

PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT NO. 8
 (TO PROSPECTUS DATED DECEMBER 4, 2003)

(CENTERPOINT ENERGY LOGO)

\$575,000,000
 3.75% Convertible Senior Notes due 2023
 and
 Common Stock Issuable Upon Conversion of the Notes

This document supplements our prospectus dated December 4, 2003, relating to \$575,000,000 aggregate principal amount of our 3.75% Convertible Senior Notes Due 2023 and the common stock issuable upon conversion of the notes. You should read this prospectus supplement in conjunction with the accompanying prospectus, which is to be delivered by selling securityholders to prospective purchasers along with this prospectus supplement. The information in the following table supplements the information set forth under the caption "Selling Security Holders" in the prospectus.

PRINCIPAL
 AMOUNT OF
 NUMBER OF
 SHARES NOTES
 BENEFICIALLY
 PERCENTAGE OF
 OF COMMON STOCK
 PERCENTAGE OF
 OWNED THAT MAY
 NOTES THAT
 COMMON STOCK
 NAME BE SOLD
 OUTSTANDING MAY
 BE SOLD
 OUTSTANDING (1)

Banc of America Securities LLC(2) \$
3,000,000 *	
259,068 *	
Highbridge International LLC(3)
\$30,000,000	
5.22% 2,590,674	*

* Less than 1%

- (1) Calculated using 306,077,942 shares of common stock outstanding as of November 3, 2003. In calculating this amount for each holder, we treated as outstanding the number of shares of common stock issuable upon conversion of all of that holder's notes, but we did not assume conversion of any other holder's notes.
- (2) Banc of America Securities LLC was one of the initial purchasers in connection with the private placement of the notes in May 2003.
- (3) Highbridge International LLC also beneficially owns an additional \$17,000,000 principal amount of our 3.75% Convertible Senior Notes due 2023 and \$25,000,000 principal amount of our 2.875% Convertible Senior Notes due 2024 issued in a private placement in December 2003.

INVESTING IN THE NOTES INVOLVES RISKS. SEE "RISK FACTORS" BEGINNING ON PAGE 10 OF THE ACCOMPANYING PROSPECTUS.

NEITHER THE SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION NOR ANY STATE SECURITIES COMMISSION HAS APPROVED OR DISAPPROVED OF THESE SECURITIES OR PASSED UPON THE ADEQUACY OR ACCURACY OF THIS PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT OR THE ACCOMPANYING

PROSPECTUS. ANY REPRESENTATION TO THE CONTRARY IS A CRIMINAL OFFENSE.

The date of this prospectus supplement is February 27, 2004.

