houston Electric continues to monitor the on-going proceedings and did not record any impairments on its right of use assets in the years ended December 31, 2023 or 2022. See Note 20 for further information.

## **(8) Stock-Based Incentive Compensation Plans and Employee Benefit Plans**

### ***(a) Stock-Based Incentive Compensation Plans (CenterPoint Energy)***

CenterPoint Energy has LTIPs that provide for the issuance of stock-based incentives, including stock options, performance awards, restricted stock unit awards and restricted and unrestricted stock awards to officers, employees and non-employee directors. Approximately 30 million shares of Common Stock are authorized under these plans for awards. CenterPoint Energy issues new shares of its Common Stock to satisfy stock-based payments related to LTIPs. Equity awards are granted to employees without cost to the participants.

Compensation costs for the performance awards and stock unit awards granted under LTIPs are measured using fair value and expected achievement levels on the grant date. For performance awards with operational goals, the achievement levels are revised as goals are evaluated. The fair value of awards granted to employees is based on the closing stock price of CenterPoint Energy's Common Stock on the grant date. The compensation expense is recorded on a straight-line basis over the vesting period. Forfeitures are estimated on the date of grant based on historical averages and estimates are updated periodically throughout the vesting period.

The performance awards granted in 2023, 2022 and 2021 are distributed based upon the achievement of certain objectives over a three-year performance cycle. The stock unit awards granted in 2023, 2022 and 2021 are service based, subject to the achievement of a performance goal. The stock unit awards generally vest at the end of a three-year period; however, stock unit awards granted to non-employee directors vest immediately upon grant. Upon vesting, shares of the performance awards and stock unit awards are issued to the participants along with the value of dividend equivalents earned over the performance cycle or vesting period.

The following table summarizes CenterPoint Energy's expenses related to LTIPs for 2023, 2022 and 2021:

|   | Year Ended December 31, |       |       |
|---|-------------------------|-------|-------|
|   | 2023                    | 2022  | 2021  |
|   | (in millions)           |       |       |
| LTIP compensation expense (1).....                  | \$ 65                   | \$ 51 | \$ 48 |
| Income tax benefit recognized.....                  | 15                      | 12    | 11    |
| Actual tax benefit realized for tax deductions..... | 17                      | 6     | 4     |

(1) Amounts presented in the table above are included in Operation and maintenance expense in CenterPoint Energy's Statements of Consolidated Income and shown prior to any amounts capitalized.

The following tables summarize CenterPoint Energy's LTIP activity for 2023

|   | Year Ended December 31, 2023 |  |   |   |
|---|------------------------------|--|---|---|
|   | Shares<br>(Thousands)        | Weighted-<br>Average<br>Grant Date<br>Fair Value | Remaining<br>Average<br>Contractual<br>Life (Years) | Aggregate<br>Intrinsic<br>Value (2)<br>(Millions) |
| <b>Performance Awards (1)</b>                           |                              |  |   |   |
| Outstanding and nonvested as of December 31, 2022 ..... | 5,157                        | \$ 24.26   |   |   |
| Granted .....   | 1,960                        | 29.18  |   |   |
| Forfeited or canceled .....                             | (291)                        | 27.38  |   |   |
| Vested and released to participants .....               | (1,601)                      | 23.08  |   |   |
| Outstanding and nonvested as of December 31, 2023 ..... | <u>5,225</u>                 | \$ 25.95   | 1.1   | \$ 101  |
| <b>Stock Unit Awards</b>                                |                              |  |   |   |
| Outstanding and nonvested as of December 31, 2022 ..... | 2,296                        | \$ 25.03   |   |   |
| Granted .....   | 606                          | 30.83  |   |   |
| Forfeited or canceled .....                             | (93)                         | 27.10  |   |   |
| Vested and released to participants .....               | (948)                        | 24.48  |   |   |
| Outstanding and nonvested as of December 31, 2023 ..... | <u>1,861</u>                 | \$ 26.91   | 0.7   | \$ 53   |

(1) Reflects maximum performance achievement.

(2) Reflects the impact of current expectations of achievement and stock price.

Additional information related to the Performance Awards and Stock Unit Awards is as follows:

|   | Year Ended December 31,                    |          |          |
|---|--|----------|----------|
|   | 2023                                       | 2022     | 2021     |
|   | (in millions, except for per unit amounts) |          |          |
| <b>Performance Awards</b>   |  |          |          |
| Weighted-average grant date fair value per unit of awards granted ..... | \$ 29.18                                   | \$ 28.12 | \$ 21.89 |
| Total intrinsic value of awards received by participants .....          | 47   | 13       | 7        |
| Vested grant date fair value .....                                      | 37   | 13       | 8        |
| <b>Stock Unit Awards</b>  |  |          |          |
| Weighted-average grant date fair value per unit of awards granted ..... | \$ 30.83                                   | \$ 28.44 | \$ 24.20 |
| Total intrinsic value of awards received by participants .....          | 28   | 14       | 11       |
| Vested grant date fair value .....                                      | 23   | 13       | 11       |

As of December 31, 2023, there was \$36 million of total unrecognized compensation cost related to nonvested performance and stock unit awards which is expected to be recognized over a weighted-average period of 1.7 years.

**(b) Pension Benefits (CenterPoint Energy)**

CenterPoint Energy maintains a non-contributory qualified defined benefit pension plan covering eligible employees and is closed to new participants, with benefits determined using a cash balance formula. In addition to the non-contributory qualified defined benefit pension plan, CenterPoint Energy maintains unfunded non-qualified benefit restoration plans which allow participants to receive the benefits to which they would have been entitled under CenterPoint Energy's non-contributory qualified pension plan except for federally mandated limits on qualified plan benefits or on the level of compensation on which qualified plan benefits may be calculated.

CenterPoint Energy also maintains three additional qualified defined benefit pension plans, two of which are closed to new participants and one of which is completely frozen, and a non-qualified supplemental retirement plan. The defined benefit pension plans cover eligible full-time regular employees and retirees of Vectren and are primarily non-contributory.

In December 2022, the CenterPoint Energy pension plan completed an annuity lift-out, a transaction that provided for the purchase of an irrevocable group annuity contract to fund pension plan annuities of retirees from previously divested businesses, as part of a de-risking strategy. This annuity lift-out reduced the plan's pension obligation by \$138 million and plan assets by \$136 million which were transferred to an insurance company. The \$138 million transferred benefit obligation represented 9.4% of CenterPoint Energy's total benefit obligation as of its last remeasurement prior to the transaction. As a result of this transaction, CenterPoint Energy incurred a settlement charge of \$47 million. In addition, CenterPoint Energy was relieved of all responsibility for these pension obligations' and an insurance company is now required to pay and administer the retirement benefits owed to 1,119 retirees and beneficiaries, with no changes to the amount, timing or form of retirement benefit payments.

CenterPoint Energy's net periodic cost includes the following components relating to pension, including the non-qualified benefit plans:

|   | Year Ended December 31, |               |              |
|---|-------------------------|---------------|--------------|
|   | 2023                    | 2022          | 2021         |
|   | (in millions)           |               |              |
| Service cost (1).....                   | \$ 25                   | \$ 29         | \$ 39        |
| Interest cost (2).....                  | 76                      | 73            | 59           |
| Expected return on plan assets (2)..... | (76)                    | (87)          | (103)        |
| Amortization of net loss (2).....       | 28                      | 31            | 36           |
| Settlement cost (2) (3).....            | —                       | 126           | 38           |
| Net periodic cost.....                  | <u>\$ 53</u>            | <u>\$ 172</u> | <u>\$ 69</u> |

- (1) Amounts presented in the table above are included in Operation and maintenance expense in CenterPoint Energy's Statements of Consolidated Income, net of regulatory deferrals and amounts capitalized.
- (2) Amounts presented in the table above are included in Other, net in CenterPoint Energy's Statements of Consolidated Income, net of regulatory deferrals.
- (3) A one-time, non-cash settlement cost is required when the total lump sum distributions or other settlements of plan benefit obligations during a plan year exceed the service cost and interest cost components of the net periodic cost for that year. In 2023, 2022 and 2021, CenterPoint Energy recognized non-cash settlement cost due to lump sum settlement payments. The transfer of assets related to the 2022 Annuity Lift-Out is considered a lump sum settlement payment.

CenterPoint Energy used the following assumptions to determine net periodic cost relating to pension benefits:

|  | Year Ended December 31, |        |        |
|--|-------------------------|--------|--------|
|  | 2023                    | 2022   | 2021   |
| Discount rate.....                           | 5.15 %                  | 2.80 % | 2.45 % |
| Expected return on plan assets.....          | 6.50                    | 5.00   | 5.00   |
| Rate of increase in compensation levels..... | 4.99                    | 4.95   | 5.05   |

In determining net periodic benefit cost, CenterPoint Energy uses fair value, as of the beginning of the year, as its basis for determining expected return on plan assets except for two of Vectren's qualified defined benefit pension plans which use a market related value of assets.

The following table summarizes changes in the benefit obligation, plan assets, the amounts recognized in the Consolidated Balance Sheets as well as the key assumptions of CenterPoint Energy's pension plans. The measurement dates for plan assets and obligations were December 31, 2023 and 2022.

|  | December 31,                                    |                 |
|--|---|-----------------|
|  | 2023  | 2022            |
|  | (in millions, except for actuarial assumptions) |                 |
| <b>Change in Benefit Obligation</b>          |   |                 |
| Benefit obligation, beginning of year        | \$ 1,553  | \$ 2,298        |
| Service cost                                 | 25  | 29              |
| Interest cost                                | 76  | 73              |
| Benefits paid (4)                            | (147)   | (509)           |
| Actuarial (gain) loss (1)                    | 41  | (338)           |
| Plan amendment                               | —   | —               |
| Benefit obligation, end of year              | <u>1,548</u>                                    | <u>1,553</u>    |
| <b>Change in Plan Assets</b>                 |   |                 |
| Fair value of plan assets, beginning of year | 1,212   | 2,072           |
| Employer contributions                       | 32  | 35              |
| Benefits paid (4)                            | (147)   | (509)           |
| Actual investment return                     | 107   | (386)           |
| Fair value of plan assets, end of year       | <u>1,204</u>                                    | <u>1,212</u>    |
| <b>Funded status, end of year</b>            | <u>\$ (344)</u>                                 | <u>\$ (341)</u> |
| <b>Amounts Recognized in Balance Sheets</b>  |   |                 |
| Non-current assets                           | \$ 4  | \$ —            |
| Current liabilities-other                    | (7)   | (7)             |
| Other liabilities-benefit obligations        | (341)   | (334)           |
| Net liability, end of year                   | <u>\$ (344)</u>                                 | <u>\$ (341)</u> |
| <b>Actuarial Assumptions</b>                 |   |                 |
| Discount rate (2)                            | 4.95 %  | 5.15 %          |
| Expected return on plan assets (3)           | 6.50  | 6.50            |
| Rate of increase in compensation levels      | 4.97  | 4.99            |
| Interest crediting rate                      | 3.00  | 3.00            |

- (1) Significant sources of loss for 2023 include the decrease in discount rate from 5.15% to 4.95%, partially offset by significant sources of gain that include actual return on assets exceeding expected return on plan assets during 2023.
- (2) The discount rate assumption was determined by matching the projected cash flows of CenterPoint Energy's plans against a hypothetical yield curve of high-quality corporate bonds represented by a series of annualized individual discount rates from one-half to 99 years.
- (3) The expected rate of return assumption was developed using the targeted asset allocation of CenterPoint Energy's plans and the expected return for each asset class.
- (4) Benefits paid for 2022 includes \$136 million related to the 2022 Annuity Lift-Out.

The following table displays pension benefits related to CenterPoint Energy's pension plans that have accumulated benefit obligations in excess of plan assets:

|                                | December 31,           |                            |                        |                            |
|--------------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------|
|                                | 2023                   |                            | 2022                   |                            |
|                                | Pension<br>(Qualified) | Pension<br>(Non-qualified) | Pension<br>(Qualified) | Pension<br>(Non-qualified) |
|                                | (in millions)          |                            |                        |                            |
| Accumulated benefit obligation | \$ 1,496               | \$ 48                      | \$ 1,497               | \$ 51                      |
| Projected benefit obligation   | 1,500                  | 48                         | 1,502                  | 51                         |
| Fair value of plan assets      | 1,204                  | —                          | 1,212                  | —                          |



The accumulated benefit obligation for all defined benefit pension plans on CenterPoint Energy's Consolidated Balance Sheets was \$1,544 million and \$1,548 million as of December 31, 2023 and 2022, respectively.

**(c) Postretirement Benefits**

CenterPoint Energy provides certain healthcare and life insurance benefits for eligible retired employees on both a contributory and non-contributory basis. The Registrants' employees (other than employees of Vectren and its subsidiaries) who were hired before January 1, 2018 and who have met certain age and service requirements at retirement, as defined in the plans, are eligible to participate in these benefit plans, provided, however, that life insurance benefits are available only for eligible retired employees who retired before January 1, 2022. Employees hired on or after January 1, 2018 are not eligible for these benefits, except that such employees represented by IBEW Local Union 66 are eligible to participate in certain of the benefits, subject to the applicable age and service requirements. With respect to retiree medical and prescription drug benefits, and, effective January 1, 2021, dental and vision benefits, employees represented by the IBEW Local Union 66 who retire on or after January 1, 2017, and their dependents, receive any such benefits exclusively through the NECA/IBEW Family Medical Care Plan pursuant to the terms of the applicable collective bargaining agreement. Houston Electric and CERC are required to fund a portion of their obligations in accordance with rate orders. All other obligations are funded on a pay-as-you-go basis.

CenterPoint Energy, through Vectren, also maintains a postretirement benefit plan that provides health care and life insurance benefits, which are a combination of self-insured and fully insured programs, to eligible Vectren retirees on both a contributory and non-contributory basis.

Postretirement benefits are accrued over the active service period of employees. The net postretirement benefit cost includes the following components:

|   | Year Ended December 31, |                  |             |                    |                  |             |                    |                  |             |
|---|-------------------------|------------------|-------------|--------------------|------------------|-------------|--------------------|------------------|-------------|
|   | 2023                    |                  |             | 2022               |                  |             | 2021               |                  |             |
|   | CenterPoint Energy      | Houston Electric | CERC        | CenterPoint Energy | Houston Electric | CERC        | CenterPoint Energy | Houston Electric | CERC        |
|   | (in millions)           |                  |             |                    |                  |             |                    |                  |             |
| Service cost (1) .....                                | \$ 1                    | \$ —             | \$ 1        | \$ 2               | \$ —             | \$ 1        | \$ 2               | \$ —             | \$ 1        |
| Interest cost (2) .....                               | 13                      | 5                | 5           | 9                  | 4                | 3           | 9                  | 4                | 3           |
| Expected return on plan assets (2) .....              | (5)                     | (4)              | (1)         | (5)                | (4)              | (1)         | (4)                | (3)              | (1)         |
| Amortization of prior service cost (credit) (2) ..... | (2)                     | (5)              | 2           | (3)                | (4)              | 2           | (4)                | (5)              | 1           |
| Amortization of net loss (2) .....                    | (8)                     | (4)              | (3)         | (4)                | (2)              | (1)         | —                  | —                | —           |
| Net postretirement benefit cost (credit) .....        | <u>\$ (1)</u>           | <u>\$ (8)</u>    | <u>\$ 4</u> | <u>\$ (1)</u>      | <u>\$ (6)</u>    | <u>\$ 4</u> | <u>\$ 3</u>        | <u>\$ (4)</u>    | <u>\$ 4</u> |

- (1) Amounts presented in the table above are included in Operation and maintenance expense in each of the Registrants' respective Statements of Consolidated Income, net of regulatory deferrals and amounts capitalized.
- (2) Amounts presented in the table above are included in Other, net in each of the Registrants' respective Statements of Consolidated Income, net of regulatory deferrals.

The following assumptions were used to determine net periodic cost relating to postretirement benefits:

|                                      | Year Ended December 31, |                  |        |                    |                  |        |                    |                  |        |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|------------------|--------|--------------------|------------------|--------|--------------------|------------------|--------|
|                                      | 2023                    |                  |        | 2022               |                  |        | 2021               |                  |        |
|                                      | CenterPoint Energy      | Houston Electric | CERC   | CenterPoint Energy | Houston Electric | CERC   | CenterPoint Energy | Houston Electric | CERC   |
| Discount rate .....                  | 5.15 %                  | 5.15 %           | 5.15 % | 2.85 %             | 2.85 %           | 2.85 % | 2.50 %             | 2.50 %           | 2.50 % |
| Expected return on plan assets ..... | 5.13                    | 5.26             | 4.69   | 3.22               | 3.32             | 2.86   | 3.20               | 3.30             | 2.85   |

The following table summarizes changes in the benefit obligation, plan assets, the amounts recognized in consolidated balance sheets and the key assumptions of the postretirement plans. The measurement dates for plan assets and benefit obligations were December 31, 2023 and 2022.

|   | December 31,                                    |                     |                |                       |                     |                |
|---|---|---------------------|----------------|-----------------------|---------------------|----------------|
|   | 2023  |                     |                | 2022                  |                     |                |
|   | CenterPoint<br>Energy                           | Houston<br>Electric | CERC           | CenterPoint<br>Energy | Houston<br>Electric | CERC           |
|   | (in millions, except for actuarial assumptions) |                     |                |                       |                     |                |
| <b>Change in Benefit Obligation</b>   |   |                     |                |                       |                     |                |
| Benefit obligation, beginning of year .....   | \$ 263  | \$ 115              | \$ 92          | \$ 336                | \$ 148              | \$ 118         |
| Service cost .....  | 1   | —                   | 1              | 2                     | —                   | 1              |
| Interest cost .....   | 13  | 5                   | 5              | 9                     | 4                   | 3              |
| Participant contributions .....   | 6   | 2                   | 3              | 6                     | 2                   | 3              |
| Benefits paid .....   | (20)  | (8)                 | (8)            | (20)                  | (7)                 | (8)            |
| Plan amendment .....  | —   | —                   | —              | 3                     | —                   | 2              |
| Actuarial (gain) loss (1) .....   | —   | (1)                 | —              | (73)                  | (32)                | (27)           |
| Benefit obligation, end of year .....   | <u>263</u>                                      | <u>113</u>          | <u>93</u>      | <u>263</u>            | <u>115</u>          | <u>92</u>      |
| <b>Change in Plan Assets</b>  |   |                     |                |                       |                     |                |
| Fair value of plan assets, beginning of year .....                                      | 109   | 84                  | 25             | 132                   | 104                 | 29             |
| Employer contributions .....  | 7   | —                   | 4              | 8                     | 1                   | 4              |
| Participant contributions .....   | 6   | 2                   | 3              | 6                     | 2                   | 3              |
| Benefits paid .....   | (20)  | (8)                 | (8)            | (20)                  | (7)                 | (8)            |
| Actual investment return .....  | 10  | 8                   | 2              | (17)                  | (16)                | (3)            |
| Fair value of plan assets, end of year .....  | <u>112</u>                                      | <u>86</u>           | <u>26</u>      | <u>109</u>            | <u>84</u>           | <u>25</u>      |
| Funded status, end of year .....  | <u>\$ (151)</u>                                 | <u>\$ (27)</u>      | <u>\$ (67)</u> | <u>\$ (154)</u>       | <u>\$ (31)</u>      | <u>\$ (67)</u> |
| <b>Amounts Recognized in Balance Sheets</b>   |   |                     |                |                       |                     |                |
| Current liabilities — other .....   | \$ (7)  | \$ —                | \$ (4)         | \$ (7)                | \$ —                | \$ (4)         |
| Other liabilities — benefit obligations .....   | (144)   | (27)                | (63)           | (147)                 | (31)                | (64)           |
| Net liability, end of year .....  | <u>\$ (151)</u>                                 | <u>\$ (27)</u>      | <u>\$ (67)</u> | <u>\$ (154)</u>       | <u>\$ (31)</u>      | <u>\$ (68)</u> |
| <b>Actuarial Assumptions</b>  |   |                     |                |                       |                     |                |
| Discount rate (2) .....   | 4.95 %  | 4.95 %              | 4.95 %         | 5.15 %                | 5.15 %              | 5.15 %         |
| Expected return on plan assets (3) .....  | 5.13  | 5.26                | 4.69           | 3.66                  | 3.75                | 3.35           |
| Medical cost trend rate assumed for the next year - Pre-65 .....                        | 7.25  | 7.25                | 7.25           | 6.50                  | 6.50                | 6.50           |
| Medical/prescription drug cost trend rate assumed for the next year - Post-65 .....     | 22.76   | 22.76               | 22.76          | 23.66                 | 23.66               | 23.66          |
| Prescription drug cost trend rate assumed for the next year - Pre-65 .....              | 9.00  | 9.00                | 9.00           | 8.00                  | 8.00                | 8.00           |
| Rate to which the cost trend rate is assumed to decline (the ultimate trend rate) ..... | 4.50  | 4.50                | 4.50           | 4.50                  | 4.50                | 4.50           |
| Year that the cost trend rates reach the ultimate trend rate - Pre-65 .....             | 2033  | 2033                | 2033           | 2032                  | 2032                | 2032           |
| Year that the cost trend rates reach the ultimate trend rate - Post-65 .....            | 2033  | 2033                | 2033           | 2032                  | 2032                | 2032           |

(1) Significant sources of loss for 2023 include updated life insurance rates and the decrease in discount rate from 5.15% to 4.95%.

(2) The discount rate assumption was determined by matching the projected cash flows of the plans against a hypothetical yield curve of high-quality corporate bonds represented by a series of annualized individual discount rates from one-half to 99 years.

(3) The expected rate of return assumption was developed using the targeted asset allocation of the plans and the expected return for each asset class.

**(d) Accumulated Other Comprehensive Income (Loss) (CenterPoint Energy and CERC)**

CenterPoint Energy recognizes the funded status of its pension and other postretirement plans on its Consolidated Balance Sheets. To the extent this obligation exceeds amounts previously recognized in the Statements of Consolidated Income, CenterPoint Energy records a regulatory asset for that portion related to its rate-regulated utilities. To the extent that excess liability does not relate to a rate-regulated utility, the offset is recorded as a reduction to equity in accumulated other comprehensive income.

Amounts recognized in accumulated other comprehensive loss (gain) consist of the following:

|  | December 31,       |                         |                |                    |                         |                |
|--|--------------------|-------------------------|----------------|--------------------|-------------------------|----------------|
|  | 2023               |                         |                | 2022               |                         |                |
|  | Pension Benefits   | Postretirement Benefits |                | Pension Benefits   | Postretirement Benefits |                |
|  | CenterPoint Energy | CenterPoint Energy      | CERC           | CenterPoint Energy | CenterPoint Energy      | CERC           |
|  | (in millions)      |                         |                |                    |                         |                |
| Unrecognized actuarial loss (gain) .....                                   | \$ 69              | \$ (34)                 | \$ (27)        | \$ 70              | \$ (36)                 | \$ (28)        |
| Unrecognized prior service cost .....                                      | —                  | 12                      | 10             | —                  | 13                      | 11             |
| Net amount recognized in accumulated other comprehensive loss (gain) ..... | <u>\$ 69</u>       | <u>\$ (22)</u>          | <u>\$ (17)</u> | <u>\$ 70</u>       | <u>\$ (23)</u>          | <u>\$ (17)</u> |

The changes in plan assets and benefit obligations recognized in other comprehensive income during 2023 are as follows:

|   | Pension Benefits   | Postretirement Benefits |             |
|---|--------------------|-------------------------|-------------|
|   | CenterPoint Energy | CenterPoint Energy      | CERC        |
|   | (in millions)      |                         |             |
| Net loss (gain) .....   | \$ 2               | \$ —                    | \$ 1        |
| Amortization of net loss .....  | (3)                | 2                       | (2)         |
| Amortization of prior service cost .....                                    | —                  | (1)                     | 1           |
| Settlement .....  | —                  | —                       | —           |
| Total recognized in comprehensive income .....                              | <u>\$ (1)</u>      | <u>\$ 1</u>             | <u>\$ —</u> |
| Total recognized in net periodic costs and Other comprehensive income ..... | <u>\$ 52</u>       | <u>\$ —</u>             | <u>\$ 4</u> |

**(e) Pension Plan Assets (CenterPoint Energy)**

In managing the investments associated with the benefit plans, CenterPoint Energy's objective is to achieve and maintain a fully funded plan. This objective is expected to be achieved through an investment strategy that manages liquidity requirements while maintaining a long-term horizon in making investment decisions and efficient and effective management of plan assets.

As part of the investment strategy discussed above, CenterPoint Energy maintained the following weighted-average allocation targets for its pension plans as of December 31, 2023:

|                            | Minimum | Maximum |
|----------------------------|---------|---------|
| U.S. equity .....          | 17 %    | 27 %    |
| International equity ..... | 9 %     | 19 %    |
| Real estate .....          | 2 %     | 11 %    |
| Fixed income .....         | 54 %    | 64 %    |
| Cash .....                 | — %     | 2 %     |

The following tables set forth by level, within the fair value hierarchy (see Note 10), CenterPoint Energy's pension plan assets at fair value as of December 31, 2023 and 2022:

|  | Fair Value Measurements as of December 31, |               |             |                 |               |               |             |                 |
|--|--|---------------|-------------|-----------------|---------------|---------------|-------------|-----------------|
|  | 2023                                       |               |             |                 | 2022          |               |             |                 |
|  | (Level 1)                                  | (Level 2)     | (Level 3)   | Total           | (Level 1)     | (Level 2)     | (Level 3)   | Total           |
|  | (in millions)                              |               |             |                 |               |               |             |                 |
| Cash .....   | \$ 21                                      | \$ —          | \$ —        | \$ 21           | \$ 7          | \$ —          | \$ —        | \$ 7            |
| Corporate bonds:.....  |  |               |             |                 |               |               |             |                 |
| Investment grade or above.....   | —  | 469           | —           | 469             | —             | 467           | —           | 467             |
| Equity securities:.....  |  |               |             |                 |               |               |             |                 |
| U.S. companies.....  | 30   | —             | —           | 30              | 29            | —             | —           | 29              |
| Cash received as collateral from securities lending.....                         | 94   | —             | —           | 94              | 47            | —             | —           | 47              |
| U.S. treasuries and government agencies .....                                    | 178  | —             | —           | 178             | 163           | —             | —           | 163             |
| Mortgage backed securities .....   | —  | 15            | —           | 15              | —             | 6             | —           | 6               |
| Asset backed securities.....   | —  | 1             | —           | 1               | —             | 2             | —           | 2               |
| Municipal bonds .....  | —  | 25            | —           | 25              | —             | 24            | —           | 24              |
| International government bonds .....   | —  | 9             | —           | 9               | —             | 10            | —           | 10              |
| Obligation to return cash received as collateral from securities lending .....   | (94)                                       | —             | —           | (94)            | (47)          | —             | —           | (47)            |
| Financial instruments.....   | —  | (4)           | —           | (4)             | —             | —             | —           | —               |
| Total investments at fair value.....   | <u>\$ 229</u>                              | <u>\$ 515</u> | <u>\$ —</u> | <u>744</u>      | <u>\$ 199</u> | <u>\$ 509</u> | <u>\$ —</u> | <u>708</u>      |
| Investments measured by net asset value per share or its equivalent (1) (2)..... |  |               |             | 460             |               |               |             | 504             |
| Total Investments .....  |  |               |             | <u>\$ 1,204</u> |               |               |             | <u>\$ 1,212</u> |

(1) Represents investments in pooled investment funds and common collective trust funds.

(2) The amounts invested in pooled investment funds were 100% allocated to real estate. The amounts invested common collective trust funds were allocated as follows:

|                              | As of December 31, |      |
|------------------------------|--------------------|------|
|                              | 2023               | 2022 |
| International equities ..... | 40 %               | 40 % |
| U.S. equities.....           | 59 %               | 56 % |
| Fixed income .....           | 1 %                | 4 %  |

Level 2 investments, which do not have a quoted price in active market, are valued using the market data provided by independent pricing services or major market makers, to arrive at a price a dealer would pay for the security.

The pension plans utilized both exchange traded and over-the-counter financial instruments such as futures, interest rate options and swaps that were marked to market daily with the gains/losses settled in the cash accounts. The pension plans did not include any holdings of CenterPoint Energy Common Stock as of December 31, 2023 or 2022.

#### ***(f) Postretirement Plan Assets***

In managing the investments associated with the postretirement plans, the Registrants' primary objective is to preserve and improve the funded status of the plan, while minimizing volatility. This objective is expected to be achieved through an investment strategy that manages liquidity requirements while maintaining a long-term horizon in making investment decisions and efficient and effective management of plan assets.

As part of the investment strategy discussed above, the Registrants maintained the following weighted-average allocation targets for the postretirement plans as of December 31, 2023:

|                              | CenterPoint Energy |         | Houston Electric |         | CERC    |         |
|------------------------------|--------------------|---------|------------------|---------|---------|---------|
|                              | Minimum            | Maximum | Minimum          | Maximum | Minimum | Maximum |
| U.S. equities .....          | 14 %               | 24 %    | 13 %             | 23 %    | 15 %    | 25 %    |
| International equities ..... | 3 %                | 13 %    | 3 %              | 13 %    | 2 %     | 12 %    |
| Fixed income .....           | 69 %               | 79 %    | 69 %             | 79 %    | 68 %    | 78 %    |
| Cash .....                   | — %                | 2 %     | — %              | 2 %     | — %     | 2 %     |

The following table sets forth by level, within the fair value hierarchy (see Note 10), the Registrants' postretirement plan assets at fair value as of December 31, 2023 and 2022:

|                          | Fair Value Measurements as of December 31, |           |           |        |           |           |           |        |
|--------------------------|--|-----------|-----------|--------|-----------|-----------|-----------|--------|
|                          | 2023                                       |           |           |        | 2022      |           |           |        |
|                          | Mutual Funds                               |           |           |        |           |           |           |        |
|                          | (Level 1)                                  | (Level 2) | (Level 3) | Total  | (Level 1) | (Level 2) | (Level 3) | Total  |
|                          | (in millions)                              |           |           |        |           |           |           |        |
| CenterPoint Energy ..... | \$ 113                                     | \$ —      | \$ —      | \$ 113 | \$ 109    | \$ —      | \$ —      | \$ 109 |
| Houston Electric .....   | 86   | —         | —         | 86     | 84        | —         | —         | 84     |
| CERC .....               | 26   | —         | —         | 26     | 25        | —         | —         | 25     |

The amounts invested in mutual funds were allocated as follows:

|                              | As of December 31, |                  |      |                    |                  |      |
|------------------------------|--------------------|------------------|------|--------------------|------------------|------|
|                              | 2023               |                  |      | 2022               |                  |      |
|                              | CenterPoint Energy | Houston Electric | CERC | CenterPoint Energy | Houston Electric | CERC |
| Fixed income .....           | 72 %               | 72 %             | 71 % | 74 %               | 74 %             | 74 % |
| U.S. equities .....          | 20 %               | 19 %             | 22 % | 18 %               | 17 %             | 20 % |
| International equities ..... | 8 %                | 9 %              | 6 %  | 8 %                | 8 %              | 6 %  |

**(g) Benefit Plan Contributions**

The Registrants made the following contributions in 2023 and are required to make the following minimum contributions in 2024 to the indicated benefit plans below:

|                                    | Contributions in 2023 |                  |      | Expected Minimum Contributions in 2024 |                  |      |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------|------------------|------|--|------------------|------|
|                                    | CenterPoint Energy    | Houston Electric | CERC | CenterPoint Energy                     | Houston Electric | CERC |
|                                    | (in millions)         |                  |      |  |                  |      |
| Qualified pension plans .....      | \$ 24                 | \$ —             | \$ — | \$ 2                                   | \$ —             | \$ — |
| Non-qualified pension plans .....  | 8                     | —                | —    | 7                                      | —                | —    |
| Postretirement benefit plans ..... | 7                     | —                | 4    | 8                                      | 1                | 4    |

The following benefit payments are expected to be paid by the pension and postretirement benefit plans:

|                 | Pension Benefits   |     | Postretirement Benefits |                  |      |    |    |    |
|-----------------|--------------------|-----|-------------------------|------------------|------|----|----|----|
|                 | CenterPoint Energy |     | CenterPoint Energy      | Houston Electric | CERC |    |    |    |
|                 | (in millions)      |     |                         |                  |      |    |    |    |
| 2024 .....      | \$                 | 141 | \$                      | 14               | \$   | 6  | \$ | 5  |
| 2025 .....      |                    | 143 |                         | 16               |      | 6  |    | 6  |
| 2026 .....      |                    | 137 |                         | 17               |      | 7  |    | 6  |
| 2027 .....      |                    | 135 |                         | 19               |      | 8  |    | 7  |
| 2028 .....      |                    | 133 |                         | 20               |      | 9  |    | 7  |
| 2029-2033 ..... |                    | 606 |                         | 107              |      | 49 |    | 36 |

**(h) Savings Plan**

CenterPoint Energy maintains the CenterPoint Energy Savings Plan, a tax-qualified employee savings plan that includes a cash or deferred arrangement under Section 401(k) of the Code, and an employee stock ownership plan under Section 4975(e)(7) of the Code. Under the plan, participating employees may make pre-tax or Roth contributions and, if eligible, after-tax contributions up to certain federally mandated limits. Participating Registrants provide matching contributions and, as of January 1, 2020, for certain eligible employees, non-elective contributions up to certain limits. CenterPoint Energy, through the Merger, also acquired additional defined contribution retirement savings plans sponsored by Vectren and its subsidiaries that are qualified under sections 401(a) and 401(k) of the Code, one of which merged into the CenterPoint Energy Savings Plan as of January 1, 2020 and one of which merged into the CenterPoint Energy Savings Plan as of January 1, 2022. As of January 1, 2022, the CenterPoint Energy Savings Plan is the only remaining qualified defined contribution retirement savings plan maintained by CenterPoint Energy.

The CenterPoint Energy Savings Plan has significant holdings of Common Stock. As of December 31, 2023, 6,589,241 shares of Common Stock were held by the savings plan, which represented approximately 7% of its investments. Given the concentration of the investments in Common Stock, the savings plan and its participants have market risk related to this investment. The savings plan limits the percentage of future contributions that can be invested in Common Stock to 25% and prohibits transfers of account balances where the transfer would result in more than 25% of a participant’s total account balance invested in Common Stock.

CenterPoint Energy allocates the savings plan benefit expense to Houston Electric and CERC related to their respective employees. The following table summarizes the Registrants’ savings plan benefit expense for 2023, 2022 and 2021:

|   | Year Ended December 31, |                  |      |                    |                  |      |                    |                  |      |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|---|-------------------------|------------------|------|--------------------|------------------|------|--------------------|------------------|------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
|   | 2023                    |                  |      | 2022               |                  |      | 2021               |                  |      |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|   | CenterPoint Energy      | Houston Electric | CERC | CenterPoint Energy | Houston Electric | CERC | CenterPoint Energy | Houston Electric | CERC |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|   | (in millions)           |                  |      |                    |                  |      |                    |                  |      |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
| Savings plan benefit expenses (1) ..... | \$                      | 67               | \$   | 23                 | \$               | 20   | \$                 | 72               | \$   | 23 | \$ | 22 | \$ | 58 | \$ | 20 | \$ | 23 |

(1) Amounts presented in the table above are included in Operation and maintenance expense in the Registrants’ respective Statements of Consolidated Income and shown prior to any amounts capitalized.

**(i) Other Benefits Plans**

The Registrants participate in CenterPoint Energy’s plans that provide postemployment benefits for certain former or inactive employees, their beneficiaries and covered dependents, after employment but before retirement (primarily healthcare and life insurance benefits for participants in the long-term disability plan).

CenterPoint Energy maintains non-qualified deferred compensation plans that provide benefits payable to eligible directors, officers and select employees or their designated beneficiaries at specified future dates or upon termination, retirement or death. Benefit payments are made from the general assets of the participating Registrants or, in the case of certain plans, from a rabbi trust that is a grantor trust and remains subject to the claims of general creditors under applicable state and federal law.

Expenses related to other benefit plans were recorded as follows:

|                                | Year Ended December 31, |                  |      |                    |                  |      |                    |                  |      |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------|------------------|------|--------------------|------------------|------|--------------------|------------------|------|
|                                | 2023                    |                  |      | 2022               |                  |      | 2021               |                  |      |
|                                | CenterPoint Energy      | Houston Electric | CERC | CenterPoint Energy | Houston Electric | CERC | CenterPoint Energy | Houston Electric | CERC |
|                                | (in millions)           |                  |      |                    |                  |      |                    |                  |      |
| Postemployment benefits .....  | \$ (1)                  | \$ —             | \$ — | \$ 4               | \$ 1             | \$ 1 | \$ 3               | \$ 1             | \$ 2 |
| Deferred compensation plans .. | (1)                     | —                | —    | 1                  | —                | —    | 3                  | —                | —    |

Amounts related to other benefit plans were included in Benefit Obligations in the Registrants' accompanying Consolidated Balance Sheets as follows:

|  | December 31, 2023  |                  |      | December 31, 2022  |                  |      |
|--|--------------------|------------------|------|--------------------|------------------|------|
|  | CenterPoint Energy | Houston Electric | CERC | CenterPoint Energy | Houston Electric | CERC |
|  |                    | (in millions)    |      |                    |                  |      |
| Postemployment benefits .....                  | \$ 5               | \$ 2             | \$ 3 | \$ 9               | \$ 3             | \$ 4 |
| Deferred compensation plans .....              | 26                 | 3                | 1    | 28                 | 4                | 1    |
| Split-dollar life insurance arrangements ..... | 46                 | 1                | —    | 22                 | 1                | —    |

**(j) Change in Control Agreements and Other Employee Matters**

CenterPoint Energy has a change in control plan, which was amended and restated on May 1, 2017. The plan generally provides, to the extent applicable, in the case of a change in control of CenterPoint Energy and covered termination of employment, for severance benefits of up to three times annual base salary plus bonus, and other benefits. Certain CenterPoint Energy officers are participants under the plan.

Certain key employees of a subsidiary of Vectren have employment agreements that provide payments and other benefits upon a covered termination of employment.

As of December 31, 2023, the Registrants' employees were covered by collective bargaining agreements as follows:

|  | Agreement Expiration | Percentage of Employees Covered |                  |      |
|--|----------------------|---------------------------------|------------------|------|
|  |                      | CenterPoint Energy              | Houston Electric | CERC |
| IBEW Local 66 .....                                | May 2026             | 17 %                            | 53 %             | — %  |
| OPEIU Local 12 .....                               | December 2025        | 2 %                             | — %              | 2 %  |
| Gas Workers Union Local 340 .....                  | April 2025           | 5 %                             | — %              | 13 % |
| IBEW Locals 1393 and USW Locals 12213 & 7441 ..... | December 2026        | 3 %                             | — %              | 8 %  |
| IBEW Locals 949 .....                              | December 2025        | 3 %                             | — %              | 7 %  |
| USW Locals 13-227 .....                            | June 2027            | 5 %                             | — %              | 13 % |
| USW Locals 13-1 .....                              | June 2027            | — %                             | — %              | 1 %  |
| IBEW Local 702 .....                               | June 2025            | 3 %                             | — %              | — %  |
| Teamsters Local 135/215 .....                      | September 2024       | — %                             | — %              | — %  |
| UWUA Local 175 .....                               | October 2024         | 2 %                             | — %              | 4 %  |
| Total .....  |                      | 40 %                            | 53 %             | 48 % |

The collective bargaining agreements with Teamsters Local 135 related to SIGECO employees and Utility Workers Union of America, Local 175 related to VEDO employees are scheduled to expire in September 2024 and October 2024, respectively, and negotiations of these agreements are expected to be completed before the respective expirations.

**Board of Directors Actions.** On July 22, 2021, CenterPoint Energy announced the decision of the independent directors of the Board to implement a new independent Board leadership and governance structure and appointed a new independent chair

of the Board. To implement this new governance structure, the independent directors of the Board eliminated the Executive Chairman position that was formerly held by Milton Carroll.

On the approval and recommendation of the Compensation Committee and approval of the Board (acting solely through its independent directors), CenterPoint Energy entered into a separation agreement between CenterPoint Energy and Mr. Carroll, dated July 21, 2021. Under the terms of the separation agreement, Mr. Carroll exited the positions of Executive Chairman on July 21, 2021 and Board member on September 30, 2021. Under the terms of the separation agreement, Mr. Carroll received a lump sum cash payment of \$28 million and his separation was treated as an “enhanced retirement” for purposes of his outstanding 2019, 2020 and 2021 equity award agreements.

On the approval and recommendation of the Compensation Committee and approval of the Board (acting solely through its independent directors), CenterPoint Energy has entered into a retention incentive agreement with David J. Lesar, President and Chief Executive Officer of CenterPoint Energy, dated July 20, 2021. For information about the classification of this award, see Note 12.

## (9) Derivative Instruments

The Registrants are exposed to various market risks. These risks arise from transactions entered into in the normal course of business. The Registrants, from time to time, utilize derivative instruments such as swaps and options to mitigate the impact of changes in commodity prices, weather and interest rates on operating results and cash flows.

### (a) Non-Trading Activities

*Commodity Derivative Instruments (CenterPoint Energy and CERC).* CenterPoint Energy and CERC, through the Indiana Utilities they respectively own, enter into certain derivative instruments, including physical forward contracts, to mitigate the effects of commodity price movements. Outstanding derivative instruments designated as economic hedges at the Indiana Utilities hedge long-term variable rate natural gas purchases. The Indiana Utilities have authority to refund and recover mark-to-market gains and losses associated with hedging natural gas purchases, and thus the gains and losses on derivatives are deferred in a regulatory liability or asset. All other financial instruments do not qualify or are not designated as cash flow or fair value hedges. As of both December 31, 2023 and 2022, the notional volumes of both CenterPoint Energy’s and CERC’s natural gas derivatives were 27,421 MMBtu per day.

*Interest Rate Risk Derivative Instruments.* From time to time, the Registrants may enter into interest rate derivatives that are designated as economic or cash flow hedges. The objective of these hedges is to offset risk associated with interest rates borne by the Registrants in connection with an anticipated future fixed rate debt offering or other exposure to variable rate debt. Houston Electric and the Indiana Utilities have authority to refund and recover mark-to-market gains and losses associated with hedging financing activity, and thus the gains and losses on derivatives are deferred in a regulatory liability or asset. For the impacts of cash flow hedges to Accumulated other comprehensive income, see Note 12.

The table below summarizes CenterPoint Energy’s and Houston Electric’s outstanding interest rate hedging activity:

| Hedging Classification       | December 31, 2023  |     | December 31, 2022 |    |
|------------------------------|--------------------|-----|-------------------|----|
|                              | Notional Principal |     |                   |    |
|                              | (in millions)      |     |                   |    |
| <b>CenterPoint Energy:</b>   |                    |     |                   |    |
| Economic hedge (1).....      | \$                 | —   | \$                | 84 |
| Cash flow hedge (2) (3)..... |                    | 200 |                   | —  |
| <b>Houston Electric:</b>     |                    |     |                   |    |
| Cash flow hedge (3).....     |                    | 100 |                   | —  |

(1) Relates to interest rate derivative instruments at SIGECO that terminated on May 1, 2023.

(2) Relates to interest rate derivative instruments at CenterPoint Energy with a termination date of December 31, 2029. The interest rate swap agreements were designated as cash flow hedges of forecasted transactions. CenterPoint Energy records all changes in the fair value of cash flow hedges in accumulated other comprehensive income (loss) until the underlying hedged transaction occurs, when it reclassifies that amount into earnings.

(3) Relates to interest rate derivative instruments at Houston Electric with a termination date of June 28, 2024. The interest rate treasury lock agreements were designated as cash flow hedges of forecasted transactions. Houston Electric records



all changes in the fair value of cash flow hedges to a regulatory asset or liability, which is amortized over the life of the associated debt being hedged.

**(b) Derivative Fair Values and Income Statement Impacts**

CenterPoint Energy's outstanding interest rate derivatives designated as cash flow hedges described above were not material as of December 31, 2023 and are included in current non-trading derivative liabilities on CenterPoint Energy's Consolidated Balance Sheets. Houston Electric's outstanding interest rate derivatives designated as cash flow hedges described above were not material as of December 31, 2023 and are included in prepaid expenses and other current assets on Houston Electric's Consolidated Balance Sheets.

The tables below provide a balance sheet overview of CenterPoint Energy's and CERC's derivative assets and liabilities as of December 31, 2023 and 2022.

| Balance Sheet Location                                    | December 31, 2023   |                                   | December 31, 2022            |                                   |               |
|---|---|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------|
|   | Derivative Assets Fair Value                                  | Derivative Liabilities Fair Value | Derivative Assets Fair Value | Derivative Liabilities Fair Value |               |
| <b>CenterPoint Energy:</b>                                |   |                                   |                              |                                   |               |
| <b>Derivatives not designated as hedging instruments:</b> |   |                                   |                              |                                   |               |
| Natural gas derivatives (1) .....                         | Current Assets: Non-trading derivative assets .....           | \$ —                              | \$ —                         | \$ 9                              | \$ —          |
| Interest rate derivatives .....                           | Current Assets: Non-trading derivative assets .....           | —                                 | —                            | 1                                 | —             |
| Natural gas derivatives (1) .....                         | Other Assets: Non-trading derivative assets .....             | —                                 | —                            | 2                                 | —             |
| Natural gas derivatives (1) .....                         | Current Liabilities: Non-trading derivative liabilities ..... | —                                 | 9                            | —                                 | —             |
| Natural gas derivatives (1) .....                         | Other Liabilities: Non-trading derivative liabilities .....   | —                                 | 3                            | —                                 | —             |
| Indexed debt securities derivative (2) .....              | Current Liabilities .....                                     | —                                 | 605                          | —                                 | 578           |
| <b>Total</b> .....  |   | <b>\$ —</b>                       | <b>\$ 617</b>                | <b>\$ 12</b>                      | <b>\$ 578</b> |

- (1) Natural gas contracts are subject to master netting arrangements. This netting applies to all undisputed amounts due or past due. However, the mark-to-market fair value of each natural gas contract is in a liability or asset position with no offsetting amount as of December 31, 2023 and 2022, respectively.
- (2) Derivative component of the ZENS obligation that represents the ZENS holder's option to receive the appreciated value of the reference shares at maturity and other payments to which they may be entitled. See Note 11 for further information.

| Balance Sheet Location                                    | December 31, 2023   |                                   | December 31, 2022            |                                   |             |
|---|---|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------|
|   | Derivative Assets Fair Value                                  | Derivative Liabilities Fair Value | Derivative Assets Fair Value | Derivative Liabilities Fair Value |             |
| <b>CERC:</b>  |   |                                   |                              |                                   |             |
| <b>Derivatives not designated as hedging instruments:</b> |   |                                   |                              |                                   |             |
| Natural gas derivatives (1) .....                         | Current Assets: Non-trading derivative assets .....           | \$ —                              | \$ —                         | \$ 7                              | \$ —        |
| Natural gas derivatives (1) .....                         | Other Assets: Non-trading derivative assets .....             | —                                 | —                            | 2                                 | —           |
| Natural gas derivatives (1) .....                         | Current Liabilities: Non-trading derivative liabilities ..... | —                                 | 8                            | —                                 | —           |
| Natural gas derivatives (1) .....                         | Other Liabilities: Non-trading derivative liabilities .....   | —                                 | 3                            | —                                 | —           |
| <b>Total</b> .....  |   | <b>\$ —</b>                       | <b>\$ 11</b>                 | <b>\$ 9</b>                       | <b>\$ —</b> |

- (1) Natural gas contracts are subject to master netting arrangements. This netting applies to all undisputed amounts due or past due. However, the mark-to-market fair value of each natural gas contract is in a liability or asset position with no offsetting amount as of December 31, 2023 and 2022, respectively.

The table below provides the related income statement impacts of derivative activity for the years ending December 31, 2023, 2022 and 2021.

| Income Statement Location   | Year Ended December 31, |               |              |
|---|-------------------------|---------------|--------------|
|   | 2023                    | 2022          | 2021         |
| <b>CenterPoint Energy:</b>  | (in millions)           |               |              |
| <b>Effects of derivatives not designated as hedging instruments:</b>                    |                         |               |              |
| Indexed debt securities derivative (1).... Gain (loss) on indexed debt securities ..... | \$ (27)                 | \$ 325        | \$ 50        |
| <b>Total CenterPoint Energy</b> .....   | <u>\$ (27)</u>          | <u>\$ 325</u> | <u>\$ 50</u> |

(1) The indexed debt securities derivative is recorded at fair value and changes in the fair value are recorded in CenterPoint Energy's Statements of Consolidated Income.

**(c) Credit Risk Contingent Features (CenterPoint Energy and CERC)**

Certain of CenterPoint Energy's and CERC's derivative instruments contain provisions that require CenterPoint Energy and CERC to maintain an investment grade credit rating on their respective long-term unsecured unsubordinated debt from S&P and Moody's. If CenterPoint Energy's or CERC's debt were to fall below investment grade, it would be in violation of these provisions, and the counterparties to the derivative instruments could request immediate payment or additional collateral.

|   | December 31, 2023  |      | December 31, 2022  |      |
|---|--------------------|------|--------------------|------|
|   | CenterPoint Energy | CERC | CenterPoint Energy | CERC |
|   | (in millions)      |      |                    |      |
| Aggregate fair value of derivatives containing material adverse change provisions in a net liability position ..... | \$ 9               | \$ 8 | \$ —               | \$ — |
| Fair value of collateral already posted .....   | —                  | —    | —                  | —    |
| Additional collateral required to be posted if credit risk contingent features triggered .....                      | 9                  | 8    | —                  | —    |

**(10) Fair Value Measurements**

Assets and liabilities that are recorded at fair value in the Registrants' Consolidated Balance Sheets are categorized based upon the level of judgment associated with the inputs used to measure their value. Hierarchical levels, as defined below and directly related to the amount of subjectivity associated with the inputs to fair valuations of these assets and liabilities, are as follows:

Level 1: Inputs are unadjusted quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities at the measurement date. The types of assets carried at Level 1 fair value generally are exchange-traded derivatives and equity securities.

Level 2: Inputs, other than quoted prices included in Level 1, are observable for the asset or liability, either directly or indirectly. Level 2 inputs include quoted prices for similar instruments in active markets, and inputs other than quoted prices that are observable for the asset or liability. Fair value assets and liabilities that are generally included in this category are derivatives with fair values based on inputs from actively quoted markets. A market approach is utilized to value the Registrants' Level 2 natural gas derivative assets or liabilities. CenterPoint Energy's Level 2 indexed debt securities derivative is valued using an option model and a discounted cash flow model, which uses projected dividends on the ZENS-Related Securities and a discount rate as observable inputs.

Level 3: Inputs are unobservable for the asset or liability, and include situations where there is little, if any, market activity for the asset or liability. Unobservable inputs reflect the Registrants' judgments about the assumptions market participants would use in pricing the asset or liability since limited market data exists. The Registrants develop these inputs based on the best information available, including the Registrants' own data.

The Registrants determine the appropriate level for each financial asset and liability on a quarterly basis and recognize transfers between levels at the end of the reporting period.

The following tables present information about the Registrants' assets and liabilities (including derivatives that are presented net) measured at fair value on a recurring basis as of December 31, 2023 and December 31, 2022, and indicate the fair value hierarchy of the valuation techniques utilized by the Registrants to determine such fair value.

### CenterPoint Energy

|   | December 31, 2023 |               |             |               | December 31, 2022 |               |             |               |
|---|-------------------|---------------|-------------|---------------|-------------------|---------------|-------------|---------------|
|   | Level 1           | Level 2       | Level 3     | Total         | Level 1           | Level 2       | Level 3     | Total         |
| <b>Assets</b>                                       | (in millions)     |               |             |               |                   |               |             |               |
| Equity securities .....                             | \$ 541            | \$ —          | \$ —        | \$ 541        | \$ 510            | \$ —          | \$ —        | \$ 510        |
| Investments, including money market funds (1) ..... | 31                | —             | —           | 31            | 32                | —             | —           | 32            |
| Interest rate derivatives .....                     | —                 | —             | —           | —             | —                 | 1             | —           | 1             |
| Natural gas derivatives .....                       | —                 | —             | —           | —             | —                 | 11            | —           | 11            |
| Total assets .....                                  | <u>\$ 572</u>     | <u>\$ —</u>   | <u>\$ —</u> | <u>\$ 572</u> | <u>\$ 542</u>     | <u>\$ 12</u>  | <u>\$ —</u> | <u>\$ 554</u> |
| <b>Liabilities</b>                                  |                   |               |             |               |                   |               |             |               |
| Indexed debt securities derivative .....            | \$ —              | \$ 605        | \$ —        | \$ 605        | \$ —              | \$ 578        | \$ —        | \$ 578        |
| Natural gas derivatives .....                       | —                 | 12            | —           | 12            | —                 | —             | —           | —             |
| Total liabilities .....                             | <u>\$ —</u>       | <u>\$ 617</u> | <u>\$ —</u> | <u>\$ 617</u> | <u>\$ —</u>       | <u>\$ 578</u> | <u>\$ —</u> | <u>\$ 578</u> |

### Houston Electric

|   | December 31, 2023 |             |             |              | December 31, 2022 |             |             |              |
|---|-------------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|-------------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|
|   | Level 1           | Level 2     | Level 3     | Total        | Level 1           | Level 2     | Level 3     | Total        |
| <b>Assets</b>                                       | (in millions)     |             |             |              |                   |             |             |              |
| Investments, including money market funds (1) ..... | \$ 14             | \$ —        | \$ —        | \$ 14        | \$ 17             | \$ —        | \$ —        | \$ 17        |
| Total assets .....                                  | <u>\$ 14</u>      | <u>\$ —</u> | <u>\$ —</u> | <u>\$ 14</u> | <u>\$ 17</u>      | <u>\$ —</u> | <u>\$ —</u> | <u>\$ 17</u> |

### CERC

|   | December 31, 2023 |              |             |              | December 31, 2022 |             |             |              |
|---|-------------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|-------------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|
|   | Level 1           | Level 2      | Level 3     | Total        | Level 1           | Level 2     | Level 3     | Total        |
| <b>Assets</b>                                       | (in millions)     |              |             |              |                   |             |             |              |
| Investments, including money market funds (1) ..... | \$ 15             | \$ —         | \$ —        | \$ 15        | \$ 14             | \$ —        | \$ —        | \$ 14        |
| Natural gas derivatives .....                       | —                 | —            | —           | —            | —                 | 9           | —           | 9            |
| Total assets .....                                  | <u>\$ 15</u>      | <u>\$ —</u>  | <u>\$ —</u> | <u>\$ 15</u> | <u>\$ 14</u>      | <u>\$ 9</u> | <u>\$ —</u> | <u>\$ 23</u> |
| <b>Liabilities</b>                                  |                   |              |             |              |                   |             |             |              |
| Natural gas derivatives .....                       | \$ —              | \$ 11        | \$ —        | \$ 11        | \$ —              | \$ —        | \$ —        | \$ —         |
| Total liabilities .....                             | <u>\$ —</u>       | <u>\$ 11</u> | <u>\$ —</u> | <u>\$ 11</u> | <u>\$ —</u>       | <u>\$ —</u> | <u>\$ —</u> | <u>\$ —</u>  |

(1) Amounts are included in Prepaid expenses and other current assets in the respective Consolidated Balance Sheets.

During 2023 and 2022, CenterPoint Energy did not have any assets or liabilities designated as Level 3.

### Items Measured at Fair Value on a Nonrecurring Basis

For a discussion of the valuation of the Arkansas and Oklahoma Natural Gas businesses in 2021, see Note 4.

### Estimated Fair Value of Financial Instruments

The fair values of cash and cash equivalents, investments in debt and equity securities classified as “trading” and short-term borrowings are estimated to be approximately equivalent to carrying amounts and have been excluded from the table below. The carrying amounts of non-trading derivative assets and liabilities and CenterPoint Energy’s equity securities, including ZENS related derivative liabilities, are stated at fair value and are excluded from the table below. The fair value of each debt instrument is determined by multiplying the principal amount of each debt instrument by a combination of historical

trading prices and comparable issue data. These liabilities, which are not measured at fair value in the Registrants' Consolidated Balance Sheets, but for which the fair value is disclosed, would be classified as Level 2 in the fair value hierarchy.

|   | December 31, 2023      |                      |          | December 31, 2022      |                      |          |
|---|------------------------|----------------------|----------|------------------------|----------------------|----------|
|   | CenterPoint Energy (1) | Houston Electric (1) | CERC     | CenterPoint Energy (1) | Houston Electric (1) | CERC     |
| <b>Long-term debt, including current maturities</b> | (in millions)          |                      |          |                        |                      |          |
| Carrying amount.....                                | \$ 18,609              | \$ 7,587             | \$ 4,670 | \$ 16,338              | \$ 6,353             | \$ 4,826 |
| Fair value.....                                     | 17,804                 | 6,917                | 4,627    | 14,990                 | 5,504                | 4,637    |

(1) Includes Securitization Bond debt.

## (11) Equity Securities and Indexed Debt Securities (ZENS) (CenterPoint Energy)

### (a) Equity Securities

Gains and losses on equity securities, net of transaction costs, are recorded as Gain (loss) on equity securities in CenterPoint Energy's Statements of Consolidated Income. The following table presents information on CenterPoint Energy's equity securities for each period indicated:

|   | Year Ended December 31, |          |          |
|---|-------------------------|----------|----------|
|   | 2023                    | 2022     | 2021     |
|   | (in millions)           |          |          |
| AT&T Common .....                                 | \$ (17)                 | \$ (63)  | \$ (43)  |
| Charter Common.....                               | 43                      | (273)    | (8)      |
| WBD Common .....                                  | 5                       | 23       | —        |
| Energy Transfer Common Units (1) .....            | —                       | 95       | (124)    |
| Energy Transfer Series G Preferred Units (1)..... | —                       | (9)      | 2        |
| Other.....  | —                       | —        | 1        |
| Total Gains (Losses) on Equity Securities.....    | \$ 31                   | \$ (227) | \$ (172) |

(1) In 2022, CenterPoint Energy completed the execution of its previously announced plan to exit the midstream sector by selling the remaining Energy Transfer Common Units and Energy Transfer Series G Preferred Units it held.

CenterPoint Energy recorded unrealized gains (losses) of \$31 million, \$(313) million, and \$(52) million for the years ended December 31, 2023, 2022, and 2021, respectively, for equity securities held as of December 31, 2023, 2022, and 2021.

CenterPoint Energy and its subsidiaries hold shares of certain securities detailed in the table below, which are classified as trading securities. Shares of AT&T Common, Charter Common and WBD Common are expected to be held to facilitate CenterPoint Energy's ability to meet its obligation under the ZENS.

|                     | Shares Held at December 31, |            | Carrying Value at December 31, |        |
|---------------------|-----------------------------|------------|--------------------------------|--------|
|                     | 2023                        | 2022       | 2023                           | 2022   |
|                     | (in millions)               |            |                                |        |
| AT&T Common .....   | 10,212,945                  | 10,212,945 | \$ 171                         | \$ 188 |
| Charter Common..... | 872,503                     | 872,503    | 339                            | 296    |
| WBD Common .....    | 2,470,685                   | 2,470,685  | 28                             | 23     |
| Other .....         |                             |            | 3                              | 3      |
|                     |                             |            | \$ 541                         | \$ 510 |

**(b) ZENS**

In September 1999, CenterPoint Energy issued ZENS having an original principal amount of \$1.0 billion, of which \$828 million remained outstanding as of December 31, 2023. Each ZENS is exchangeable at the holder's option at any time for an amount of cash equal to 95% of the market value of the reference shares attributable to such note. The number and identity of the reference shares attributable to each ZENS are adjusted for certain corporate events.

CenterPoint Energy's reference shares for each ZENS consisted of the following:

|                      | <b>December 31,</b> |             |
|----------------------|---------------------|-------------|
|                      | <b>2023</b>         | <b>2022</b> |
|                      | <b>(in shares)</b>  |             |
| AT&T Common .....    | 0.7185              | 0.7185      |
| Charter Common ..... | 0.061382            | 0.061382    |
| WBD Common .....     | 0.173817            | 0.173817    |

CenterPoint Energy pays interest on the ZENS at an annual rate of 2% plus the amount of any quarterly cash dividends paid in respect of the reference shares attributable to the ZENS. The principal amount of the ZENS is subject to increases or decreases to the extent that the annual yield from interest and cash dividends on the reference shares is less than or more than 2.309%. The adjusted principal amount is defined in the ZENS instrument as "contingent principal." As of December 31, 2023, the ZENS, having an original principal amount of \$828 million and a contingent principal amount of \$18 million, were outstanding and were exchangeable, at the option of the holders, for cash equal to 95% of the market value of the reference shares attributable to the ZENS. As of December 31, 2023, the market value of such shares was approximately \$538 million, which would provide an exchange amount of \$618 for each \$1,000 original principal amount of ZENS. At maturity of the ZENS in 2029, CenterPoint Energy will be obligated to pay in cash the higher of the contingent principal amount of the ZENS or an amount based on the then-current market value of the reference shares, which will include any additional publicly-traded securities distributed with respect to the current reference shares prior to maturity.

The ZENS obligation is bifurcated into a debt component and a derivative component (the holder's option to receive the appreciated value of the reference shares at maturity). The bifurcated debt component accretes through interest charges annually up to the contingent principal amount of the ZENS in 2029. Such accretion will be reduced by annual cash interest payments, as described above. The derivative component is recorded at fair value and changes in the fair value of the derivative component are recorded in CenterPoint Energy's Statements of Consolidated Income. Changes in the fair value of the ZENS-Related Securities held by CenterPoint Energy are expected to substantially offset changes in the fair value of the derivative component of the ZENS.

The following table sets forth summarized financial information regarding CenterPoint Energy's investment in ZENS-Related Securities and each component of CenterPoint Energy's ZENS obligation.

|   | ZENS-Related<br>Securities | Debt<br>Component<br>of ZENS | Derivative<br>Component<br>of ZENS |
|---|----------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------------|
|   | (in millions)              |                              |                                    |
| Balance as of December 31, 2020 .....     | \$ 871                     | \$ 15                        | \$ 953                             |
| Accretion of debt component of ZENS ..... | —                          | 17                           | —                                  |
| 2% interest paid .....                    | —                          | (17)                         | —                                  |
| Distribution to ZENS holders .....        | —                          | (5)                          | —                                  |
| Gain on indexed debt securities .....     | —                          | —                            | (50)                               |
| Loss on ZENS-Related Securities .....     | (51)                       | —                            | —                                  |
| Balance as of December 31, 2021 .....     | 820                        | 10                           | 903                                |
| Accretion of debt component of ZENS ..... | —                          | 17                           | —                                  |
| 2% interest paid .....                    | —                          | (17)                         | —                                  |
| Distribution to ZENS holders .....        | —                          | (3)                          | —                                  |
| Gain on indexed debt securities .....     | —                          | —                            | (325)                              |
| Loss on ZENS-Related Securities .....     | (313)                      | —                            | —                                  |
| Balance as of December 31, 2022 .....     | 507                        | 7                            | 578                                |
| Accretion of debt component of ZENS ..... | —                          | 17                           | —                                  |
| 2% interest paid .....                    | —                          | (17)                         | —                                  |
| Distribution to ZENS holders .....        | —                          | (2)                          | —                                  |
| Loss on indexed debt securities .....     | —                          | —                            | 27                                 |
| Gain on ZENS-Related Securities .....     | 31                         | —                            | —                                  |
| Balance as of December 31, 2023 .....     | <u>\$ 538</u>              | <u>\$ 5</u>                  | <u>\$ 605</u>                      |

## (12) Equity (CenterPoint Energy)

### *Dividends Declared and Paid (CenterPoint Energy)*

CenterPoint Energy declared and paid dividends on its Common Stock during 2023, 2022 and 2021 as presented in the table below:

|                                    | Dividends Declared Per Share |           |           | Dividends Paid Per Share |           |           |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------|-----------|--------------------------|-----------|-----------|
|                                    | 2023                         | 2022      | 2021      | 2023                     | 2022      | 2021      |
| Common Stock .....                 | \$ 0.7800                    | \$ 0.7200 | \$ 0.6600 | \$ 0.7700                | \$ 0.7000 | \$ 0.6500 |
| Series A Preferred Stock (1) ..... | 30.6250                      | 61.2500   | 61.2500   | 61.2500                  | 61.2500   | 61.2500   |
| Series B Preferred Stock (2) ..... | —                            | —         | 35.0000   | —                        | —         | 52.5000   |
| Series C Preferred Stock (3) ..... | —                            | —         | —         | —                        | —         | 0.1600    |

- (1) All of the outstanding shares of Series A Preferred Stock were redeemed during 2023 as further described below.
- (2) All of the outstanding shares of Series B Preferred Stock were converted to Common Stock during 2021.
- (3) The Series C Preferred Stock was entitled to participate in any dividend or distribution (excluding those payable in Common Stock) with the Common Stock on a pari passu, pro rata, as-converted basis. The per share amount reflects the dividend per share of Common Stock as if the Series C Preferred Stock were converted into Common Stock. All of the outstanding Series C Preferred Stock was converted to Common Stock during 2021.

### Preferred Stock (CenterPoint Energy)

|   | Liquidation Preference Per Share | Shares Outstanding as of December 31, |         |         | Outstanding Value as of December 31, |        |        |
|---|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------|---------|--------------------------------------|--------|--------|
|   |                                  | 2023                                  | 2022    | 2021    | 2023                                 | 2022   | 2021   |
| (in millions, except shares and per share amount) |                                  |                                       |         |         |                                      |        |        |
| Series A Preferred Stock (1).....                 | \$ 1,000                         | —                                     | 800,000 | 800,000 | \$ —                                 | \$ 790 | \$ 790 |
|   |                                  | —                                     | 800,000 | 800,000 | \$ —                                 | \$ 790 | \$ 790 |

(1) All of the outstanding shares of Series A Preferred Stock were redeemed during 2023 as further described below.

### Dividend Requirement on Preferred Stock

|  | Year Ended December 31, |       |       |
|--|-------------------------|-------|-------|
|  | 2023                    | 2022  | 2021  |
| (in millions)  |                         |       |       |
| Series A Preferred Stock .....                         | \$ 50                   | \$ 49 | \$ 49 |
| Series B Preferred Stock .....                         | —                       | —     | 46    |
| Total income allocated to preferred shareholders ..... | \$ 50                   | \$ 49 | \$ 95 |

### Series A Preferred Stock

Prior to the redemption of all outstanding shares of Series A Preferred Stock in September 2023, the aggregate liquidation value of the Series A Preferred Stock was \$800 million with a per share liquidation value of \$1,000. The Series A Preferred Stock was redeemable at CenterPoint Energy's election on or after September 1, 2023, for cash at a redemption price of \$1,000 per share, plus any accumulated and unpaid dividends thereon to, but excluding, the redemption date.

*Dividends.* The Series A Preferred Stock accrued cumulative dividends, calculated as a percentage of the stated amount per share, at a fixed annual rate of 6.125% per annum to be paid in cash if, when and as declared. If declared, dividends were payable semi-annually in arrears on each March 1 and September 1, beginning on March 1, 2019. Cumulative dividends earned during the applicable periods are presented on CenterPoint Energy's Statements of Consolidated Income as Preferred stock dividend requirement.

*Ranking.* The Series A Preferred Stock, with respect to anticipated dividends and distributions upon CenterPoint Energy's liquidation or dissolution, or winding-up of CenterPoint Energy's affairs, ranked:

- senior to Common Stock and to each other class or series of capital stock established after the initial issue date of the Series A Preferred Stock that is expressly made subordinated to the Series A Preferred Stock;
- on a parity with any class or series of capital stock established after the initial issue date of the Series A Preferred Stock that is not expressly made senior or subordinated to the Series A Preferred Stock;
- junior to any class or series of capital stock established after the initial issue date of the Series A Preferred Stock that is expressly made senior to the Series A Preferred Stock;
- junior to all existing and future indebtedness (including indebtedness outstanding under CenterPoint Energy's credit facilities, senior notes and commercial paper) and other liabilities with respect to assets available to satisfy claims against CenterPoint Energy; and
- structurally subordinated to any existing and future indebtedness and other liabilities of CenterPoint Energy's subsidiaries and capital stock of CenterPoint Energy's subsidiaries held by third parties.

*Voting Rights.* Holders of the Series A Preferred Stock generally did not have voting rights.

*Redemption of Series A Preferred Stock.* On September 1, 2023, CenterPoint Energy redeemed all 800,000 outstanding shares of Series A Preferred Stock, in whole for cash at a redemption price of \$1,000 per share, plus any accumulated and unpaid dividends thereon to, but excluding, the redemption date.

**Temporary Equity (CenterPoint Energy)**

On the approval and recommendation of the Compensation Committee and approval of the Board (acting solely through its independent directors), CenterPoint Energy entered into a retention incentive agreement with David J. Lesar, then President and Chief Executive Officer of CenterPoint Energy, dated July 20, 2021. Pursuant to the retention incentive agreement, Mr. Lesar received equity-based awards under CenterPoint Energy’s LTIP covering a total of 1 million shares of Common Stock (Total Stock Award), which were granted in multiple annual awards. Mr. Lesar received 400 thousand restricted stock units in July 2021 that vested in December 2022 and 400 thousand restricted stock units and 200 thousand restricted stock units in February 2022 and February 2023, respectively, that vested in December 2023. For accounting purposes, the 1 million shares under the Total Stock Award, consisting of the equity-based awards described above, were considered granted in July 2021. In the event that death, disability, termination without cause or resignation for good reason, as defined in the retention incentive agreement, had occurred prior to the full Total Stock Award being awarded, CenterPoint Energy would have paid a lump sum cash payment equal to the value of the unawarded equity-based awards, based on the closing trading price of Common Stock on the date of the event’s occurrence. Because the equity-based awards would have been redeemable for cash prior to being awarded upon events that were not probable at the grant date, the equity associated with any unawarded equity-based awards were classified as Temporary Equity as of December 31, 2022 on CenterPoint Energy’s Consolidated Balance Sheets. As of December 31, 2023, all restricted stock units have been awarded to Mr. Lesar and no amounts are reflected in Temporary Equity on CenterPoint Energy’s Consolidated Balance Sheets.

**Accumulated Other Comprehensive Income (Loss) (CenterPoint Energy and CERC)**

Changes in accumulated comprehensive income (loss) are as follows:

|  | Year Ended December 31, |              |                       |              |
|--|-------------------------|--------------|-----------------------|--------------|
|  | 2023                    |              | 2022                  |              |
|  | CenterPoint<br>Energy   | CERC         | CenterPoint<br>Energy | CERC         |
|  | (in millions)           |              |                       |              |
| Beginning Balance  | \$ (31)                 | \$ 16        | \$ (64)               | \$ 10        |
| Other comprehensive income (loss) before reclassifications:                    |                         |              |                       |              |
| Remeasurement of pension and other postretirement plans                        | (8)                     | —            | (40)                  | 10           |
| Amounts reclassified from accumulated other comprehensive loss:                |                         |              |                       |              |
| Net deferred gain from cash flow hedges  | 1                       | —            | —                     | —            |
| Prior service cost (1)   | 1                       | (2)          | (1)                   | (1)          |
| Actuarial losses (1)   | 1                       | 2            | 8                     | 1            |
| Settlement (2)   | —                       | —            | 67                    | —            |
| Reclassification of deferred loss from cash flow hedges realized in net income | —                       | —            | 1                     | —            |
| Tax benefit (expense)  | 1                       | —            | (2)                   | (4)          |
| Net current period other comprehensive income (loss)                           | (4)                     | —            | 33                    | 6            |
| Ending Balance   | <u>\$ (35)</u>          | <u>\$ 16</u> | <u>\$ (31)</u>        | <u>\$ 16</u> |

- (1) Amounts are included in the computation of net periodic cost and are reflected in Other, net in each of the Registrants’ respective Statements of Consolidated Income.
- (2) Amounts presented represent a one-time, non-cash settlement cost (benefit), prior to regulatory deferrals, which are required when the total lump sum distributions or other settlements of plan benefit obligations during a plan year exceed the service cost and interest cost components of the net periodic cost for that year. Amounts presented in the table above are included in Other income (expense), net in CenterPoint Energy’s Statements of Consolidated Income, net of regulatory deferrals.



### (13) Short-term Borrowings and Long-term Debt

*Short-term Borrowings and Long-term Debt:* As of December 31, 2023 and 2022, the Registrants had the following short-term borrowings and long-term debt outstanding:

|   | December 31, 2023 |                 | December 31, 2022 |                 |
|---|-------------------|-----------------|-------------------|-----------------|
|   | Long-Term         | Current (1)     | Long-Term         | Current (1)     |
|   | (in millions)     |                 |                   |                 |
| <b>CenterPoint Energy:</b>  |                   |                 |                   |                 |
| ZENS due 2029 (2)   | \$ —              | \$ 5            | \$ —              | \$ 7            |
| CenterPoint Energy senior notes 1.45% to 5.989% due 2024 to 2049  | 3,250             | 850             | 3,050             | —               |
| CenterPoint Energy pollution control bonds 5.125% due 2028 (3)    | 68                | —               | 68                | —               |
| CenterPoint Energy commercial paper (4)                           | 1,036             | —               | 1,770             | —               |
| SIGECO first mortgage bonds 3.450% to 6.00% due 2024 to 2055 (5)  | 825               | 22              | 277               | 11              |
| SIGECO securitization bonds 5.026% to 5.172% due 2036 to 2041 (6) | 324               | 17              | —                 | —               |
| Other debt  | —                 | —               | —                 | 4               |
| Unamortized debt issuance costs                                   | (35)              | —               | (15)              | —               |
| Unamortized discount and premium, net                             | (5)               | —               | (6)               | —               |
| Houston Electric debt (see details below)                         | 7,426             | 161             | 6,197             | 156             |
| CERC debt (see details below)                                     | 4,670             | 4               | 3,495             | 1,842           |
| Total CenterPoint Energy debt                                     | <u>\$ 17,559</u>  | <u>\$ 1,059</u> | <u>\$ 14,836</u>  | <u>\$ 2,020</u> |
| <b>Houston Electric:</b>  |                   |                 |                   |                 |
| General mortgage bonds 2.35% to 6.95% due 2026 to 2053 (7)        | \$ 7,512          | \$ —            | \$ 6,112          | \$ —            |
| Other   | 1                 | —               | 1                 | —               |
| <b>Bond Company IV:</b>   |                   |                 |                   |                 |
| Transition bonds 3.028% due 2024                                  | —                 | 161             | 161               | 156             |
| Unamortized debt issuance costs                                   | (59)              | —               | (50)              | —               |
| Unamortized discount and premium, net                             | (28)              | —               | (27)              | —               |
| Total Houston Electric debt                                       | <u>\$ 7,426</u>   | <u>\$ 161</u>   | <u>\$ 6,197</u>   | <u>\$ 156</u>   |
| <b>CERC (8):</b>  |                   |                 |                   |                 |
| Short-term borrowings:  |                   |                 |                   |                 |
| Inventory financing (9)   | \$ —              | \$ 4            | \$ —              | \$ 11           |
| Term loan   | —                 | —               | —                 | 500             |
| Total CERC short-term borrowings                                  | —                 | 4               | —                 | 511             |
| Long-term debt:   |                   |                 |                   |                 |
| Senior notes 1.75% to 6.625% due 2026 to 2047                     | \$ 4,120          | \$ —            | \$ 2,620          | \$ 1,331        |
| Indiana Gas senior notes 6.34% to 7.08% due 2025 to 2029          | 96                | —               | 96                | —               |
| Commercial paper (4)  | 484               | —               | 805               | —               |
| Unamortized debt issuance costs                                   | (31)              | —               | (22)              | —               |
| Unamortized discount and premium, net                             | 1                 | —               | (4)               | —               |
| Total CERC debt   | <u>\$ 4,670</u>   | <u>\$ 4</u>     | <u>\$ 3,495</u>   | <u>\$ 1,842</u> |

(1) Includes amounts due or exchangeable within one year of the date noted.

(2) CenterPoint Energy's ZENS obligation is bifurcated into a debt component and an embedded derivative component. For additional information regarding ZENS, see Note 11(b). As ZENS are exchangeable for cash at any time at the option of the holders, these notes are classified as a current portion of long-term debt.

- (3) These pollution control bonds were secured by general mortgage bonds of Houston Electric as of December 31, 2023 and 2022 and are not reflected in Houston Electric's consolidated financial statements because of the contingent nature of the obligations.
- (4) Commercial paper issued by CenterPoint Energy and CERC Corp. has maturities up to 60 days and 30 days, respectively, and are backstopped by the respective issuer's long-term revolving credit facility. Commercial paper is classified as long-term because the termination date of the facility that backstops the commercial paper is more than one year from the balance sheet date.
- (5) The first mortgage bonds issued by SIGECO subject SIGECO's properties to a lien under the related mortgage indenture as further discussed below.
- (6) Scheduled final payment dates are November 15, 2036 and May 15, 2041. The SIGECO Securitization Bonds will be repaid over time through a securitization charge imposed on retail electric customers in SIGECO's service territory.
- (7) The general mortgage bonds issued by Houston Electric subject Houston Electric's properties to a lien under the General Mortgage as further discussed below.
- (8) Issued by CERC Corp.
- (9) Represents AMA transactions accounted for as an inventory financing.

### **Debt Transactions**

*Debt Issuances.* During 2023, the following debt instruments were issued or incurred:

| <b>Registrant</b>                        | <b>Issuance Date</b> | <b>Debt Instrument</b>                | <b>Aggregate<br/>Principal<br/>Amount</b> | <b>Interest Rate</b> | <b>Maturity<br/>Date</b> |
|--|----------------------|---------------------------------------|---|----------------------|--------------------------|
| (in millions, except for interest rates) |                      |                                       |   |                      |                          |
| Houston Electric (1)                     | March 2023           | General Mortgage Bonds .....          | \$ 600                                    | 4.95%                | 2033                     |
| Houston Electric (1)                     | March 2023           | General Mortgage Bonds .....          | 300                                       | 5.30%                | 2053                     |
| Houston Electric (2)                     | September 2023       | General Mortgage Bonds .....          | 500                                       | 5.20%                | 2028                     |
|  |                      | <b>Total Houston Electric .....</b>   | <b>1,400</b>                              |                      |                          |
| CERC (3)                                 | February 2023        | Term Loan .....                       | 500                                       | SOFR (4) + 0.85%     | 2024                     |
| CERC (5)                                 | February 2023        | Senior Notes .....                    | 600                                       | 5.25%                | 2028                     |
| CERC (5)                                 | February 2023        | Senior Notes .....                    | 600                                       | 5.40%                | 2033                     |
| CERC (6)                                 | May 2023             | Senior Notes .....                    | 300                                       | 5.25%                | 2028                     |
|  |                      | <b>Total CERC .....</b>               | <b>2,000</b>                              |                      |                          |
| CenterPoint Energy (7)                   | March 2023           | First Mortgage Bonds .....            | 100                                       | 4.98%                | 2028                     |
| CenterPoint Energy (7)                   | March 2023           | First Mortgage Bonds .....            | 80  | 5.04%                | 2033                     |
| CenterPoint Energy (8)                   | March 2023           | Term Loan .....                       | 250                                       | SOFR (4) + 1.50%     | 2023                     |
| CenterPoint Energy (9)                   | June 2023            | Securitization Bonds .....            | 341                                       | 5.026% - 5.172%      | 2038-2043                |
| CenterPoint Energy (10)                  | August 2023          | Convertible Notes .....               | 1,000                                     | 4.25%                | 2026                     |
| CenterPoint Energy (11)                  | August 2023          | Senior Notes .....                    | 400                                       | 5.25%                | 2026                     |
| CenterPoint Energy (12)                  | October 2023         | First Mortgage Bonds .....            | 470                                       | 5.75% - 6.00%        | 2029-2034                |
|  |                      | <b>Total CenterPoint Energy .....</b> | <b>\$ 6,041</b>                           |                      |                          |

- (1) Total proceeds from Houston Electric's March 2023 issuances of general mortgage bonds, net of transaction expenses and fees, were approximately \$890 million. Approximately \$593 million of such proceeds were used for general limited liability company purposes, including capital expenditures, working capital and the repayment of all or a portion of Houston Electric's borrowings under the CenterPoint Energy money pool, and approximately \$296 million of such proceeds will be disbursed or allocated to finance or refinance, in part or in full, new or existing projects that meet stated criteria.
- (2) Total proceeds from Houston Electric's September 2023 issuances of general mortgage bonds, net of transaction expenses and fees, of approximately \$496 million were used for general limited liability company purposes, including capital expenditures, working capital and the repayment of all of Houston Electric's borrowings under the CenterPoint Energy money pool.
- (3) Total proceeds, net of transaction expenses and fees, of approximately \$500 million were used for general corporate purposes, including the repayment of CERC's outstanding commercial paper balances.
- (4) As defined in the term loan agreement, which includes an adjustment of 0.10% per annum.

- (5) Total proceeds from CERC's February 2023 issuances of senior notes, net of transaction expenses and fees, of approximately \$1.2 billion were used for general corporate purposes, including the repayment of (i) all or a portion of CERC's outstanding 0.700% senior notes due 2023, (ii) all or a portion of CERC's outstanding floating rate senior notes due 2023 and (iii) a portion of CERC's outstanding commercial paper balances.
- (6) Total proceeds, including issuance premiums and approximately \$3 million of accrued interest, and net of transaction expenses and fees, of approximately \$308 million were used for general corporate purposes, including repayment of a portion of CERC's outstanding \$500 million term loan due February 2024.
- (7) Issued by SIGECO. Total proceeds from SIGECO's March 2023 issuances of first mortgage bonds, net of transaction expenses and fees, of approximately \$179 million were used for general corporate purposes, including repaying short-term debt.
- (8) Total proceeds, net of transaction expenses and fees, of approximately \$250 million were used for general corporate purposes, including the repayment of CenterPoint Energy's outstanding commercial paper balances. The full outstanding amount of the term loan, including accrued and unpaid interest, was repaid in March 2023 and, following the repayment, the term loan agreement was terminated.
- (9) Issued by SIGECO Securitization Subsidiary. Total proceeds from SIGECO Securitization Subsidiary's June 2023 issuance of SIGECO Securitization Bonds, net of transaction expenses and fees, of approximately \$337 million were used to pay SIGECO the purchase price of the securitization property. SIGECO used the net proceeds from the sale of the securitization property (after payment of upfront financing costs) to reimburse or pay for qualified costs approved by the IURC related to the completed retirement of its A.B. Brown 1 and 2 coal-powered generation units. See Notes 2 and 7 for further details.
- (10) Total proceeds, net of discounts, transaction fees and expenses, of \$985 million were used for general corporate purposes, including the redemption of CenterPoint Energy's Series A Preferred Stock after its September 1, 2023 redemption date, and the repayment of a portion of CenterPoint Energy's outstanding commercial paper. See additional information below.
- (11) Total proceeds, net of discounts, transaction fees and expenses, of \$397 million were used for general corporate purposes and the repayment of a portion of CenterPoint Energy's outstanding commercial paper.
- (12) SIGECO issued in three tranches: (i) \$180 million first mortgage bonds bearing interest at 5.75% due 2029; (ii) \$105 million first mortgage bonds bearing interest at 5.91% due 2030; and (iii) \$185 million first mortgage bonds bearing interest at 6.00% due 2034. The net proceeds of \$467 million were used for general corporate purposes.

In April 2023, SIGECO executed a remarketing agreement to remarket five series of tax-exempt debt issued by the Indiana Finance Authority, and secured by SIGECO first mortgage bonds, of approximately \$148 million, comprised of: (i) \$107 million aggregate principal amount of Environmental Improvement Refunding Revenue Bonds, Series 2013, originally issued by the Indiana Finance Authority on April 26, 2013, and (ii) \$41 million aggregate principal amount of Environmental Improvement Refunding Revenue Bonds, Series 2014, originally issued by the Indiana Finance Authority on September 24, 2014, which closed on May 1, 2023.

In July 2023, SIGECO executed a remarketing agreement to remarket two series of tax-exempt debt issued by the City of Mount Vernon, Indiana and Warrick County, Indiana, and secured by SIGECO first mortgage bonds, of approximately \$38 million, comprised of: (i) \$23 million aggregate principal amount of Environmental Improvement Revenue Bonds, Series 2015 issued by the City of Mount Vernon and (ii) \$15 million aggregate principal amount of Environmental Improvement Revenue Bonds, Series 2015 issued by Warrick County, which closed on September 1, 2023. Effective September 1, 2023, the bonds of each series bear interest at a fixed rate of 4.250% per annum to the earlier of (i) its redemption date or (ii) September 1, 2028, at which time the bonds are subject to mandatory tender.

*Convertible Senior Notes.* Interest on the Convertible Notes described in the table above is payable semiannually in arrears on February 15 and August 15 of each year, beginning on February 15, 2024. The Convertible Notes will mature on August 15, 2026, unless earlier converted or repurchased by CenterPoint Energy in accordance with their terms.

Prior to the close of business on the business day immediately preceding May 15, 2026, the Convertible Notes are convertible only under certain conditions. On or after May 15, 2026 until the close of business on the second scheduled trading day immediately preceding the maturity date, holders may convert all or any portion of their Convertible Notes at any time at the conversion rate then in effect, irrespective of the conditions. CenterPoint Energy may not redeem the Convertible Notes prior to the maturity date and no sinking fund is provided for the Convertible Notes.

Upon conversion of the Convertible Notes, CenterPoint Energy will pay cash up to the aggregate principal amount of the Convertible Notes to be converted and pay or deliver, as the case may be, cash, shares of Common Stock, or a combination of cash and shares of Common Stock, at CenterPoint Energy's election, in respect of the remainder, if any, of CenterPoint

Energy's conversion obligation in excess of the aggregate principal amount of the Convertible Notes being converted. The conversion rate for the Convertible Notes is initially 27.1278 shares of Common Stock per \$1,000 principal amount of Convertible Notes (equivalent to an initial conversion price of approximately \$36.86 per share of Common Stock). The initial conversion price of the Convertible Notes represents a premium of approximately 25.0% over the last reported sale price of the Common Stock on the New York Stock Exchange on August 1, 2023. Initially, a maximum of 33,909,700 shares of Common Stock may be issued upon conversion of the Convertible Notes based on the initial maximum conversion rate of 33.9097 shares of Common Stock per \$1,000 principal amount of Convertible Notes. The conversion rate will be subject to adjustment in some events (as described in the Convertible Notes Indenture) but will not be adjusted for any accrued and unpaid interest.

In addition, following certain corporate events that occur prior to the maturity date of the Convertible Notes, CenterPoint Energy will, in certain circumstances, increase the conversion rate for a holder who elects to convert its Convertible Notes in connection with such a corporate event. If CenterPoint Energy undergoes a fundamental change (as defined in the Convertible Notes Indenture), holders of the Convertible Notes may require CenterPoint Energy to repurchase for cash all or any portion of their Convertible Notes at a fundamental change repurchase price equal to 100% of the principal amount of the Convertible Notes to be repurchased, plus accrued and unpaid interest to, but excluding, the fundamental change repurchase date.

The Convertible Notes are senior unsecured obligations of CenterPoint Energy and rank senior in right of payment to any of CenterPoint Energy's indebtedness that is expressly subordinated in right of payment to the Convertible Notes; equal in right of payment to any of CenterPoint Energy's unsecured indebtedness that is not so subordinated; effectively junior in right of payment to any of CenterPoint Energy's secured indebtedness it may incur in the future to the extent of the value of the assets securing such future secured indebtedness; and structurally junior to all indebtedness and other liabilities (including trade payables but excluding intercompany obligations and liabilities of a type not required to be reflected on a balance sheet of such subsidiaries in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles) of CenterPoint Energy's subsidiaries.

*Debt Repayments and Redemptions.* During 2023, the following debt instruments were repaid at maturity or redeemed prior to maturity:

| Registrant             | Repayment/<br>Redemption Date | Debt Instrument                       | Aggregate<br>Principal<br>(in millions) | Interest Rate                  | Maturity<br>Date |
|------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|--------------------------------|------------------|
| CERC                   | March 2023                    | Term Loan (1) .....                   | \$ 500                                  | SOFR (2) + 0.70%               | 2023             |
| CERC                   | March 2023                    | Senior Notes .....                    | 700                                     | 0.70%                          | 2023             |
| CERC                   | March 2023                    | Floating Rate Senior Notes...         | 575                                     | Three-month LIBOR plus<br>0.5% | 2023             |
| CERC                   | May 2023                      | Term Loan (3) .....                   | 500                                     | SOFR (2) + 0.85%               | 2024             |
| CERC                   | December 2023                 | Senior Notes .....                    | 57                                      | 3.72%                          | 2023             |
|                        |                               | <b>Total CERC</b> .....               | <u>2,332</u>                            |                                |                  |
| CenterPoint Energy (4) | January 2023                  | First Mortgage Bonds.....             | 11                                      | 4.00%                          | 2044             |
| CenterPoint Energy     | March 2023                    | Term Loan (1).....                    | 250                                     | SOFR (2) + 1.50%               | 2023             |
| CenterPoint Energy (5) | December 2023                 | Floating Rate Senior Notes...         | 350                                     | SOFR plus 0.65%                | 2024             |
| CenterPoint Energy (6) | December 2023                 | First Mortgage Bonds.....             | 80                                      | 6.72%                          | 2029             |
|                        |                               | <b>Total CenterPoint Energy</b> ..... | <u>\$ 3,023</u>                         |                                |                  |

- (1) The full outstanding amount of the term loan, including accrued and unpaid interest, was repaid in March 2023 and, following the repayment, the term loan agreement was terminated.
- (2) As defined in the term loan agreement, which includes an adjustment of 0.10% per annum.
- (3) The full outstanding amount of the term loan, including accrued and unpaid interest, was repaid in May 2023 and, following the repayment, the term loan agreement was terminated.
- (4) On December 16, 2022, SIGECO provided notice of redemption and on January 17, 2023, SIGECO redeemed \$11 million aggregate principal amount of SIGECO's outstanding first mortgage bonds due 2044 at a redemption price equal to 100% of the principal amount of the first mortgage bonds to be redeemed plus accrued and unpaid interest thereon, if any, to, but excluding, the redemption date.
- (5) On November 30, 2023, CenterPoint Energy provided notice of redemption and on December 15, 2023, CenterPoint Energy redeemed \$350 million aggregate principal amount of outstanding floating rate senior notes due 2024 at a redemption price equal to 100% of the principal amount of the floating rate senior notes to be redeemed plus accrued and unpaid interest thereon, if any, to, but excluding, the redemption date.

- (6) On November 17, 2023, SIGECO provided notice of redemption and on December 19, 2023, SIGECO redeemed \$80 million aggregate principal amount of outstanding first mortgage bonds due 2029 at a redemption price equal to the sum of remaining principal and interest payments discounted at the treasury yield plus 10 basis points, plus interest accrued to the redemption date and an applicable make-whole premium.

The Registrants recorded the following losses on early extinguishment of debt, including make-whole premiums and recognition of deferred debt related costs, in Interest expense and other finance charges on their respective Statements of Consolidated Income unless specified otherwise:

|                             | Year Ended December 31, |       |       |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|-------|-------|
|                             | 2023                    | 2022  | 2021  |
|                             | (in millions)           |       |       |
| CenterPoint Energy (1)..... | \$ 11                   | \$ 47 | \$ 53 |
| CERC .....                  | —                       | —     | 11    |
| Houston Electric (2) .....  | —                       | 2     | —     |

(1) The loss on early extinguishment of debt at CenterPoint Energy during 2023 was recorded as a regulatory asset.

(2) The loss on early extinguishment of debt at Houston Electric during 2022 was recorded as a regulatory asset.

*Securitization Bonds.* As of December 31, 2023, CenterPoint Energy, Houston Electric and SIGECO had special purpose subsidiaries including the Bond Companies and the SIGECO Securitization Subsidiary, which are consolidated. The consolidated special purpose subsidiaries are wholly-owned, bankruptcy remote entities that were formed solely for the purpose of securitizing transition property or facilitating the securitization financing of qualified costs in the second quarter of 2023 associated with the completed retirement of SIGECO's A.B. Brown coal generation facilities through the issuance of securitization bonds and activities incidental thereto. The Securitization Bonds issued by Bond Company IV are payable only through the imposition and collection of transition charges, as defined in the Texas Public Utility Regulatory Act, which are irrevocable, non-bypassable charges to provide recovery of authorized qualified costs. The SIGECO Securitization Bonds are payable only through the imposition of securitization charges payable by SIGECO's retail electric customers, which are non-bypassable charges to provide recovery of the qualified costs of SIGECO authorized by the IURC order. CenterPoint Energy, Houston Electric and SIGECO have no payment obligations in respect of the Securitization Bonds issued by Bond Company IV or the SIGECO Securitization Bonds other than to remit the applicable transition or securitization charges they collect as set forth in servicing agreements among Houston Electric, the Bond Companies, SIGECO, the SIGECO Securitization Subsidiary and other parties. Each special purpose entity is the sole owner of the right to impose, collect and receive the applicable transition and securitization charges securing the bonds issued by that entity. Creditors of CenterPoint Energy, Houston Electric and SIGECO have no recourse to any assets or revenues of the Bond Companies (including the transition charges) or the SIGECO Securitization Subsidiary, as applicable, and the bondholders have no recourse to the to the general credit of CenterPoint Energy, Houston Electric or SIGECO.

*Credit Facilities.* The Registrants had the following revolving credit facilities as of December 31, 2023:

| Execution Date   | Registrant                | Size of Facility | Draw Rate of SOFR plus (1) | Financial Covenant Limit on Debt for Borrowed Money to Capital Ratio | Debt for Borrowed Money to Capital Ratio as of December 31, 2023 (2) | Termination Date |
|------------------|---------------------------|------------------|----------------------------|--|--|------------------|
|                  |                           | (in millions)    |                            |  |  |                  |
| December 6, 2022 | CenterPoint Energy .....  | \$ 2,400         | 1.500%                     | 65%  | (3) 59.6%  | December 6, 2027 |
| December 6, 2022 | CenterPoint Energy (4) .. | 250              | 1.125%                     | 65%  | 46.5%  | December 6, 2027 |
| December 6, 2022 | Houston Electric .....    | 300              | 1.250%                     | 67.5%  | (3) 52.6%  | December 6, 2027 |
| December 6, 2022 | CERC .....                | 1,050            | 1.125%                     | 65%  | 40.2%  | December 6, 2027 |
|                  | Total .....               | <u>\$ 4,000</u>  |                            |  |  |                  |

(1) Based on credit ratings as of December 31, 2023.

(2) As defined in the revolving credit facility agreement, excluding Securitization Bonds.

(3) For CenterPoint Energy and Houston Electric, the financial covenant limit will temporarily increase to 70% if Houston Electric experiences damage from a natural disaster in its service territory and CenterPoint Energy certifies to the

administrative agent that Houston Electric has incurred system restoration costs reasonably likely to exceed \$100 million in a consecutive 12-month period, all or part of which Houston Electric intends to seek to recover through securitization financing. Such temporary increase in the financial covenant would be in effect from the date CenterPoint Energy delivers its certification until the earliest to occur of (i) the completion of the securitization financing, (ii) the first anniversary of CenterPoint Energy's certification or (iii) the revocation of such certification.

(4) This credit facility was issued by SIGECO.

The Registrants, as well as the subsidiaries of CenterPoint Energy discussed above, were in compliance with all financial debt covenants as of December 31, 2023.

As of December 31, 2023 and 2022, the Registrants had the following revolving credit facilities and utilization of such facilities:

| Registrant   | December 31, 2023 |             |                   |                  |                                | December 31, 2022 |             |                   |                  |                                |
|--|-------------------|-------------|-------------------|------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------|-------------|-------------------|------------------|--------------------------------|
|  | Size of Facility  | Loans       | Letters of Credit | Commercial Paper | Weighted Average Interest Rate | Size of Facility  | Loans       | Letters of Credit | Commercial Paper | Weighted Average Interest Rate |
| (in millions, except weighted average interest rate) |                   |             |                   |                  |                                |                   |             |                   |                  |                                |
| CenterPoint Energy (1)...                            | \$ 2,400          | \$ —        | \$ —              | \$ 1,036         | 5.54 %                         | \$ 2,400          | \$ —        | \$ 11             | \$ 1,770         | 4.71 %                         |
| CenterPoint Energy (2)...                            | 250               | —           | —                 | —                | — %                            | 250               | —           | —                 | —                | — %                            |
| Houston Electric .....                               | 300               | —           | —                 | —                | — %                            | 300               | —           | —                 | —                | — %                            |
| CERC .....   | 1,050             | —           | 1                 | 484              | 5.53 %                         | 1,050             | —           | —                 | 805              | 4.67 %                         |
| Total .....  | <u>\$ 4,000</u>   | <u>\$ —</u> | <u>\$ 1</u>       | <u>\$ 1,520</u>  |                                | <u>\$ 4,000</u>   | <u>\$ —</u> | <u>\$ 11</u>      | <u>\$ 2,575</u>  |                                |

(1) CenterPoint Energy's and CERC's outstanding commercial paper generally have maturities up to 60 days and 30 days, respectively, and are backstopped by the respective issuer's long-term revolving credit facility.

(2) This credit facility was issued by SIGECO.

*Maturities.* As of December 31, 2023, maturities of long-term debt through 2028, excluding the ZENS obligation and unamortized discounts, premiums and issuance costs, were as follows:

|               | CenterPoint Energy (1) | Houston Electric (1) | CERC  | Securitization Bonds |
|---------------|------------------------|----------------------|-------|----------------------|
| (in millions) |                        |                      |       |                      |
| 2024 .....    | \$ 1,050               | \$ 161               | \$ —  | \$ 178               |
| 2025 .....    | 64                     | —                    | 10    | 13                   |
| 2026 .....    | 2,274                  | 300                  | 60    | 14                   |
| 2027 .....    | 1,860                  | 300                  | 510   | 14                   |
| 2028 .....    | 2,063                  | 500                  | 1,230 | 15                   |

(1) These maturities include Securitization Bonds principal repayments on scheduled payment dates.

*Liens.* As of December 31, 2023, Houston Electric's assets were subject to liens securing approximately \$7.6 billion of general mortgage bonds outstanding under the General Mortgage, including approximately \$68 million held in trust to secure pollution control bonds that mature in 2028 for which CenterPoint Energy is obligated. The general mortgage bonds that are held in trust to secure pollution control bonds are not reflected in Houston Electric's consolidated financial statements because of the contingent nature of the obligations. Houston Electric may issue additional general mortgage bonds on the basis of retired bonds, 70% of property additions or cash deposited with the trustee. As of December 31, 2023, approximately \$4.8 billion of additional general mortgage bonds could be issued on the basis of retired bonds and 70% of property additions. No first mortgage bonds are outstanding under the M&DOT, and Houston Electric is contractually obligated to not issue any additional first mortgage bonds under the M&DOT and is undertaking actions to release the lien of the M&DOT and terminate the M&DOT.

As of December 31, 2023, SIGECO had approximately \$847 million aggregate principal amount of first mortgage bonds outstanding. Generally, all of SIGECO's real and tangible property is subject to the lien of SIGECO's mortgage indenture which was amended and restated effective as of January 1, 2023. As of December 31, 2023, SIGECO was permitted to issue additional bonds under its mortgage indenture up to 70% of then currently unfunded property additions and approximately \$966 million of additional first mortgage bonds could be issued on this basis.

Houston Electric and CERC participate in a money pool through which they can borrow or invest on a short-term basis. For additional information, see Note 19.

#### (14) Income Taxes

The components of the Registrant's income tax expense (benefit) were as follows:

|   | Year Ended December 31, |               |               |
|---|-------------------------|---------------|---------------|
|   | 2023                    | 2022          | 2021          |
|   | (in millions)           |               |               |
| <b>CenterPoint Energy - Continuing Operations</b>   |                         |               |               |
| Current income tax expense (benefit):               |                         |               |               |
| Federal .....                                       | \$ 106                  | \$ 294        | \$ —          |
| State .....   | 33                      | 46            | (28)          |
| Total current expense (benefit) .....               | <u>139</u>              | <u>340</u>    | <u>(28)</u>   |
| Deferred income tax expense (benefit):              |                         |               |               |
| Federal .....                                       | 119                     | 16            | 78            |
| State .....   | (88)                    | 4             | 60            |
| Total deferred expense .....                        | <u>31</u>               | <u>20</u>     | <u>138</u>    |
| Total income tax expense .....                      | <u>\$ 170</u>           | <u>\$ 360</u> | <u>\$ 110</u> |
| <b>CenterPoint Energy - Discontinued Operations</b> |                         |               |               |
| Current income tax expense:                         |                         |               |               |
| Federal .....                                       | \$ —                    | \$ —          | \$ 91         |
| State .....   | —                       | —             | 35            |
| Total current expense .....                         | <u>—</u>                | <u>—</u>      | <u>126</u>    |
| Deferred income tax expense (benefit):              |                         |               |               |
| Federal .....                                       | —                       | —             | 127           |
| State .....   | —                       | —             | (52)          |
| Total deferred expense (benefit) .....              | <u>—</u>                | <u>—</u>      | <u>75</u>     |
| Total income tax expense (benefit) .....            | <u>\$ —</u>             | <u>\$ —</u>   | <u>\$ 201</u> |
| <b>Houston Electric</b>                             |                         |               |               |
| Current income tax expense (benefit):               |                         |               |               |
| Federal .....                                       | \$ (26)                 | \$ 23         | \$ 22         |
| State .....   | 34                      | 16            | 22            |
| Total current expense .....                         | <u>8</u>                | <u>39</u>     | <u>44</u>     |
| Deferred income tax expense (benefit):              |                         |               |               |
| Federal .....                                       | 159                     | 86            | 31            |
| State .....   | 1                       | —             | 1             |
| Total deferred expense (benefit) .....              | <u>160</u>              | <u>86</u>     | <u>32</u>     |
| Total income tax expense .....                      | <u>\$ 168</u>           | <u>\$ 125</u> | <u>\$ 76</u>  |
| <b>CERC - Continuing Operations</b>                 |                         |               |               |
| Current income tax expense (benefit):               |                         |               |               |
| Federal .....                                       | \$ 12                   | \$ 30         | \$ —          |
| State .....   | 3                       | 28            | (25)          |
| Total current expense (benefit) .....               | <u>15</u>               | <u>58</u>     | <u>(25)</u>   |
| Deferred income tax expense (benefit):              |                         |               |               |
| Federal .....                                       | 95                      | 164           | 67            |
| State .....   | (136)                   | 14            | 34            |
| Total deferred expense (benefit) .....              | <u>(41)</u>             | <u>178</u>    | <u>101</u>    |
| Total income tax expense (benefit) .....            | <u>\$ (26)</u>          | <u>\$ 236</u> | <u>\$ 76</u>  |

A reconciliation of income tax expense (benefit) using the federal statutory income tax rate to the actual income tax expense and resulting effective income tax rate is as follows:

|   | Year Ended December 31, |          |          |
|---|-------------------------|----------|----------|
|   | 2023                    | 2022     | 2021     |
|   | (in millions)           |          |          |
| <b>CenterPoint Energy - Continuing Operations (1) (2) (3)</b> |                         |          |          |
| Income before income taxes .....                              | \$ 1,087                | \$ 1,417 | \$ 778   |
| Federal statutory income tax rate .....                       | 21 %                    | 21 %     | 21 %     |
| Expected federal income tax expense .....                     | 228                     | 298      | 163      |
| Increase (decrease) in tax expense resulting from:            |                         |          |          |
| State income tax expense, net of federal income tax .....     | 25                      | 46       | 63       |
| State valuation allowance, net of federal income tax .....    | —                       | —        | (15)     |
| State law change, net of federal income tax .....             | (69)                    | —        | (23)     |
| Equity AFUDC .....  | (13)                    | (8)      | (6)      |
| Excess deferred income tax amortization .....                 | (44)                    | (51)     | (75)     |
| Goodwill impairment .....                                     | —                       | 84       | —        |
| Sale of Energy Systems Group .....                            | 28                      | —        | —        |
| Other, net .....  | 15                      | (9)      | 3        |
| Total .....   | (58)                    | 62       | (53)     |
| Total income tax expense .....                                | \$ 170                  | \$ 360   | \$ 110   |
| Effective tax rate .....                                      | 16 %                    | 25 %     | 14 %     |
| <b>CenterPoint Energy - Discontinued Operations (4)</b>       |                         |          |          |
| Income before income taxes .....                              | \$ —                    | \$ —     | \$ 1,019 |
| Federal statutory income tax rate .....                       | — %                     | — %      | 21 %     |
| Expected federal income tax expense .....                     | —                       | —        | 214      |
| Increase (decrease) in tax expense resulting from:            |                         |          |          |
| State income tax expense, net of federal income tax .....     | —                       | —        | 14       |
| State law change, net of federal income tax .....             | —                       | —        | (27)     |
| Total .....   | —                       | —        | (13)     |
| Total income tax expense .....                                | \$ —                    | \$ —     | \$ 201   |
| Effective tax rate .....                                      | — %                     | — %      | 20 %     |
| <b>Houston Electric (5) (6) (7)</b>                           |                         |          |          |
| Income before income taxes .....                              | \$ 761                  | \$ 635   | \$ 457   |
| Federal statutory income tax rate .....                       | 21 %                    | 21 %     | 21 %     |
| Expected federal income tax expense .....                     | 160                     | 133      | 96       |
| Increase (decrease) in tax expense resulting from:            |                         |          |          |
| State income tax expense, net of federal income tax .....     | 27                      | 13       | 18       |
| Excess deferred income tax amortization .....                 | (17)                    | (18)     | (41)     |
| Other, net .....  | (2)                     | (3)      | 3        |
| Total .....   | 8                       | (8)      | (20)     |
| Total income tax expense .....                                | \$ 168                  | \$ 125   | \$ 76    |
| Effective tax rate .....                                      | 22 %                    | 20 %     | 17 %     |



|  | Year Ended December 31, |        |        |
|--|-------------------------|--------|--------|
|  | 2023                    | 2022   | 2021   |
|  | (in millions)           |        |        |
| <b>CERC - Continuing Operations (8) (9) (10)</b>           |                         |        |        |
| Income before income taxes .....                           | \$ 486                  | \$ 961 | \$ 466 |
| Federal statutory income tax rate .....                    | 21 %                    | 21 %   | 21 %   |
| Expected federal income tax expense .....                  | 102                     | 202    | 98     |
| Increase (decrease) in tax expense resulting from:         |                         |        |        |
| State income tax expense, net of federal income tax .....  | (40)                    | 35     | 31     |
| State law change, net of federal income tax .....          | (66)                    | —      | (9)    |
| State valuation allowance, net of federal income tax ..... | —                       | —      | (15)   |
| Goodwill impairment .....                                  | —                       | 30     | —      |
| Excess deferred income tax amortization .....              | (23)                    | (28)   | (30)   |
| Other, net .....   | 1                       | (3)    | 1      |
| Total .....  | (128)                   | 34     | (22)   |
| Total income tax expense (benefit) .....                   | \$ (26)                 | \$ 236 | \$ 76  |
| Effective tax rate .....                                   | (5)%                    | 25 %   | 16 %   |

- (1) Recognized a \$69 million benefit for the impact of state apportionment changes that resulted in the remeasurement of state deferred taxes of the unitary group, a \$44 million benefit for the amortization of the net regulatory EDIT liability as decreed by regulators in certain jurisdictions, a \$13 million benefit for the impact of AFUDC equity, and a \$28 million expense for the gain on the Energy Systems Group sale.
- (2) Recognized a \$51 million benefit for the amortization of the net regulatory EDIT liability as decreed by regulators in certain jurisdictions, an \$8 million benefit for the impact of AFUDC equity, and a \$84 million expense for the goodwill impairment on the Arkansas and Oklahoma Natural Gas business sale.
- (3) Recognized a \$75 million benefit for the amortization of the net regulatory EDIT liability as decreed by regulators in certain jurisdictions, a \$23 million benefit for the impact of state law changes that resulted in the remeasurement of state deferred taxes in those jurisdictions, a \$6 million benefit for the impact of AFUDC equity, and a \$15 million benefit for the impact of a change in the NOL carryforward period in Louisiana from 20 years to an indefinite period allowing for the release of the valuation allowance on certain Louisiana NOLs.
- (4) Recognized a \$27 million benefit for the impact of state law changes that resulted in the remeasurement of state deferred taxes in those jurisdictions.
- (5) Recognized a \$17 million benefit for the amortization of the net regulatory EDIT liability as decreed by regulators in certain jurisdictions.
- (6) Recognized a \$18 million benefit for the amortization of the net regulatory EDIT liability as decreed by regulators in certain jurisdictions.
- (7) Recognized a \$41 million benefit for the amortization of the net regulatory EDIT liability as decreed by regulators in certain jurisdictions.
- (8) Recognized a \$66 million benefit for the impact of state apportionment changes that resulted in the remeasurement of state deferred taxes of the unitary group, and a \$23 million benefit for the amortization of the net regulatory EDIT liability as decreed by regulators in certain jurisdictions.
- (9) Recognized a \$28 million benefit for the amortization of the net regulatory EDIT liability as decreed by regulators in certain jurisdictions, and a \$30 million expense for the goodwill impairment on the Arkansas and Oklahoma Natural Gas business sale.
- (10) Recognized a \$9 million benefit for the impact of state law changes that resulted in the remeasurement of state deferred taxes in those jurisdictions, a \$30 million benefit for the amortization of the net regulatory EDIT liability as decreed by regulators in certain jurisdictions, and a \$15 million benefit for the impact of a change in the NOL carryforward period in Louisiana from 20 years to an indefinite period allowing for the release of the valuation allowance on certain Louisiana NOLs.

The tax effects of temporary differences that give rise to significant portions of deferred tax assets and liabilities were as follows:

|  | December 31,    |                 |
|--|-----------------|-----------------|
|  | 2023            | 2022            |
|  | (in millions)   |                 |
| <b>CenterPoint Energy</b>                                      |                 |                 |
| Deferred tax assets:   |                 |                 |
| Benefits and compensation .....                                | \$ 131          | \$ 121          |
| Regulatory liabilities .....                                   | 365             | 378             |
| Loss and credit carryforwards .....                            | 76              | 84              |
| Asset retirement obligations .....                             | 96              | 95              |
| Other .....  | 124             | 49              |
| Valuation allowance .....                                      | (10)            | (10)            |
| Total deferred tax assets .....                                | <u>782</u>      | <u>717</u>      |
| Deferred tax liabilities:                                      |                 |                 |
| Property, plant and equipment .....                            | 3,580           | 3,228           |
| Regulatory assets .....  | 401             | 601             |
| Investment in ZENS and equity securities related to ZENS ..... | 788             | 722             |
| Other .....  | 92              | 152             |
| Total deferred tax liabilities .....                           | <u>4,861</u>    | <u>4,703</u>    |
| Net deferred tax liabilities .....                             | <u>\$ 4,079</u> | <u>\$ 3,986</u> |
| <b>Houston Electric</b>  |                 |                 |
| Deferred tax assets:   |                 |                 |
| Benefits and compensation .....                                | \$ 10           | \$ 10           |
| Regulatory liabilities .....                                   | 176             | 184             |
| Asset retirement obligations .....                             | 6               | 6               |
| Other .....  | 18              | 13              |
| Total deferred tax assets .....                                | <u>210</u>      | <u>213</u>      |
| Deferred tax liabilities:                                      |                 |                 |
| Property, plant and equipment .....                            | 1,497           | 1,330           |
| Regulatory assets .....  | 119             | 112             |
| Total deferred tax liabilities .....                           | <u>1,616</u>    | <u>1,442</u>    |
| Net deferred tax liabilities .....                             | <u>\$ 1,406</u> | <u>\$ 1,229</u> |
| <b>CERC</b>  |                 |                 |
| Deferred tax assets:   |                 |                 |
| Benefits and compensation .....                                | \$ 21           | \$ 9            |
| Regulatory liabilities .....                                   | 145             | 151             |
| Loss and credit carryforwards .....                            | 276             | 466             |
| Asset retirement obligations .....                             | 86              | 86              |
| Other .....  | 65              | 25              |
| Total deferred tax assets .....                                | <u>593</u>      | <u>737</u>      |
| Deferred tax liabilities:                                      |                 |                 |
| Property, plant and equipment .....                            | 1,602           | 1,427           |
| Regulatory assets .....  | 171             | 381             |
| Other .....  | 66              | 191             |
| Total deferred tax liabilities .....                           | <u>1,839</u>    | <u>1,999</u>    |
| Net deferred tax liabilities .....                             | <u>\$ 1,246</u> | <u>\$ 1,262</u> |

*Tax Attribute Carryforwards and Valuation Allowance.* CenterPoint Energy has no federal NOL carryforwards and no federal charitable contribution carryforwards as of December 31, 2023. As of December 31, 2023, CenterPoint Energy had \$1 billion of state NOL carryforwards that expire between 2024 and 2042, and \$2 million of state tax credits, net of valuation allowance, which do not expire. CenterPoint Energy reported a valuation allowance against certain state NOL and credit carryforwards because it is more likely than not that the benefit will not be realized.

CERC has \$931 million of federal NOL carryforwards which have an indefinite carryforward period. CERC has \$657 million of gross state NOL carryforwards which expire between 2024 and 2042, and \$2 million of state tax credits, net of valuation allowance, which do not expire.

A reconciliation of CenterPoint Energy’s beginning and ending balance of unrecognized tax benefits, excluding interest and penalties, for 2023 and 2022 are as follows:

|   | Year Ended December 31, |              |
|---|-------------------------|--------------|
|   | 2023                    | 2022         |
|   | (in millions)           |              |
| Balance, beginning of year .....                        | \$ 26                   | \$ 3         |
| Increases related to tax positions of prior years ..... | —                       | 26           |
| Decreases related to tax positions of prior years ..... | —                       | (3)          |
| Lapse of statute of limitations .....                   | (1)                     | —            |
| Balance, end of year .....                              | <u>\$ 25</u>            | <u>\$ 26</u> |

CenterPoint Energy’s net unrecognized tax benefits, including penalties and interest, were \$29 million as of December 31, 2023 and are included in other non-current liabilities in the Consolidated Financial Statements. Included in the balance of uncertain tax positions as of December 31, 2023 are \$25 million of tax benefits that, if recognized, would affect the effective tax rate. The Registrants recognize interest accrued related to unrecognized tax benefits and penalties as income tax expense. The above table does not include \$4 million of accrued penalties and interest as of December 31, 2023. The Registrants believe that it is reasonably possible that there will be a \$3 million decrease in unrecognized tax benefits, including penalties and interest, in the next 12 months as a result of a lapse of statutes on older exposures, a tax settlement, and/or a resolution of open audits.

*Tax Audits and Settlements.* Tax years through 2018 and tax year 2021 have been audited and settled with the IRS for CenterPoint Energy. Tax years 2019-2020 remain open. For the 2019-2023 tax years, the Registrants are participants in the IRS’s Compliance Assurance Process. Vectren’s pre-Merger 2014-2019 tax years have been audited and settled with the IRS.

## (15) Commitments and Contingencies

### (a) Purchase Obligations (CenterPoint Energy and CERC)

Commitments include minimum purchase obligations related to CenterPoint Energy’s and CERC’s Natural Gas reportable segment and CenterPoint Energy’s Electric reportable segment. A purchase obligation is defined as an agreement to purchase goods or services that is enforceable and legally binding on the registrant and that specifies all significant terms, including: fixed or minimum quantities to be purchased; fixed, minimum or variable price provisions; and the approximate timing of the transaction. Contracts with minimum payment provisions have various quantity requirements and durations and are not classified as non-trading derivative assets and liabilities in CenterPoint Energy’s and CERC’s Consolidated Balance Sheets as of December 31, 2023 and 2022. These contracts meet an exception as “normal purchases contracts” or do not meet the definition of a derivative. Natural gas and coal supply commitments also include transportation contracts that do not meet the definition of a derivative.

On February 1, 2023, Indiana Electric entered into an amended and restated BTA to purchase the 191 MW Posey Solar project for a fixed purchase price over the anticipated 35-year life. On February 7, 2023, Indiana Electric filed a CPCN with the IURC to approve the amended BTA. With the passage of the IRA, Indiana Electric can now pursue PTCs for solar projects. Indiana Electric filed the updated CPCN with a request that project costs, net of PTCs, be recovered in rate base, through base rates or the CECA mechanism, depending on which provides more timely recovery. On September 6, 2023, the IURC issued an order approving the CPCN. The Posey Solar project is expected to be placed in service in 2025.

On January 11, 2023, the IURC issued an order approving the settlement agreement granting Indiana Electric a CPCN to purchase and acquire the 130 MW Pike County solar project through a BTA and approved the estimated cost. The IURC also designated the project as a clean energy project as well as approved the proposed levelized rate and associated ratemaking and accounting treatment. Due to inflationary pressures, the developer disclosed that costs have exceeded the agreed upon levels in the BTA. Once pricing is updated and parties determine whether to continue with the project, Indiana Electric may have to refile for approval of the project with the IURC, which could delay the in-service date from 2025 to 2026. If Indiana Electric is not able to reach a mutually acceptable solution with the developers of the Pike County Solar project, Indiana Electric may seek to terminate the project.

As of December 31, 2023, other than discussed below, undiscounted minimum purchase obligations are approximately:

|                       | CenterPoint Energy |                     |           | CERC               |       |
|-----------------------|--------------------|---------------------|-----------|--------------------|-------|
|                       | Natural Gas Supply | Electric Supply (1) | Other (2) | Natural Gas Supply |       |
|                       | (in millions)      |                     |           |                    |       |
| 2024 .....            | \$ 684             | \$ 145              | \$ 164    | \$                 | 679   |
| 2025 .....            | 589                | 478                 | 45        |                    | 585   |
| 2026 .....            | 502                | 342                 | 46        |                    | 498   |
| 2027 .....            | 425                | 105                 | 4         |                    | 422   |
| 2028 .....            | 380                | 68                  | —         |                    | 377   |
| 2029 and beyond ..... | 1,707              | 737                 | 328       |                    | 1,684 |

(1) CenterPoint Energy's undiscounted minimum payment obligations related to PPAs with commitments ranging from 15 years to 25 years and its purchase commitment under its BTA in Posey County, Indiana at the original contracted amount, prior to any renegotiation, and its BTA in Pike County, Indiana, are included above.

(2) The undiscounted payment obligations relate primarily to technology hardware and software agreements.

Excluded from the table above are estimates for cash outlays from other PPAs through Indiana Electric that do not have minimum thresholds but do require payment when energy is generated by the provider. Costs arising from certain of these commitments are pass-through costs, generally collected dollar-for-dollar from retail customers through regulator-approved cost recovery mechanisms.

**(b) AMAs (CenterPoint Energy and CERC)**

CenterPoint Energy's and CERC's Natural Gas businesses continue to utilize AMAs associated with their utility distribution service in Indiana, Louisiana, Minnesota, Mississippi and Texas. The AMAs have varying terms, the longest of which expires in 2029. Pursuant to the provisions of the agreements, CenterPoint Energy's and CERC's Natural Gas either sells natural gas to the asset manager and agrees to repurchase an equivalent amount of natural gas throughout the year at the same cost, or simply purchases its full natural gas requirements at each delivery point from the asset manager. Generally, AMAs are contracts between CenterPoint Energy's and CERC's Natural Gas and an asset manager that are intended to transfer the working capital obligation and maximize the utilization of the assets. In these agreements, CenterPoint Energy's and CERC's Natural Gas agrees to release transportation and storage capacity to other parties to manage natural gas storage, supply and delivery arrangements for CenterPoint Energy's and CERC's Natural Gas and to use the released capacity for other purposes when it is not needed for CenterPoint Energy's and CERC's Natural Gas. CenterPoint Energy's and CERC's Natural Gas may receive compensation from the asset manager through payments made over the life of the AMAs. CenterPoint Energy's and CERC's Natural Gas has an obligation to purchase their winter storage requirements that have been released to the asset manager under these AMAs. For amounts outstanding under these AMAs, see Note 13.

**(c) Guarantees and Product Warranties (CenterPoint Energy)**

On May 21, 2023, CenterPoint Energy, through Vectren Energy Services, entered into the Equity Purchase Agreement to sell Energy Systems Group. The sale closed on June 30, 2023. See Note 4 for further information.

In the normal course of business prior to the consummation of the transaction on June 30, 2023, CenterPoint Energy, primarily through Vectren, issued parent company level guarantees supporting Energy Systems Group's obligations. When Energy Systems Group was wholly owned by CenterPoint Energy, these guarantees did not represent incremental consolidated obligations, but rather, these guarantees represented guarantees of Energy Systems Group's obligations to allow it to conduct business without posting other forms of assurance. For those obligations where potential exposure can be estimated, management estimates the maximum exposure under these guarantees to be approximately \$503 million as of December 31, 2023 and expects the exposure to decrease pro rata. This exposure primarily relates to energy savings guarantees on federal energy savings performance contracts. Other parent company level guarantees, certain of which do not contain a cap on potential liability, were issued prior to the sale of Energy Systems Group in support of federal operations and maintenance projects for which a maximum exposure cannot be estimated based on the nature of the projects.

Under the terms of the Equity Purchase Agreement, ESG Holdings Group must generally use reasonable best efforts to replace existing CenterPoint Energy guarantees with credit support provided by a party other than CenterPoint Energy as of and after the closing of the transaction. The Equity Purchase Agreement also requires certain protections to be provided for any damages incurred by CenterPoint Energy in relation to these guarantees not released by closing. No additional guarantees were provided by CenterPoint Energy in favor of Energy Systems Group subsequent to the closing of the sale on June 30, 2023.

While there can be no assurance that performance under any of these parent company guarantees will not be required in the future, CenterPoint Energy considers the likelihood of a material amount being incurred as remote. CenterPoint Energy believes that, from Energy Systems Group's inception in 1994 to the closing of the sale of Energy Systems Group on June 30, 2023, Energy Systems Group had a history of generally meeting its performance obligations and energy savings guarantees and its installed products operated effectively. CenterPoint Energy recorded no amounts on its Consolidated Balance Sheets as of December 31, 2023 and December 31, 2022 related to its obligation under the outstanding guarantees.

#### ***(d) Legal, Environmental and Other Matters***

##### ***Legal Matters***

*Litigation Related to the February 2021 Winter Storm Event.* Various legal proceedings are still pending against numerous entities with respect to the February 2021 Winter Storm Event, including against CenterPoint Energy, Utility Holding, LLC, Houston Electric, and CERC. Like other Texas energy companies and TDUs, CenterPoint Energy and Houston Electric have become involved in certain investigations, litigation and other regulatory and legal proceedings regarding their efforts to restore power during the storm and their compliance with NERC, ERCOT and PUCT rules and directives. Additionally, like other natural gas market participants, CERC has been named in litigation alleging gas market manipulation.

CenterPoint Energy, Utility Holding, LLC, and Houston Electric, along with hundreds of other defendants (including ERCOT, power generation companies, other TDUs, natural gas producers, REPs, and other entities) have received claims and lawsuits filed by plaintiffs alleging wrongful death, personal injury, property damage and other injuries and damages. As of December 31, 2023, there are approximately 220 pending lawsuits that are consolidated in Texas state court in Harris County, Texas, as part of the MDL proceeding related to the February 2021 Winter Storm Event, and CenterPoint Energy and Houston Electric, along with numerous other entities, have been named as defendants in approximately 155 of those lawsuits. One of the lawsuits in the MDL is a putative class action on behalf of everyone who received electric power via ERCOT grid and sustained a power outage between February 10, 2021 and February 28, 2021. Additionally, Utility Holding, LLC is currently named as a defendant in one lawsuit in which CenterPoint Energy and Houston Electric are also named as defendants.

The judge overseeing the MDL issued an initial case management order and stayed all proceedings and discovery. Per the case management order, the judge entertained dispositive motions in five representative or "bellwether" cases and, in late January 2023, issued rulings on them. In a recent opinion in an unrelated matter, the Texas Supreme Court held that ERCOT is entitled to sovereign immunity. This ruling will apply to claims against ERCOT in the MDL. The MDL judge also dismissed all claims against the natural gas defendants (which list of natural gas defendants incorrectly included Utility Holding, LLC) and the REP defendants and some causes of action against the other defendants. CenterPoint Energy expects that the claims against Utility Holding, LLC will ultimately be dismissed in light of the judge's initial rulings. As to the TDU and generator defendants, the judge dismissed some causes of action but denied the motions to dismiss claims for negligence, gross negligence, and nuisance, which denial the TDU defendants and generator defendants asked the courts of appeals to overturn. A three-judge panel of the Court of Appeals for the Fourteenth District of Texas heard oral argument in the TDU mandamus proceeding on October 23, 2023. An opinion in that proceeding has not yet been issued. On December 14, 2023, a three-judge panel of the Court of Appeals for the First District of Texas issued an opinion in the generator mandamus proceeding, granting the generators' mandamus request and ordering that plaintiffs' remaining claims against the generators be dismissed. The plaintiffs are expected to seek rehearing before the entire First Court of Appeals of that panel's ruling. The MDL judge is allowing defendants (including Houston Electric) to file several additional motions on preliminary legal issues, and otherwise the cases remain stayed. CenterPoint Energy, Utility Holding, LLC, and Houston Electric intends to vigorously defend themselves against the claims raised.

CenterPoint Energy and Houston Electric have also responded to inquiries from the Texas Attorney General and the Galveston County District Attorney's Office, and various other regulatory and governmental entities also conducted inquiries, investigations and other reviews of the February 2021 Winter Storm Event and the efforts made by various entities to prepare for, and respond to, the event, including the electric generation shortfall issues.

In February 2023, twelve lawsuits were filed in state district court in Harris County and Tom Green County, Texas, against dozens of gas market participants in Texas, including natural gas producers, processors, pipelines, marketers, sellers, traders,

gas utilities, and financial institutions. Plaintiffs named CERC as a defendant, along with “CenterPoint Energy Services, Inc.,” incorrectly identifying it as CERC’s parent company (CenterPoint Energy previously divested CES). One lawsuit filed in Harris County is a putative class action on behalf of two classes of electric and natural gas customers (those who experienced a loss of electricity and/or natural gas, and those who were charged securitization-related surcharges on a utility bill or were otherwise charged higher rates for electricity and/or gas during the February 2021 Winter Storm Event), potentially including millions of class members. Two other lawsuits (one filed in Harris County and one in Tom Green County) are brought by an entity that purports to be an assignee of claims by tens of thousands of persons and entities that have assigned claims to the plaintiff. These, and nine other similar lawsuits filed in Harris County, generally allege that the defendants engaged in gas market manipulation and price gouging, including by intentionally withholding, suppressing, or diverting supplies of natural gas in connection with the February 2021 Winter Storm Event, Winter Storm Elliott, and other severe weather conditions, and through financial market manipulation. Plaintiffs allege that this manipulation impacted gas supply and prices as well as the market, supply, and price of electricity in Texas and caused blackouts and other damage. Plaintiffs assert claims for tortious interference with existing contract, private nuisance, and unjust enrichment, and allege a broad array of injuries and damages, including personal injury, property damage, and harm from certain costs being securitized and passed on to ratepayers. The lawsuits do not specify the amount of damages sought, but seek broad categories of actual, compensatory, statutory, consequential economic, and punitive damages; restitution and disgorgement; pre- and post-judgment interest; costs and attorneys’ fees; and other relief. As of December 31, 2023, most of the lawsuits have not been served, but the three cases in which defendants were served were tagged for transfer to the existing MDL proceeding referenced above. The plaintiffs in those three cases filed motions to remand the lawsuits back to their original trial courts and out of the MDL. On August 1, 2023, the judge overseeing the MDL denied the motions to remand. On November 29, 2023, the MDL panel denied Plaintiffs’ joint motion for reconsideration of the MDL judge’s orders denying remand, and the time to appeal the MDL panel’s decision has passed. These lawsuits remain pending in the MDL, and CERC intends to vigorously defend itself against the claims raised, including by raising jurisdictional challenges to the plaintiffs’ claims. The nine other similar lawsuits filed in Harris County have also been tagged for transfer to the MDL proceeding, but the defendants, including CERC, have not been served. These gas market cases are in addition to the 220 cases noted above regarding electric market issues.

To date, there have not been demands, quantification, disclosure or discovery of damages by any party to any of the above legal matters that are sufficient to enable CenterPoint Energy and its subsidiaries to estimate exposure. Given that, as well as the preliminary nature of the proceedings, the numerosity of parties and complexity of issues involved, and the uncertainties of litigation, CenterPoint Energy and its subsidiaries are unable to predict the outcome or consequences of any of the foregoing matters or to estimate a range of potential losses. CenterPoint Energy and its subsidiaries have general and excess liability insurance policies that provide coverage for third-party bodily injury and property damage claims. As CenterPoint Energy previously noted, given the nature of certain of the plaintiffs’ allegations, insurance coverage may not be available other than for third party bodily injury and property damage claims caused by an accident, and one of CenterPoint Energy’s insurers recently denied coverage for intentional injury as alleged by plaintiffs in the gas market cases. CenterPoint Energy and its subsidiaries intend to continue to pursue any and all available insurance coverage for all of these matters.

*Jefferson Parish.* Several parishes and the State of Louisiana filed 42 suits under Louisiana’s State and Local Coastal Resources Management Act (SCLCRA) against hundreds of oil and gas companies seeking compensatory damages for contamination and erosion of the Louisiana coastline allegedly caused by historical oil and gas operations. One of the defendants in one of the lawsuits (filed in 2013 only by the Parish of Jefferson) is Primary Fuels, Inc., a predecessor company of CenterPoint Energy, which operated in Louisiana from 1983-1989. All 42 suits were removed to Louisiana federal courts twice and were stayed for several years pending the district courts’ consideration of various motions to remand and multiple appeals of remand orders. Recently, several cases involving other parishes that had been remanded to Louisiana state court have begun to resume proceedings in state court. However, as of December 31, 2023, the federal district court had not ruled on Jefferson Parish’s motion to remand to state court the lawsuit which includes Primary Fuels among the defendants.

Because of the procedurally preliminary nature of the proceedings, lack of information about both the scope of and damages for Jefferson Parish’s claim against Primary Fuels, the numerosity of parties and complexity of issues involved, and the uncertainties of litigation, CenterPoint Energy and its subsidiaries are unable to predict the outcome or consequences of this matter or to estimate a range of potential losses. CenterPoint Energy will continue to vigorously defend itself against the claims raised and pursue any and all available insurance coverage.

### ***Environmental Matters***

*MGP Sites.* CenterPoint Energy, CERC and their predecessors, including predecessors of Vectren, operated MGPs in the past. The costs CenterPoint Energy or CERC, as applicable, expect to incur to fulfill their respective obligations are estimated by management using assumptions based on actual costs incurred, the timing of expected future payments and inflation factors, among others. While CenterPoint Energy and CERC have recorded obligations for all costs which are probable and estimable, including amounts they are presently obligated to incur in connection with activities at these sites, it is possible that future

events may require remedial activities which are not presently foreseen, and those costs may not be subject to PRP or insurance recovery.

- (i) *Minnesota MGPs (CenterPoint Energy and CERC)*. With respect to certain Minnesota MGP sites, CenterPoint Energy and CERC have completed state-ordered remediation and continue state-ordered monitoring and water treatment. CenterPoint Energy and CERC recorded a liability as reflected in the table below for continued monitoring and any future remediation required by regulators in Minnesota.
- (ii) *Indiana MGPs (CenterPoint Energy and CERC)*. In the Indiana Gas service territory, the existence, location and certain general characteristics of 26 gas manufacturing and storage sites have been identified for which CenterPoint Energy and CERC may have some remedial responsibility. A remedial investigation/feasibility study was completed at one of the sites under an agreed upon order between Indiana Gas and the IDEM, and a Record of Decision was issued by the IDEM in January 2000. The remaining sites have been submitted to the IDEM’s VRP. CenterPoint Energy has also identified its involvement in 5 manufactured gas plant sites in SIGECO’s service territory, all of which are currently enrolled in the IDEM’s VRP. CenterPoint Energy is currently conducting some level of remedial activities, including groundwater monitoring at certain sites.
- (iii) *Other MGPs (CenterPoint Energy and CERC)*. In addition to the Minnesota and Indiana sites, the EPA and other regulators have investigated MGP sites that were owned or operated by CenterPoint Energy or CERC or may have been owned by one of their former affiliates.

Total costs that may be incurred in connection with addressing these sites cannot be determined at this time. The estimated accrued costs are limited to CenterPoint Energy’s and CERC’s share of the remediation efforts and are therefore net of exposures of other PRPs. The estimated range of possible remediation costs for the sites for which CenterPoint Energy and CERC believe they may have responsibility was based on remediation continuing for the minimum time frame given in the table below.

|   | December 31, 2023           |       |
|---|-----------------------------|-------|
|   | CenterPoint Energy          | CERC  |
|   | (in millions, except years) |       |
| Amount accrued for remediation .....      | \$ 13                       | \$ 11 |
| Minimum estimated remediation costs ..... | 8                           | 7     |
| Maximum estimated remediation costs ..... | 51                          | 44    |
| Minimum years of remediation .....        | 5                           | 5     |
| Maximum years of remediation .....        | 50                          | 50    |

The cost estimates are based on studies of a site or industry average costs for remediation of sites of similar size. The actual remediation costs will depend on the number of sites to be remediated, the participation of other PRPs, if any, and the remediation methods used.

CenterPoint Energy and CERC do not expect the ultimate outcome of these matters to have a material adverse effect on the financial condition, results of operations or cash flows of either CenterPoint Energy or CERC.

*Asbestos*. Some facilities owned by the Registrants or their predecessors contain or have contained asbestos insulation and other asbestos-containing materials. The Registrants are from time to time named, along with numerous others, as defendants in lawsuits filed by a number of individuals who claim injury due to exposure to asbestos, and the Registrants anticipate that additional claims may be asserted in the future. Although their ultimate outcome cannot be predicted at this time, the Registrants do not expect these matters, either individually or in the aggregate, to have a material adverse effect on their financial condition, results of operations or cash flows.

*CCR Rule (CenterPoint Energy)*. In April 2015, the EPA finalized its CCR Rule, which regulates ash as non-hazardous material under the RCRA. The final rule allows beneficial reuse of ash, and the majority of the ash generated by Indiana Electric’s generating plants will continue to be reused. In July 2018, the EPA released its final CCR Rule Phase I Reconsideration which extended the deadline to October 31, 2020 for ceasing placement of ash in ponds that exceed groundwater protections standards or that fail to meet location restrictions. In August 2019, the EPA proposed additional “Part A” amendments to its CCR Rule with respect to beneficial reuse of ash and other materials. The Part A amendments were finalized in August 2020 and extended the deadline to cease placement of ash in ponds to April 11, 2021, discussed further

below. The Part A amendments do not restrict Indiana Electric's current beneficial reuse of its fly ash. On May 18, 2023, the EPA issued a proposed revision to the CCR rule that could potentially expand the scope of units regulated under the federal CCR rule (the CCR "Legacy" rule). The CCR Legacy rule seeks to include legacy CCR surface impoundments (inactive surface impoundments at inactive generating facilities) as well as new "CCR management units" at active or inactive facilities otherwise subject to federal CCR regulations. The potential impact of the CCR Legacy rule is uncertain at this time, and if finalized could require Registrant to conduct additional CCR investigations.

Indiana Electric has three ash ponds, two at the F.B. Culley facility (Culley East and Culley West) and one at the A.B. Brown facility. Under the existing CCR Rule, Indiana Electric is required to perform integrity assessments, including ground water monitoring, at its F.B. Culley and A.B. Brown generating stations. The ground water studies were necessary to determine the remaining service life of the ponds and whether a pond must be retrofitted with liners or closed in place. Indiana Electric's Warrick generating unit is not included in the scope of the CCR Rule as this unit has historically been part of a larger generating station that predominantly serves an adjacent industrial facility. Groundwater monitoring indicates potential groundwater impacts adjacent to Indiana Electric's ash impoundments, and further analysis is ongoing. The CCR Rule required companies to complete location restriction determinations by October 18, 2018. Indiana Electric completed its evaluation and determined that one F.B. Culley pond (Culley East) and the A.B. Brown pond fail the aquifer placement location restriction. As a result of this failure, Indiana Electric was required to cease disposal of new ash in the ponds and commence closure of the ponds by April 11, 2021, unless approved for an extension. CenterPoint Energy filed timely extension requests available under the CCR Rule that would allow Indiana Electric to continue to use the ponds through October 15, 2023. On October 5, 2022, the EPA issued a proposed conditional approval of the Part A extension request for the A.B. Brown pond. Both the Culley East and A.B. Brown facility have been taken out of service in a timely manner per the commitments made to the EPA in the extension requests filed for both ponds. On April 24, 2019, Indiana Electric received an order from the IURC approving recovery in rates of costs associated with the closure of the Culley West pond, which has already completed closure activities. On August 14, 2019, Indiana Electric filed its petition with the IURC for recovery of costs associated with the closure of the A.B. Brown ash pond, which would include costs associated with the excavation and recycling of ponded ash. This petition was subsequently approved by the IURC on May 13, 2020. On October 28, 2020, the IURC approved Indiana Electric's ECA proceeding, which included the initiation of recovery of the federally mandated project costs.

On November 1, 2022, Indiana Electric filed for a CPCN to recover federally mandated costs associated with closure of the Culley East Pond, its third and final ash pond. Indiana Electric is also seeking accounting and ratemaking relief for the project, and on June 8, 2023, Indiana Electric filed a revised CPCN for recovery of the federally mandated ash pond costs. The project costs are estimated to be approximately \$52 million, inclusive of overheads.

In July 2018, Indiana Electric filed a Complaint for Damages and Declaratory Relief against its insurers seeking reimbursement of defense, investigation and pond closure costs incurred to comply with the CCR Rule, and has since reached confidential settlement agreements with its insurers. The proceeds of these settlements will offset costs that have been and will be incurred to close the ponds.

As of December 31, 2023, CenterPoint Energy has recorded an approximate \$116 million ARO, which represents the discounted value of future cash flow estimates to close the ponds at A.B. Brown and F.B. Culley. This estimate is subject to change due to the contractual arrangements; continued assessments of the ash, closure methods, and the timing of closure; implications of Indiana Electric's generation transition plan; changing environmental regulations; and proceeds received from the settlements in the aforementioned insurance proceeding. In addition to these AROs, Indiana Electric also anticipates equipment purchases of between \$60 million and \$80 million to complete the A.B. Brown closure project.

*Clean Water Act Permitting of Groundwater Discharges.* In April 2020, the U.S. Supreme Court issued an opinion providing that indirect discharges via groundwater or other non-point sources are subject to permitting and liability under the Clean Water Act when they are the functional equivalent of a direct discharge. On November 27, 2023, the EPA published draft guidance regarding the application of the "functional equivalent" analysis as related to permitting of certain discharges through groundwater to surface waters. The Registrants are evaluating the extent to which this decision and the proposed EPA guidance will affect Clean Water Act permitting requirements and/or liability for their operations.

*Other Environmental.* From time to time, the Registrants identify the presence of environmental contaminants during operations or on property where their predecessors have conducted operations. Other such sites involving contaminants may be identified in the future. The Registrants have and expect to continue to remediate any identified sites consistent with state and federal legal obligations. From time to time, the Registrants have received notices, and may receive notices in the future, from regulatory authorities or others regarding status as a PRP in connection with sites found to require remediation due to the presence of environmental contaminants. In addition, the Registrants have been, or may be, named from time to time as defendants in litigation related to such sites. Although the ultimate outcome of such matters cannot be predicted at this time, the



Registrants do not expect these matters, either individually or in the aggregate, to have a material adverse effect on their financial condition, results of operations or cash flows.

### ***Other Proceedings***

The Registrants are involved in other legal, environmental, tax and regulatory proceedings before various courts, regulatory commissions and governmental agencies regarding matters arising in the ordinary course of business. From time to time, the Registrants are also defendants in legal proceedings with respect to claims brought by various plaintiffs against broad groups of participants in the energy industry. Some of these proceedings involve substantial amounts. The Registrants regularly analyze current information and, as necessary, provide accruals for probable and reasonably estimable liabilities on the eventual disposition of these matters. The Registrants do not expect the disposition of these matters to have a material adverse effect on the Registrants' financial condition, results of operations or cash flows.

### **(16) Earnings Per Share (CenterPoint Energy)**

Basic earnings per common share is computed by dividing income available to common shareholders from continuing operations by the weighted average number of common shares outstanding during the period. Participating securities are excluded from weighted average number of common shares outstanding in the computation of basic earnings per common share. Diluted earnings per common share is computed by dividing income available to common shareholders from continuing operations by the weighted average number of common shares outstanding, including all potentially dilutive common shares, if the effect of such common shares is dilutive.

Diluted earnings per common share reflects the dilutive effect of potential common shares from share-based awards and convertible preferred shares. The dilutive effect of the restricted stock, Series B Preferred Stock and Series C Preferred Stock is computed using the if-converted method, which assumes conversion of the restricted stock, Series B Preferred Stock and Series C Preferred Stock at the beginning of the period, giving income recognition for the add-back of the preferred share dividends, amortization of beneficial conversion feature, and undistributed earnings allocated to preferred shareholders. The dilutive effect of restricted stock is computed using the treasury stock method, as applicable, which includes the incremental shares that would be hypothetically vested in excess of the number of shares assumed to be hypothetically repurchased with the assumed proceeds.

Diluted earnings per common share will also reflect the dilutive effect of potential common shares from the conversion of the Convertible Notes. Convertible debt in which the principal amount must be settled in cash is excluded from the calculation of diluted earnings per common share. There would be no interest expense adjustment to the numerator for the cash-settled portion of the Convertible Notes because that portion will always be settled in cash. The conversion spread value in shares will be included in diluted earnings per common share using the if-converted method if the convertible debt is in the money. The denominator of diluted earnings per common share is determined by dividing the conversion spread value of the share-settled portion of the Convertible Notes as of the reporting date by the average share price over the reporting period. For the year ended December 31, 2023, the convertible debt was not in the money; therefore, no incremental shares were assumed converted or included in the diluted earnings per common share calculation. For further details on the Convertible Notes, see Note 13.

The Series C Preferred Stock issued in May 2020 were considered participating securities since these shares participated in dividends on Common Stock on a pari passu, pro rata, as-converted basis. As a result, beginning June 30, 2020, earnings per share on Common Stock was computed using the two-class method required for participating securities during the periods the Series C Preferred Stock was outstanding. As of May 7, 2021, all of the remaining outstanding shares of Series C Preferred Stock were converted into shares of Common Stock and earnings per share on Common Stock and the two-class method was no longer applicable beginning June 30, 2021.

The following table reconciles numerators and denominators of CenterPoint Energy's basic and diluted earnings per common share. Basic earnings per common share is determined by dividing Income available to common shareholders - basic by the Weighted average common shares outstanding - basic for the applicable period. Diluted earnings per common share is determined by the inclusion of potentially dilutive common stock equivalent shares that may occur if securities to issue Common Stock were exercised or converted into Common Stock.

|   | For the Year Ended December 31, |                    |                    |
|---|---------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
|   | 2023                            | 2022               | 2021               |
| (in millions, except per share and share amounts)   |                                 |                    |                    |
| <b>Numerator:</b>   |                                 |                    |                    |
| Income from continuing operations .....   | \$ 917                          | \$ 1,057           | \$ 668             |
| Less: Preferred stock dividend requirement (Note 12) .....  | 50                              | 49                 | 95                 |
| Income available to common shareholders from continuing operations - basic and diluted .....        | 867                             | 1,008              | 573                |
| Income available to common shareholders from discontinued operations - basic and diluted .....      | —                               | —                  | 818                |
| Income available to common shareholders - basic and diluted .....                                   | <u>\$ 867</u>                   | <u>\$ 1,008</u>    | <u>\$ 1,391</u>    |
| <b>Denominator:</b>   |                                 |                    |                    |
| Weighted average common shares outstanding - basic .....  | 630,947,000                     | 629,415,000        | 592,933,000        |
| Plus: Incremental shares from assumed conversions:  |                                 |                    |                    |
| Restricted stock .....  | 2,232,000                       | 2,931,000          | 5,181,000          |
| Series C Preferred Stock (1) .....  | —                               | —                  | 11,824,000         |
| Weighted average common shares outstanding - diluted .....  | <u>633,179,000</u>              | <u>632,346,000</u> | <u>609,938,000</u> |
| <b>Anti-dilutive Incremental Shares Excluded from Denominator for Diluted Earnings Computation:</b> |                                 |                    |                    |
| Series B Preferred Stock (2) .....  | —                               | —                  | 23,906,000         |
| <b>Earnings per common share:</b>   |                                 |                    |                    |
| Basic earnings per common share - continuing operations .....                                       | \$ 1.37                         | \$ 1.60            | \$ 0.97            |
| Basic earnings per common share - discontinued operations .....                                     | —                               | —                  | 1.38               |
| <b>Basic Earnings Per Common Share</b> .....  | <u>\$ 1.37</u>                  | <u>\$ 1.60</u>     | <u>\$ 2.35</u>     |
| Diluted earnings per common share - continuing operations .....                                     | \$ 1.37                         | \$ 1.59            | \$ 0.94            |
| Diluted earnings per common share - discontinued operations .....                                   | —                               | —                  | 1.34               |
| <b>Diluted Earnings Per Common Share</b> .....  | <u>\$ 1.37</u>                  | <u>\$ 1.59</u>     | <u>\$ 2.28</u>     |

(1) As of December 31, 2021, all of the outstanding Series C Preferred Stock has been converted into Common Stock. For further information, see Note 12.

(2) As of December 31, 2021, all of the outstanding Series B Preferred Stock has been converted into Common Stock. For further information, see Note 12.

## (17) Reportable Segments

The Registrants' determination of reportable segments considers the strategic operating units under which its CODM manages sales, allocates resources and assesses performance of various products and services to wholesale or retail customers in differing regulatory environments. Each Registrant's CODM views net income as the measure of profit or loss for the reportable segments.

As of December 31, 2023, reportable segments by Registrant are as follows:

### CenterPoint Energy

- CenterPoint Energy’s Electric reportable segment consisted of electric transmission and distribution services in the Texas gulf coast area in the ERCOT region and electric transmission and distribution services primarily to southwestern Indiana and includes power generation and wholesale power operations in the MISO region.
- CenterPoint Energy’s Natural Gas reportable segment consists of (i) intrastate natural gas sales to, and natural gas transportation and distribution for residential, commercial, industrial and institutional customers in Indiana, Louisiana, Minnesota, Mississippi, Ohio and Texas; and (ii) permanent pipeline connections through interconnects with various interstate and intrastate pipeline companies through CEIP.
- CenterPoint Energy’s Corporate and Other category consists of energy performance contracting and sustainable infrastructure services by Energy Systems Group through June 30, 2023, the date of the sale of Energy Systems Group, and corporate support operations that support all of CenterPoint Energy’s business operations. CenterPoint Energy’s Corporate and Other also includes office buildings and other real estate used for business operations.

### Houston Electric

- Houston Electric’s single reportable segment consisted of electric transmission services to transmission service customers in the ERCOT region and distribution service to REPs in the Texas gulf coast area that includes the city of Houston.

### CERC

- CERC’s single reportable segment following the Restructuring consisted of (i) intrastate natural gas sales to, and natural gas transportation and distribution for residential, commercial, industrial and institutional customers in Indiana, Louisiana, Minnesota, Mississippi, Ohio and Texas; and (ii) permanent pipeline connections through interconnects with various interstate and intrastate pipeline companies through CEIP.

Expenditures for long-lived assets include property, plant and equipment. Intersegment sales are eliminated in consolidation, except as described in Note 4.

Financial data for reportable segments is as follows, including Discontinued Operations for reconciliation purposes:

### CenterPoint Energy

|  | Revenues<br>from<br>External<br>Customers | Intersegment<br>Revenues | Depreciation<br>and<br>Amortization | Interest<br>Income (1) | Interest<br>Expense | Income Tax<br>Expense<br>(Benefit) | Net Income<br>(Loss) |
|--|---|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------|
| (in millions)                                |   |                          |                                     |                        |                     |                                    |                      |
| <b>For the year ended December 31, 2023:</b> |   |                          |                                     |                        |                     |                                    |                      |
| Electric .....                               | \$ 4,290                                  | \$ —                     | \$ 872                              | \$ 19                  | \$ (303)            | \$ 189                             | \$ 654               |
| Natural Gas .....                            | 4,276                                     | 3                        | 513                                 | 10                     | (188)               | (25)                               | 533                  |
| Corporate and Other .....                    | 130                                       | —                        | 16                                  | 34                     | (264)               | 6                                  | (270)                |
| Eliminations .....                           | —   | (3)                      | —                                   | (54)                   | 54                  | —                                  | —                    |
| Consolidated .....                           | <u>\$ 8,696</u>                           | <u>\$ —</u>              | <u>\$ 1,401</u>                     | <u>\$ 9</u>            | <u>\$ (701)</u>     | <u>\$ 170</u>                      | <u>\$ 917</u>        |
| <b>For the year ended December 31, 2022:</b> |   |                          |                                     |                        |                     |                                    |                      |
| Electric .....                               | \$ 4,108                                  | \$ —                     | \$ 793                              | \$ 4                   | \$ (235)            | \$ 147                             | \$ 603               |
| Natural Gas .....                            | 4,946                                     | —                        | 466                                 | 2                      | (137)               | 243                                | 492                  |
| Corporate and Other .....                    | 267                                       | —                        | 29                                  | 59                     | (214)               | (30)                               | (38)                 |
| Eliminations .....                           | —   | —                        | —                                   | (62)                   | 62                  | —                                  | —                    |
| Consolidated .....                           | <u>\$ 9,321</u>                           | <u>\$ —</u>              | <u>\$ 1,288</u>                     | <u>\$ 3</u>            | <u>\$ (524)</u>     | <u>\$ 360</u>                      | <u>\$ 1,057</u>      |

|  | Revenues<br>from<br>External<br>Customers | Intersegment<br>Revenues | Depreciation<br>and<br>Amortization | Interest<br>Income (1) | Interest<br>Expense | Income Tax<br>Expense<br>(Benefit) | Net Income<br>(Loss) |
|--|---|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------|
|  | (in millions)                             |                          |                                     |                        |                     |                                    |                      |
| <b>For the year ended December 31, 2021:</b> |   |                          |                                     |                        |                     |                                    |                      |
| Electric .....                               | \$ 3,763                                  | \$ —                     | \$ 775                              | \$ —                   | \$ (226)            | \$ 95                              | \$ 475               |
| Natural Gas .....                            | 4,336                                     | —                        | 527                                 | 1                      | (141)               | 80                                 | 403                  |
| Corporate and Other .....                    | 253                                       | —                        | 14                                  | 118                    | (278)               | (65)                               | (210)                |
| Eliminations .....                           | —   | —                        | —                                   | (116)                  | 116                 | —                                  | —                    |
| Continuing Operations .....                  | <u>\$ 8,352</u>                           | <u>\$ —</u>              | <u>\$ 1,316</u>                     | <u>\$ 3</u>            | <u>\$ (529)</u>     | <u>\$ 110</u>                      | <u>668</u>           |
| Discontinued Operations, net .....           |   |                          |                                     |                        |                     |                                    | <u>818</u>           |
| Consolidated .....                           |   |                          |                                     |                        |                     |                                    | <u>\$ 1,486</u>      |

(1) Interest income from Securitization Bonds of \$4 million, less than \$1 million, and \$1 million for the years ended December 31, 2023, 2022 and 2021, respectively, is included in Other income, net on both CenterPoint Energy's and Houston Electric's respective Statements of Consolidated Income.

|  | Total Assets     |                  | Expenditures for Long-lived Assets |                 |                 |
|--|------------------|------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
|  | December 31,     |                  | December 31,                       |                 |                 |
|  | 2023             | 2022             | 2023                               | 2022            | 2021            |
|  | (in millions)    |                  |                                    |                 |                 |
| Electric .....                                     | \$ 21,089        | \$ 19,024        | \$ 2,660                           | \$ 2,611        | \$ 2,008        |
| Natural Gas .....                                  | 17,429           | 18,043           | 1,697                              | 1,697           | 1,178           |
| Corporate and Other, net of eliminations (1) ..... | 1,197            | 1,479            | 13                                 | 107             | 42              |
| Continuing Operations .....                        | <u>39,715</u>    | <u>38,546</u>    | <u>4,370</u>                       | <u>4,415</u>    | <u>3,228</u>    |
| Divestitures/Discontinued Operations .....         | <u>—</u>         | <u>—</u>         | <u>—</u>                           | <u>3</u>        | <u>171</u>      |
| Consolidated .....                                 | <u>\$ 39,715</u> | <u>\$ 38,546</u> | <u>\$ 4,370</u>                    | <u>\$ 4,418</u> | <u>\$ 3,399</u> |

(1) Total assets included pension and other postemployment-related regulatory assets of \$385 million and \$405 million as of December 31, 2023 and 2022, respectively.

### ***Divestitures and Discontinued Operations (CenterPoint Energy and CERC)***

For further information regarding CenterPoint Energy's and CERC's divestitures and discontinued operations, see Note 4.

### **Houston Electric**

Houston Electric consists of a single reportable segment; therefore, a tabular reportable segment presentation has not been included.

### **CERC**

CERC consists of a single reportable segment; therefore, a tabular reportable segment presentation has not been included.

### ***Major Customers (Houston Electric)***

Houston Electric's revenues from major external customers are as follows:

|  | Year Ended December 31, |          |        |
|--|-------------------------|----------|--------|
|  | 2023                    | 2022     | 2021   |
|  | (in millions)           |          |        |
| Affiliates of NRG .....                | \$ 1,106                | \$ 1,046 | \$ 905 |
| Affiliates of Vistra Energy Corp. .... | 539                     | 489      | 410    |

## Revenues by Products and Services

| Revenues by Products and Services: | Year Ended December 31, |                  |                 |                    |                  |                 |                    |                  |                 |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------|------------------|-----------------|--------------------|------------------|-----------------|--------------------|------------------|-----------------|
|                                    | 2023                    |                  |                 | 2022               |                  |                 | 2021               |                  |                 |
|                                    | CenterPoint Energy      | Houston Electric | CERC            | CenterPoint Energy | Houston Electric | CERC            | CenterPoint Energy | Houston Electric | CERC            |
|                                    | (in millions)           |                  |                 |                    |                  |                 |                    |                  |                 |
| Electric delivery .....            | \$ 3,701                | \$ 3,677         | \$ —            | \$ 3,438           | \$ 3,412         | \$ —            | \$ 3,158           | \$ 3,134         | \$ —            |
| Retail electric sales .....        | 569                     | —                | —               | 630                | —                | —               | 559                | —                | —               |
| Wholesale electric sales..         | 20                      | —                | —               | 40                 | —                | —               | 46                 | —                | —               |
| Retail gas sales .....             | 4,078                   | —                | 3,951           | 4,759              | —                | 4,613           | 4,157              | —                | 4,021           |
| Gas transportation .....           | 11                      | —                | 11              | 12                 | —                | 12              | 12                 | —                | 12              |
| Energy products and services.....  | 317                     | —                | 187             | 442                | —                | 175             | 420                | —                | 167             |
| Total .....                        | <u>\$ 8,696</u>         | <u>\$ 3,677</u>  | <u>\$ 4,149</u> | <u>\$ 9,321</u>    | <u>\$ 3,412</u>  | <u>\$ 4,800</u> | <u>\$ 8,352</u>    | <u>\$ 3,134</u>  | <u>\$ 4,200</u> |

## (18) Supplemental Disclosure of Cash Flow and Balance Sheet Information

### Supplemental Disclosure of Cash Flow Information

CenterPoint Energy elected not to separately disclose discontinued operations on its Statements of Consolidated Cash Flows. The tables below provide supplemental disclosure of cash flow information:

|   | 2023               |                  |        | 2022               |                  |        | 2021               |                  |        |
|---|--------------------|------------------|--------|--------------------|------------------|--------|--------------------|------------------|--------|
|   | CenterPoint Energy | Houston Electric | CERC   | CenterPoint Energy | Houston Electric | CERC   | CenterPoint Energy | Houston Electric | CERC   |
|   | (in millions)      |                  |        |                    |                  |        |                    |                  |        |
| <b>Cash Payments/Receipts:</b>  |                    |                  |        |                    |                  |        |                    |                  |        |
| Interest, net of capitalized interest (under further review) .....                      | \$ 664             | \$ 287           | \$ 175 | \$ 480             | \$ 223           | \$ 104 | \$ 489             | \$ 208           | \$ 130 |
| Income tax payments (refunds), net (1).....   | 215                | 12               | 115    | 421                | 142              | 37     | (46)               | 20               | (7)    |
| <b>Non-cash transactions:</b>   |                    |                  |        |                    |                  |        |                    |                  |        |
| Accounts payable related to capital expenditures.....                                   | 246                | 166              | 74     | 335                | 168              | 139    | 370                | 261              | 128    |
| Fair value of Energy Transfer Common Units received for Enable Merger .....             | —                  | —                | —      | —                  | —                | —      | 1,672              | —                | —      |
| Fair value of Energy Transfer Series G Preferred Units received for Enable Merger ..... | —                  | —                | —      | —                  | —                | —      | 385                | —                | —      |
| ROU assets obtained in exchange for lease liabilities (2) .....                         | 3                  | 1                | —      | 7                  | 6                | —      | 2                  | —                | —      |

(1) CenterPoint Energy's \$215 million income tax payments in 2023 were attributable to recovery of extraordinary gas costs incurred in the February 2021 Winter Storm through the Railroad Commission ordered securitization.

(2) Excludes ROU assets obtained through prepayment of the lease liabilities. See Note 20.

The table below provides a reconciliation of cash, cash equivalents and restricted cash reported in the Consolidated Balance Sheets to the amount reported in the Statements of Consolidated Cash Flows:

|   | December 31, 2023  |                  |             | December 31, 2022  |                  |             |
|---|--------------------|------------------|-------------|--------------------|------------------|-------------|
|   | CenterPoint Energy | Houston Electric | CERC        | CenterPoint Energy | Houston Electric | CERC        |
|   | (in millions)      |                  |             |                    |                  |             |
| Cash and cash equivalents (1)   | \$ 90              | \$ 76            | \$ 1        | \$ 74              | \$ 75            | \$ —        |
| Restricted cash included in Prepaid expenses and other current assets                           | 19                 | 13               | —           | 17                 | 13               | —           |
| Total cash, cash equivalents and restricted cash shown in Statements of Consolidated Cash Flows | <u>\$ 109</u>      | <u>\$ 89</u>     | <u>\$ 1</u> | <u>\$ 91</u>       | <u>\$ 88</u>     | <u>\$ —</u> |

- (1) Cash and cash equivalents related to VIEs as of December 31, 2023 and 2022 included \$90 million and \$75 million, respectively, at CenterPoint Energy and \$76 million and \$75 million, respectively, at Houston Electric.

### Supplemental Disclosure of Balance Sheet Information

Included in other current liabilities on CERC's Consolidated Balance Sheets as of December 31, 2023 and 2022 was \$118 million and \$61 million, respectively, of credits related to customers on budget billing programs. Included in other current liabilities on Houston Electric's Consolidated Balance Sheets as of December 31, 2023 and 2022 was \$47 million and \$35 million, respectively, of accrued contributions in aid of construction.

### (19) Related Party Transactions (Houston Electric and CERC)

Houston Electric and CERC participate in a money pool through which they can borrow or invest on a short-term basis. Funding needs are aggregated and external borrowing or investing is based on the net cash position. The net funding requirements of the money pool are expected to be met with borrowings under CenterPoint Energy's revolving credit facility or the sale of CenterPoint Energy's commercial paper.

The table below summarizes money pool activity:

|   | December 31, 2023                    |        | December 31, 2022 |        |
|---|--------------------------------------|--------|-------------------|--------|
|   | Houston Electric                     | CERC   | Houston Electric  | CERC   |
|   | (in millions, except interest rates) |        |                   |        |
| Money pool investments (borrowings) (1) | \$ 238                               | \$ 1   | \$ (642)          | \$ —   |
| Weighted average interest rate          | 5.59 %                               | 5.59 % | 4.75 %            | 4.75 % |

- (1) Included in Accounts and notes receivable (payable)—affiliated companies in Houston Electric's and CERC's Consolidated Balance Sheets, as applicable.

Houston Electric and CERC affiliate-related net interest income (expense) were as follows:

|                                    | Year Ended December 31, |       |                  |         |                  |          |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------|------------------|---------|------------------|----------|
|                                    | 2023                    |       | 2022             |         | 2021             |          |
|                                    | Houston Electric        | CERC  | Houston Electric | CERC    | Houston Electric | CERC (1) |
|                                    | (in millions)           |       |                  |         |                  |          |
| Interest income (expense), net (2) | \$ 2                    | \$ 10 | \$ —             | \$ (18) | \$ —             | \$ (38)  |

- (1) Includes affiliate-related net interest expense of Indiana Gas and VEDO to reflect the Restructuring.  
(2) Interest income is included in Other, net and interest expense is included in Interest expense and other finance charges on Houston Electric's and CERC's respective Statements of Consolidated Income.

CenterPoint Energy provides some corporate services to Houston Electric and CERC. The costs of services have been charged directly to Houston Electric and CERC using methods that management believes are reasonable. These methods include negotiated usage rates, dedicated asset assignment and proportionate corporate formulas based on operating expenses, assets, gross margin, employees and a composite of assets, gross margin and employees. Houston Electric provides certain

services to CERC. These services are billed at actual cost, either directly or as an allocation and include fleet services, shop services, geographic services, surveying and right-of-way services, radio communications, data circuit management and field operations. Additionally, CERC provides certain services to Houston Electric. These services are billed at actual cost, either directly or as an allocation and include line locating and other miscellaneous services. These charges are not necessarily indicative of what would have been incurred had Houston Electric and CERC not been affiliates.

Amounts charged for these services are included primarily in Operation and maintenance expenses:

|  | Year Ended December 31, |        |                  |        |                  |        |
|--|-------------------------|--------|------------------|--------|------------------|--------|
|  | 2023                    |        | 2022             |        | 2021             |        |
|  | Houston Electric        | CERC   | Houston Electric | CERC   | Houston Electric | CERC   |
|  | (in millions)           |        |                  |        |                  |        |
| Corporate service charges .....                | \$ 173                  | \$ 236 | \$ 167           | \$ 237 | \$ 189           | \$ 257 |
| Net affiliate service charges (billings) ..... | (10)                    | 10     | 15               | (15)   | (7)              | 7      |

The table below presents transactions among Houston Electric, CERC and their parent, Utility Holding.

|  | Year Ended December 31, |        |                  |        |                  |      |
|--|-------------------------|--------|------------------|--------|------------------|------|
|  | 2023                    |        | 2022             |        | 2021             |      |
|  | Houston Electric        | CERC   | Houston Electric | CERC   | Houston Electric | CERC |
|  | (in millions)           |        |                  |        |                  |      |
| Cash dividends paid to parent .....  | \$ 367                  | \$ 496 | \$ 316           | \$ 124 | \$ —             | \$ — |
| Cash dividend paid to parent related to the sale of the Arkansas and Oklahoma Natural Gas businesses ..... | —                       | —      | —                | 720    | —                | —    |
| Cash contribution from parent .....  | 885                     | 500    | 1,143            | 289    | 130              | 140  |
| Net assets acquired in the Restructuring (1) .....   | —                       | —      | —                | 2,345  | —                | —    |
| Non-cash capital contribution from parent in payment for property, plant and equipment below .....         | —                       | —      | 38               | 54     | —                | —    |
| Cash paid to parent for property, plant and equipment below .....  | —                       | —      | 65               | 61     | —                | —    |
| Property, plant and equipment from parent (2) .....  | —                       | —      | 103              | 115    | —                | —    |

(1) The Restructuring was a common control transaction that required the recasting of financial information to the earliest period presented. Therefore, the net asset transfer is not reflected during the year ended December 31, 2022 on CERC's Statements of Consolidated Changes in Equity.

(2) Property, plant and equipment purchased from CenterPoint Energy at its net carrying value on the date of purchase.

## (20) Leases

An arrangement is determined to be a lease at inception based on whether the Registrant has the right to control the use of an identified asset. ROU assets represent the Registrants' right to use the underlying asset for the lease term and lease liabilities represent the Registrants' obligation to make lease payments arising from the lease. ROU assets and liabilities are recognized at the lease commencement date based on the present value of lease payments over the lease term, including payments at commencement that depend on an index or rate. Most leases in which the Registrants are the lessee do not have a readily determinable implicit rate, so an incremental borrowing rate, based on the information available at the lease commencement date, is utilized to determine the present value of lease payments. When a secured borrowing rate is not readily available, unsecured borrowing rates are adjusted for the effects of collateral to determine the incremental borrowing rate. Each Registrant uses the implicit rate for agreements in which it is a lessor. Lease income and expense for operating leases and ROU amortization for finance leases are recognized on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

The Registrants have lease agreements with lease and non-lease components and have elected the practical expedient to combine lease and non-lease components for certain classes of leases, such as office buildings and mobile generators. For classes of leases in which lease and non-lease components are not combined, consideration is allocated between components based on the stand-alone prices. Sublease income is not significant to the Registrants.

The Registrants' lease agreements do not contain any material residual value guarantees, material restrictions or material covenants. There are no lease transactions with related parties. Agreements in which the Registrants are lessors do not include

provisions for the lessee to purchase the assets. Because risk is minimal, the Registrants do not take any significant actions to manage risk associated with the residual value of their leased assets.

The Registrants' operating lease agreements are primarily equipment and real property leases, including land and office facility leases. CenterPoint Energy and Houston Electric also have finance lease agreements for mobile generators. The Registrants' lease terms may include options to extend or terminate a lease when it is reasonably certain that those options will be exercised. The Registrants have elected an accounting policy that exempts leases with terms of one year or less from the recognition requirements of ASC 842.

In 2021, Houston Electric entered into a temporary short-term lease and long-term leases for mobile generation. The short-term lease agreement allows Houston Electric to take delivery of TEEEF assets on a short-term basis with an initial term ending on September 30, 2022 and extended until December 31, 2022. At such time, the short-term lease agreement expired and all mobile generation assets were leased under the long-term lease agreement. Per Houston Electric's short-term lease accounting policy election, a ROU asset and lease liability were not reflected on Houston Electric's Consolidated Balance Sheets. Expenses associated with the short-term lease, including carrying costs, are deferred to a regulatory asset and totaled \$100 million and \$103 million as of December 31, 2023 and 2022, respectively.

The long-term lease agreement includes up to 505 MW of TEEEF, all of which was delivered as of December 31, 2022, triggering lease commencement at delivery, with an initial term ending in 2029 for all TEEEF leases. The total cash payments under the long-term lease totaled \$664 million, with the final \$485 million paid in 2022. These assets were previously available under the short-term lease agreement. Houston Electric derecognized the finance lease liability when the extinguishment criteria in Topic 405 - *Liabilities* was achieved. Per the terms of the agreement, lease payments are due and made in full by Houston Electric upon taking possession of the asset, relieving substantially all of the associated finance lease liability at that time. The remaining finance lease liability associated with the commenced long-term TEEEF agreement was not significant as of December 31, 2023 and 2022 and relates to removal costs that will be incurred at the end of the lease term. As of December 31, 2023, Houston Electric has secured a first lien on the assets leased under the prepayment agreement, except for assets with lease payments totaling \$97 million. The \$97 million prepayment is being held in an escrow account, not controlled by Houston Electric, and the funds will be released when a first lien can be secured by Houston Electric. Expenses associated with the long-term lease, including depreciation expense on the right of use asset and carrying costs, are deferred to a regulatory asset and totaled \$124 million and \$60 million as of December 31, 2023 and 2022, respectively. The long-term lease agreement contains a termination clause that can be exercised in the event of material adverse regulatory actions. If the right to terminate is elected, subject to the satisfaction of certain conditions, 75% of Houston Electric's prepaid lease costs that is attributable to the period from the effective date of termination to the end of the lease term would be refunded. In December 2022, the long-term lease agreement was amended to include a disallowance reimbursement clause that can be exercised in the event that any regulatory proceeding or settlement agreement results in a disallowance of Houston Electric's recovery of deferred costs under either the long-term lease agreement, short-term lease agreement or any other quantifiable adverse financial impact to Houston Electric. The disallowance reimbursement clause expired on December 31, 2023 and Houston Electric can no longer seek relief in the event of an unfavorable regulatory ruling. For further discussion of the regulatory impacts, see Note 7.

Houston Electric will also incur variable costs throughout the lease term for the operation and maintenance of the generators. Lease costs, including variable and ROU asset amortization costs, are deferred to Regulatory assets as incurred as a recoverable cost under the 2021 Texas legislation. See Note 7 for further information regarding recovery of these deferred costs.

The components of lease cost, included in Operation and maintenance expense on the Registrants' respective Statements of Consolidated Income, are as follows:

|                             | Year Ended December 31, |                     |             |                       |                     |             |                       |                     |             |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|-------------|-----------------------|---------------------|-------------|-----------------------|---------------------|-------------|
|                             | 2023                    |                     |             | 2022                  |                     |             | 2021                  |                     |             |
|                             | CenterPoint<br>Energy   | Houston<br>Electric | CERC        | CenterPoint<br>Energy | Houston<br>Electric | CERC        | CenterPoint<br>Energy | Houston<br>Electric | CERC        |
|                             | (in millions)           |                     |             |                       |                     |             |                       |                     |             |
| Operating lease cost .....  | \$ 6                    | \$ 3                | \$ 2        | \$ 6                  | \$ 1                | \$ 2        | \$ 8                  | \$ 1                | \$ 4        |
| Short-term lease cost ..... | 31                      | 30                  | \$ —        | 167                   | 166                 | 1           | 119                   | 118                 | —           |
| Total lease cost (1) .....  | <u>\$ 37</u>            | <u>\$ 33</u>        | <u>\$ 2</u> | <u>\$ 173</u>         | <u>\$ 167</u>       | <u>\$ 3</u> | <u>\$ 127</u>         | <u>\$ 119</u>       | <u>\$ 4</u> |

(1) CenterPoint Energy and Houston Electric defer finance lease costs for TEEEF to Regulatory assets for recovery rather than to Depreciation and Amortization in the Statements of Consolidated Income.



The components of lease income were as follows:

|                             | Year Ended December 31, |                     |             |                       |                     |             |                       |                     |             |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|-------------|-----------------------|---------------------|-------------|-----------------------|---------------------|-------------|
|                             | 2023                    |                     |             | 2022                  |                     |             | 2021                  |                     |             |
|                             | CenterPoint<br>Energy   | Houston<br>Electric | CERC        | CenterPoint<br>Energy | Houston<br>Electric | CERC        | CenterPoint<br>Energy | Houston<br>Electric | CERC        |
|                             | (in millions)           |                     |             |                       |                     |             |                       |                     |             |
| Operating lease income ...  | \$ 6                    | \$ 1                | \$ 4        | \$ 5                  | \$ 1                | \$ 3        | \$ 6                  | \$ 1                | \$ 3        |
| Variable lease income ..... | 2                       | —                   | —           | 2                     | —                   | —           | 1                     | —                   | —           |
| Total lease income .....    | <u>\$ 8</u>             | <u>\$ 1</u>         | <u>\$ 4</u> | <u>\$ 7</u>           | <u>\$ 1</u>         | <u>\$ 3</u> | <u>\$ 7</u>           | <u>\$ 1</u>         | <u>\$ 3</u> |

Supplemental balance sheet information related to leases was as follows:

|   | December 31, 2023                                  |                     |             | December 31, 2022     |                     |             |
|---|--|---------------------|-------------|-----------------------|---------------------|-------------|
|   | CenterPoint<br>Energy                              | Houston<br>Electric | CERC        | CenterPoint<br>Energy | Houston<br>Electric | CERC        |
|   | (in millions, except lease term and discount rate) |                     |             |                       |                     |             |
| Assets:   |  |                     |             |                       |                     |             |
| Operating ROU assets (1) .....  | \$ 13  | \$ 6                | \$ 4        | \$ 19                 | \$ 6                | \$ 5        |
| Finance ROU assets (2) .....  | 526  | 526                 | —           | 621                   | 621                 | —           |
| Total leased assets .....   | <u>\$ 539</u>                                      | <u>\$ 532</u>       | <u>\$ 4</u> | <u>\$ 640</u>         | <u>\$ 627</u>       | <u>\$ 5</u> |
| Liabilities:  |  |                     |             |                       |                     |             |
| Current operating lease liability (3) .....                               | \$ 3   | \$ 1                | \$ 1        | \$ 5                  | \$ 1                | \$ 2        |
| Non-current operating lease liability (4) .....                           | 10   | 5                   | 3           | 14                    | 5                   | 4           |
| Total leased liabilities (5) .....  | <u>\$ 13</u>                                       | <u>\$ 6</u>         | <u>\$ 4</u> | <u>\$ 19</u>          | <u>\$ 6</u>         | <u>\$ 6</u> |
| Weighted-average remaining lease term (in years) - operating leases ..... | 4.7  | 3.9                 | 3.1         | 4.3                   | 4.8                 | 3.9         |
| Weighted-average discount rate - operating leases .....                   | 4.13 %   | 4.09 %              | 3.60 %      | 3.80 %                | 4.01 %              | 3.58 %      |
| Weighted-average remaining lease term (in years) - finance leases .....   | 5.5  | 5.5                 | —           | 6.5                   | 6.5                 | —           |
| Weighted-average discount rate - finance leases .....                     | 3.60 %   | 3.60 %              | —           | 3.60 %                | 3.60 %              | —           |

- (1) Reported within Other assets in the Registrants' respective Consolidated Balance Sheets, net of accumulated amortization.
- (2) Reported within Property, Plant and Equipment in the Registrants' respective Consolidated Balance Sheets, net of accumulated amortization.
- (3) Reported within Current other liabilities in the Registrants' respective Consolidated Balance Sheets.
- (4) Reported within Other liabilities in the Registrants' respective Consolidated Balance Sheets.
- (5) Finance lease liabilities were not material as of December 31, 2023 or 2022 and are reported within Other long-term debt in the Registrants' respective Consolidated Balance Sheets when applicable.

As of December 31, 2023, finance lease liabilities were not significant to the Registrants. As of December 31, 2023, maturities of operating lease liabilities were as follows:

|  | CenterPoint<br>Energy | Houston<br>Electric | CERC        |
|--|-----------------------|---------------------|-------------|
|  | (in millions)         |                     |             |
| 2024 .....                               | \$ 4                  | \$ 2                | \$ 2        |
| 2025 .....                               | 3                     | 2                   | 1           |
| 2026 .....                               | 3                     | 1                   | 1           |
| 2027 .....                               | 2                     | 1                   | —           |
| 2028 .....                               | 1                     | —                   | —           |
| 2029 and beyond .....                    | 2                     | —                   | —           |
| Total lease payments .....               | 15                    | 6                   | 4           |
| Less: Interest .....                     | 2                     | —                   | —           |
| Present value of lease liabilities ..... | <u>\$ 13</u>          | <u>\$ 6</u>         | <u>\$ 4</u> |

As of December 31, 2023, future minimum finance lease payments to be received were not significant to the Registrants. As of December 31, 2023, maturities of undiscounted operating lease payments to be received are as follows:

|   | CenterPoint<br>Energy | Houston<br>Electric | CERC          |
|---|-----------------------|---------------------|---------------|
|   | (in millions)         |                     |               |
| 2024 .....                                | \$ 6                  | \$ 1                | \$ 4          |
| 2025 .....                                | 8                     | 1                   | 5             |
| 2026 .....                                | 8                     | —                   | 5             |
| 2027 .....                                | 7                     | —                   | 5             |
| 2028 .....                                | 7                     | —                   | 5             |
| 2029 and beyond .....                     | 173                   | —                   | 170           |
| Total lease payments to be received ..... | <u>\$ 209</u>         | <u>\$ 2</u>         | <u>\$ 194</u> |

Other information related to leases is as follows:

|   | Year Ended December 31, |                     |      |                       |                     |      |                       |                     |      |
|---|-------------------------|---------------------|------|-----------------------|---------------------|------|-----------------------|---------------------|------|
|   | 2023                    |                     |      | 2022                  |                     |      | 2021                  |                     |      |
|   | CenterPoint<br>Energy   | Houston<br>Electric | CERC | CenterPoint<br>Energy | Houston<br>Electric | CERC | CenterPoint<br>Energy | Houston<br>Electric | CERC |
|   | (in millions)           |                     |      |                       |                     |      |                       |                     |      |
| Operating cash flows from operating leases included in the measurement of lease liabilities ..... | \$ 5                    | \$ 2                | \$ 2 | \$ 6                  | \$ 1                | \$ 2 | \$ 6                  | \$ 1                | \$ 3 |
| Financing cash flows from finance leases included in the measurement of lease liabilities .....   | —                       | —                   | —    | 485                   | 485                 | —    | 179                   | 179                 | —    |

See Note 18 for information on ROU assets obtained in exchange for operating lease liabilities.

## (21) Subsequent Events

### *January 2024 Equity Distribution Agreement (CenterPoint Energy)*

On January 10, 2024, CenterPoint Energy entered into an Equity Distribution Agreement with certain financial institutions with respect to the offering and sale from time to time of shares of Common Stock, having an aggregate gross sales price of up to \$500 million. Sales of Common Stock may be made by any method permitted by applicable law and deemed to be an “at the market offering” as defined in Rule 415 of the Securities Act of 1933. CenterPoint Energy may also enter into one or more forward sales agreements pursuant to master forward confirmations. The offer and sale of Common Stock under the Equity Distribution Agreement will terminate upon the earliest of (1) the sale of all Common Stock subject to the Equity Distribution

Agreement, (2) termination of the Equity Distribution Agreement, or (3) May 17, 2026. As of February 20, 2024, CenterPoint Energy has not issued any shares of Common Stock under the Equity Distribution Agreement and has not entered into any forward sale agreements.

***Proposed Divestiture of Louisiana and Mississippi Natural Gas Local Distribution Companies (CenterPoint Energy and CERC)***

On February 19, 2024, CERC Corp. entered into the LAMS Asset Purchase Agreement, pursuant to which CERC Corp. has agreed to sell its Louisiana and Mississippi regulated natural gas local distribution company businesses. The purchase price for the Louisiana and Mississippi regulated natural gas local distribution company businesses is \$1.2 billion and subject to adjustment as set forth in the LAMS Asset Purchase Agreement, including adjustments based on net working capital, regulatory assets and liabilities and capital expenditures at closing. The completion of the proposed transaction is subject to customary closing conditions, including (i) the expiration or termination of the applicable waiting period under the Hart-Scott-Rodino Antitrust Improvements Act of 1976, as amended, (ii) approval of the LPSC, (iii) approval of the MPSC, (iv) no Material Adverse Effect (as defined in the LAMS Asset Purchase Agreement) having occurred, and (v) customary closing conditions regarding the accuracy of the representations and warranties and compliance by the parties with the respective obligations under the LAMS Asset Purchase Agreement. The proposed transaction is not subject to a financing condition and is expected to close by the end of the first quarter of 2025, subject to satisfaction of the foregoing conditions.

***Item 9. Changes in and Disagreements with Accountants on Accounting and Financial Disclosure***

None.

***Item 9A. Controls and Procedures***

**Disclosure Controls And Procedures**

In accordance with Exchange Act Rules 13a-15 and 15d-15, the Registrants carried out separate evaluations, under the supervision and with the participation of each company's management, including the principal executive officer and principal financial officer, of the effectiveness of the disclosure controls and procedures as of the end of the period covered by this report. Based on those evaluations, the principal executive officer and principal financial officer, in each case, concluded that the disclosure controls and procedures were effective as of December 31, 2023 to provide assurance that information required to be disclosed in the reports filed or submitted under the Exchange Act is recorded, processed, summarized and reported within the time periods specified in the SEC's rules and forms and such information is accumulated and communicated to management, including the principal executive officer and principal financial officer, as appropriate to allow timely decisions regarding disclosure.

There has been no change in the Registrants' internal controls over financial reporting that occurred during the three months ended December 31, 2023 that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, the Registrants' internal controls over financial reporting.

## Management's Annual Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting

The Registrants' management is responsible for establishing and maintaining adequate internal control over financial reporting. Internal control over financial reporting is defined in Rule 13a-15(f) or 15d-15(f) promulgated under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 as a process designed by, or under the supervision of, the Registrants' principal executive and principal financial officers and effected by CenterPoint Energy's board of directors, management and other personnel, to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of financial statements for external purposes in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles and includes those policies and procedures that:

- Pertain to the maintenance of records that in reasonable detail accurately and fairly reflect the transactions and dispositions of the assets of the Registrants;
- Provide reasonable assurance that transactions are recorded as necessary to permit preparation of financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles, and that receipts and expenditures of the Registrants are being made only in accordance with authorizations of management and directors of the Registrants; and
- Provide reasonable assurance regarding prevention or timely detection of unauthorized acquisition, use or disposition of the Registrants' assets that could have a material effect on the financial statements.

Management has designed its internal control over financial reporting to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Management's assessment included review and testing of both the design effectiveness and operating effectiveness of controls over all relevant assertions related to all significant accounts and disclosures in the financial statements.

All internal control systems, no matter how well designed, have inherent limitations. Therefore, even those systems determined to be effective can provide only reasonable assurance with respect to financial statement preparation and presentation. Projections of any evaluation of effectiveness to future periods are subject to the risk that controls may become inadequate because of changes in conditions, or that the degree of compliance with the policies or procedures may deteriorate.

Under the supervision and with the participation of the Registrants' management, including their respective principal executive officers and principal financial officers, the Registrants conducted an evaluation of the effectiveness of their internal control over financial reporting based on the framework in *Internal Control — Integrated Framework* (2013) issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission. Based on the Registrants' evaluation under the framework in *Internal Control — Integrated Framework* (2013), the Registrants' management has concluded, in each case, that their internal control over financial reporting was effective as of December 31, 2023.

Deloitte & Touche LLP, CenterPoint Energy's independent registered public accounting firm, has issued an attestation report on the effectiveness of CenterPoint Energy's internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2023 which is set forth below. This report is not applicable to Houston Electric or CERC as they are not accelerated or large accelerated filers.

## REPORT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM

To the Shareholders and Board of Directors of  
CenterPoint Energy, Inc.

### Opinion on Internal Control over Financial Reporting

We have audited the internal control over financial reporting of CenterPoint Energy, Inc. and subsidiaries (the “Company”) as of December 31, 2023, based on criteria established in *Internal Control — Integrated Framework (2013)* issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission (COSO). In our opinion, the Company maintained, in all material respects, effective internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2023, based on criteria established in *Internal Control — Integrated Framework (2013)* issued by COSO.

We have also audited, in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States) (PCAOB), the consolidated financial statements as of and for the year ended December 31, 2023, of the Company and our report dated February 20, 2024, expressed an unqualified opinion on those financial statements.

### Basis for Opinion

The Company’s management is responsible for maintaining effective internal control over financial reporting and for its assessment of the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting, included in the accompanying Management’s Annual Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the Company’s internal control over financial reporting based on our audit. We are a public accounting firm registered with the PCAOB and are required to be independent with respect to the Company in accordance with the U.S. federal securities laws and the applicable rules and regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission and the PCAOB.

We conducted our audit in accordance with the standards of the PCAOB. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether effective internal control over financial reporting was maintained in all material respects. Our audit included obtaining an understanding of internal control over financial reporting, assessing the risk that a material weakness exists, testing and evaluating the design and operating effectiveness of internal control based on the assessed risk, and performing such other procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

### Definition and Limitations of Internal Control over Financial Reporting

A company’s internal control over financial reporting is a process designed to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of financial statements for external purposes in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. A company’s internal control over financial reporting includes those policies and procedures that (1) pertain to the maintenance of records that, in reasonable detail, accurately and fairly reflect the transactions and dispositions of the assets of the company; (2) provide reasonable assurance that transactions are recorded as necessary to permit preparation of financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles, and that receipts and expenditures of the company are being made only in accordance with authorizations of management and directors of the company; and (3) provide reasonable assurance regarding prevention or timely detection of unauthorized acquisition, use, or disposition of the company’s assets that could have a material effect on the financial statements.

Because of its inherent limitations, internal control over financial reporting may not prevent or detect misstatements. Also, projections of any evaluation of effectiveness to future periods are subject to the risk that controls may become inadequate because of changes in conditions, or that the degree of compliance with the policies or procedures may deteriorate.

/s/ DELOITTE & TOUCHE LLP

Houston, Texas  
February 20, 2024

## Item 9B. Other Information

### *Amendments to Articles of Incorporation or Bylaws; Change in Fiscal Year (CenterPoint Energy)*

On February 16, 2024, CenterPoint Energy filed the following statements of resolutions with the Secretary of State of the State of Texas for the purpose of deleting the Series A Preferred Stock, the Series B Preferred Stock and the Series C Preferred Stock from CenterPoint Energy's Restated Articles of Incorporation:

- Statement of Resolutions Deleting Series of Shares designated Series A Fixed-to-Floating Rate Cumulative Redeemable Perpetual Preferred Stock of CenterPoint Energy, Inc. (the Series A Statement of Resolutions);
- Statement of Resolutions Deleting Series of Shares designated 7.00% Series B Mandatory Convertible Preferred Stock of CenterPoint Energy, Inc. (the Series B Statement of Resolutions); and
- Statement of Resolutions Deleting Series of Shares designated Series C Mandatory Convertible Preferred Stock of CenterPoint Energy, Inc. (the Series C Statement of Resolutions and, collectively with the Series A Statement of Resolutions and the Series B Statement of Resolutions, the Statements of Resolutions).

None of the previously issued shares of Series A Preferred Stock, Series B Preferred Stock or Series C Preferred Stock remained outstanding prior to filing the Statements of Resolutions.

Effective upon filing, the Statements of Resolutions deleted all references to the Series A Preferred Stock, the Series B Preferred Stock and the Series C Preferred Stock contained in CenterPoint Energy's Restated Articles of Incorporation. The shares that were designated to such series were returned to the status of authorized but unissued shares of preferred stock, par value \$0.01 per share, of CenterPoint Energy, without designation as to series.

Copies of the Series A Statement of Resolutions, the Series B Statement of Resolutions and the Series C Statement of Resolutions are filed as Exhibits 3(m), 3(n) and 3(o), respectively, and are incorporated herein by reference.

Effective February 16, 2024, the Board amended and restated CenterPoint Energy's bylaws (the Bylaws). The Bylaws include, among other things, the following changes:

- revise procedures and disclosure for the nomination of directors and the submission of proposals for consideration at meetings of the shareholders of CenterPoint Energy, including, among other things, (x) consolidating the advance notice provisions applicable to all proposals (i.e., director nominations, proposals to amend CenterPoint Energy's bylaws, proposals to remove directors and all other proposals (other than "proxy access" nominations and shareholder proposals made pursuant to Section 14a-8 of the Securities and Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the "Exchange Act"))) into a single section and (y) adding a requirement that a shareholder seeking to nominate director(s) at an annual meeting deliver to CenterPoint Energy reasonable evidence that it has complied with the requirements of Rule 14a-19 of the Exchange Act within eight business days of the meeting;
- clarify that for the applicability of the majority voting standard for uncontested elections of directors, an election remains "contested" (and the plurality voting standard applies) even if the Board determines that a shareholder's nomination notice does not comply with the advance notice bylaws;
- adopt a forum selection bylaw to provide that the U.S. federal district courts shall be the exclusive forum for the resolution of claims under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended; and
- make certain administrative, modernizing, clarifying and conforming changes, including (x) making updates to reflect amendments to the Texas Business Organizations Code, as amended, (y) expressly providing that meetings of shareholders may be held in whole or in part by means of remote communications in accordance with applicable law and (z) adopting gender-neutral terms when referring to particular positions, offices or title holders, including the adoption of the title Chair in place of Chairman.

The foregoing description of the terms of the Bylaws does not purport to be complete and is subject to, and qualified in its entirety by, reference to the complete text of the Bylaws. The Bylaws, along with a copy marked to show changes from the prior version, are included as Exhibits 3(h) and 3(i), respectively, to this Annual Report on Form 10-K and incorporated by reference herein.

### *Compensatory Arrangements of Certain Officers (CenterPoint Energy)*

On February 15, 2024, the Compensation Committee approved new forms of award agreement under CenterPoint Energy's LTIP for restricted stock unit awards and performance unit awards.

The newly approved forms of award agreement for officers and director employees revise and simplify the retirement provisions by adopting a single retirement provision that provides the opportunity for full vesting if the award was granted prior to the calendar year of the participant's retirement or pro-rata vesting if the award was granted in the calendar year of the participant's retirement, in all cases subject to achievement of the relevant performance metrics. To be eligible for such retirement vesting, the participant must (i) be at least 55 years old with a sum of age and years of service of 65 or greater, (ii) provide at least three months' written notice (or reasonable advance written notice for officers subject to Section 16 of the Exchange Act) of retirement, and (iii) provide a comprehensive transition plan. In addition, for officers subject to Section 16 of the Exchange Act, eligibility for retirement vesting is subject to approval by the Compensation Committee.

In addition, the newly approved forms of award agreement revised the non-solicitation and confidentiality provisions to reflect changes in the law.

The description of the forms of award agreement are qualified in their entirety by reference to the full text of the respective form award agreement, which are included as Exhibits 10(cc)(13), 10(cc)(14), and 10(cc)(15).

On February 15, 2024, the Compensation Committee also approved 3-year ratable vesting for annual restricted stock unit awards under which one third (1/3) of the underlying units vest and are payable as of the first three anniversaries of the grant date, subject to the participant's continued employment and achievement of the applicable performance goal. The Compensation Committee also approved a price-to-earnings (P/E) modifier to performance share unit awards under the Company's LTIP based on total shareholder return. Under the P/E modifier, if CenterPoint Energy's P/E ratio ranks in the top quartile of CenterPoint Energy's peer group, a P/E modifier will apply that provides for a minimum 75% payout level for the award regardless of the level of total shareholder return performance achieved. This vesting schedule and the P/E modifier does not apply to previously granted awards.

### *Rule 10b5-1 Trading Arrangements*

During the three months ended December 31, 2023, no director or officer of CenterPoint Energy, Houston Electric or CERC adopted or terminated a "Rule 10b5-1 trading arrangement" or "non-Rule 10b5-1 trading arrangement," as each term is defined in Item 408 of Regulation S-K.

### **Item 9C. *Disclosure Regarding Foreign Jurisdictions that Prevent Inspections***

Not Applicable.

## **PART III**

### **Item 10. *Directors, Executive Officers and Corporate Governance***

For CenterPoint Energy, the information called for by Item 10, to the extent not set forth in "Information About Our Executive Officers" in Item 1 of Part I of this report, will be set forth in the definitive proxy statement relating to CenterPoint Energy's 2024 annual meeting of shareholders pursuant to SEC Regulation 14A. Such definitive proxy statement relates to a meeting of shareholders involving the election of directors and the portions thereof called for by Item 10 are incorporated herein by reference pursuant to Instruction G to Form 10-K.

For Houston Electric and CERC, the information called for by Item 10 is omitted pursuant to Instruction I(2) to Form 10-K (Omission of Information by Certain Wholly-Owned Subsidiaries).

### **Item 11. *Executive Compensation***

For CenterPoint Energy, the information called for by Item 11 will be set forth in the definitive proxy statement relating to CenterPoint Energy's 2024 annual meeting of shareholders pursuant to SEC Regulation 14A. Such definitive proxy statement relates to a meeting of shareholders involving the election of directors and the portions thereof called for by Item 11 are incorporated herein by reference pursuant to Instruction G to Form 10-K.

For Houston Electric and CERC, the information called for by Item 11 is omitted pursuant to Instruction I(2) to Form 10-K (Omission of Information by Certain Wholly-Owned Subsidiaries).

**Item 12. Security Ownership of Certain Beneficial Owners and Management and Related Stockholder Matters**

For CenterPoint Energy, the information called for by Item 12 will be set forth in the definitive proxy statement relating to CenterPoint Energy’s 2024 annual meeting of shareholders pursuant to SEC Regulation 14A. Such definitive proxy statement relates to a meeting of shareholders involving the election of directors and the portions thereof called for by Item 12 are incorporated herein by reference pursuant to Instruction G to Form 10-K.

For Houston Electric and CERC, the information called for by Item 12 is omitted pursuant to Instruction I(2) to Form 10-K (Omission of Information by Certain Wholly-Owned Subsidiaries).

**Item 13. Certain Relationships and Related Transactions, and Director Independence**

For CenterPoint Energy, the information called for by Item 13 will be set forth in the definitive proxy statement relating to CenterPoint Energy’s 2024 annual meeting of shareholders pursuant to SEC Regulation 14A. Such definitive proxy statement relates to a meeting of shareholders involving the election of directors and the portions thereof called for by Item 13 are incorporated herein by reference pursuant to Instruction G to Form 10-K.

For Houston Electric and CERC, the information called for by Item 13 is omitted pursuant to Instruction I(2) to Form 10-K (Omission of Information by Certain Wholly-Owned Subsidiaries).

**Item 14. Principal Accounting Fees and Services**

For CenterPoint Energy, the information called for by Item 14 will be set forth in the definitive proxy statement relating to CenterPoint Energy’s 2024 annual meeting of shareholders pursuant to SEC Regulation 14A. Such definitive proxy statement relates to a meeting of shareholders involving the election of directors and the portions thereof called for by Item 14 are incorporated herein by reference pursuant to Instruction G to Form 10-K.

Aggregate fees billed to Houston Electric and CERC during the years ended December 31, 2023 and 2022 by their principal accounting firm, Deloitte & Touche LLP, are set forth below.

|  | Year Ended December 31, |                     |                     |                     |
|--|-------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
|  | 2023                    |                     | 2022                |                     |
|  | Houston Electric        | CERC                | Houston Electric    | CERC                |
| Audit fees (1) .....                     | \$ 843,661              | \$ 1,155,700        | \$ 708,180          | \$ 965,700          |
| Audit-related fees (2) .....             | 530,000                 | 410,000             | 435,000             | 559,000             |
| Total audit and audit-related fees ..... | 1,373,661               | 1,565,700           | 1,143,180           | 1,524,700           |
| Tax fees .....                           | —                       | —                   | —                   | —                   |
| All other fees .....                     | —                       | —                   | —                   | —                   |
| Total fees .....                         | <u>\$ 1,373,661</u>     | <u>\$ 1,565,700</u> | <u>\$ 1,143,180</u> | <u>\$ 1,524,700</u> |

- (1) For 2023 and 2022, amounts include fees for services provided by the principal accounting firm relating to the integrated audit of financial statements and internal control over financial reporting, statutory audits, attest services, and regulatory filings.
- (2) For 2023 and 2022, amounts include fees for consultations concerning financial accounting and reporting standards and various agreed-upon or expanded procedures related to accounting records to comply with financial accounting or regulatory reporting matters.

Houston Electric and CERC each are not required to have, and do not have, an audit committee.



## PART IV

### Item 15. Exhibits and Financial Statement Schedules

#### (a)(1) Financial Statements.

##### CenterPoint Energy

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| Combined Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements .....   | 107 |

The financial statements of Enable Midstream Partners, LP required pursuant to Rule 3-09 of Regulation S-X are included in this filing for CenterPoint Energy as Exhibit 99.1.

#### (a)(2) Financial Statement Schedules for the Three Years Ended December 31, 2023

The following schedules are omitted by the Registrants because of the absence of the conditions under which they are required or because the required information is included in the financial statements:

I, II, III, IV and V.

#### (a)(3) Exhibits.

See Index of Exhibits in CenterPoint Energy's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2023 filed with the SEC on February 20, 2024, which can be found on CenterPoint Energy's website at [www.centerpointenergy.com/investors](http://www.centerpointenergy.com/investors) and at [www.sec.gov](http://www.sec.gov).

### Item 16. Form 10-K Summary

None.

## SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the Registrants have duly caused this report to be signed on their behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized, in the City of Houston, the State of Texas, on the 20th day of February, 2024.

**CENTERPOINT ENERGY, INC.**  
(Registrant)

By: /s/ JASON P. WELLS  
Jason P. Wells  
*President and Chief Executive Officer*

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, this report has been signed below by the following persons on behalf of the registrant and in the capacities indicated on February 20, 2024.

| <u>Signature</u>  | <u>Title</u>   |
|---|--|
| <u>/s/ JASON P. WELLS</u><br>Jason P. Wells                       | President, Chief Executive Officer and<br>Director (Principal Executive Officer and Director)                    |
| <u>/s/ CHRISTOPHER A. FOSTER</u><br>Christopher A. Foster         | Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer<br>(Principal Financial Officer)                            |
| <u>/s/ KRISTIE L. COLVIN</u><br>Kristie L. Colvin                 | Senior Vice President and Chief Accounting Officer<br>(Duly Authorized Officer and Principal Accounting Officer) |
| <u>/s/ WENDOLYNN MONTOYA CLOONAN</u><br>Wendolynn Montoya Cloonan | Director   |
| <u>/s/ EARL M. CUMMINGS</u><br>Earl M. Cummings                   | Director   |
| <u>/s/ CHRISTOPHER H. FRANKLIN</u><br>Christopher H. Franklin     | Director   |
| <u>/s/ RAQUELLE W. LEWIS</u><br>Raquelle W. Lewis                 | Director   |
| <u>/s/ THADDEUS J. MALIK</u><br>Thaddeus J. Malik                 | Director   |
| <u>/s/ THEODORE F. POUND</u><br>Theodore F. Pound                 | Director   |
| <u>/s/ RICKY A. RAVEN</u><br>Ricky A. Raven                       | Director   |
| <u>/s/ PHILLIP R. SMITH</u><br>Phillip R. Smith                   | Director   |
| <u>/s/ BARRY T. SMITHERMAN</u><br>Barry T. Smitherman             | Director   |

**CENTERPOINT ENERGY HOUSTON ELECTRIC, LLC**  
(Registrant)

By: \_\_\_\_\_ /s/ LYNNAE K. WILSON

Lynnae K. Wilson

*President and Chief Executive Officer*

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, this report has been signed below by the following persons on behalf of the registrant and in the capacities indicated on February 20, 2024.

| Signature   | Title  |
|---|--|
| <hr/><br>/s/ LYNNAE K. WILSON<br>Lynnae K. Wilson           | Manager, President, and Chief Executive Officer<br>(Principal Executive Officer)                                 |
| <hr/><br>/s/ CHRISTOPHER A. FOSTER<br>Christopher A. Foster | Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer<br>(Principal Financial Officer)                            |
| <hr/><br>/s/ KRISTIE L. COLVIN<br>Kristie L. Colvin         | Senior Vice President and Chief Accounting Officer<br>(Duly Authorized Officer and Principal Accounting Officer) |

**CENTERPOINT ENERGY RESOURCES CORP.**  
(Registrant)

By: \_\_\_\_\_ /s/ DARIN M. CARROLL

Darin M. Carroll

*President and Chief Executive Officer*

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, this report has been signed below by the following persons on behalf of the registrant and in the capacities indicated on February 20, 2024.

| Signature   | Title  |
|---|--|
| <hr/><br>/s/ DARIN M. CARROLL<br>Darin M. Carroll           | Chairman, President, and Chief Executive Officer<br>(Principal Executive Officer and Director)                   |
| <hr/><br>/s/ CHRISTOPHER A. FOSTER<br>Christopher A. Foster | Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer<br>(Principal Financial Officer)                            |
| <hr/><br>/s/ KRISTIE L. COLVIN<br>Kristie L. Colvin         | Senior Vice President and Chief Accounting Officer<br>(Duly Authorized Officer and Principal Accounting Officer) |

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# Company Leadership

## Senior Leaders



**Jason P. Wells**  
*President &  
Chief Executive Officer*



**Christopher A. Foster**  
*Executive Vice President &  
Chief Financial Officer*



**Lynne Harkel-Rumford**  
*Executive Vice President &  
Chief Human Resources Officer*



**Monica Karuturi**  
*Executive Vice President &  
General Counsel*



**Jason M. Ryan**  
*Executive Vice President,  
Regulatory Services &  
Government Affairs*

## Board of Directors



**Phillip R. Smith**



**Wendy Montoya Cloonan**



**Earl M. Cummings**



**Christopher H. Franklin**



**Raquelle W. Lewis**



**Thaddeus J. Malik**



**Martin H. Nesbitt**



**Theodore F. Pound**



**Ricky A. Raven**



**Barry T. Smitherman**



**Jason P. Wells**



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