



CenterPoint Energy Reports Second Quarter 2005 Earnings

HOUSTON, Aug 08, 2005 /PRNewswire-FirstCall via COMTEX/ -- CenterPoint Energy, Inc. (NYSE: CNP) today reported net income of \$54 million, or \$0.16 per diluted share, for the second quarter of 2005 compared to \$57 million, or \$0.19 per diluted share, for the same period of 2004.

(Logo: <http://www.newscom.com/cgi-bin/prnh/20020930/CNPLOGO>)

Net income for the second quarter of 2005 included an extraordinary gain of \$30 million, or \$0.08 per diluted share, reflecting an adjustment to the extraordinary loss recorded in the second half of 2004 to write-down generation-related regulatory assets as a result of the final orders issued by the Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUC). In addition, net income for the second quarter of 2005 included a loss of \$3 million, or \$0.01 per diluted share, from discontinued operations compared to income of \$60 million, or \$0.20 per diluted share, from discontinued operations for the second quarter of 2004.

Income from continuing operations before extraordinary item for the second quarter of 2005 was \$27 million, or \$0.09 per diluted share, compared to a loss of \$3 million, or \$0.01 per diluted share, for the second quarter of 2004. The second quarter of 2005 included after-tax income of \$23 million, or \$0.06 per diluted share, related to interest on the company's authorized true-up balance.

"Our core energy delivery businesses had another quarter of solid operating and financial performance," said David M. McClanahan, president and chief executive officer of CenterPoint Energy. "We continue to make good progress towards enhancing the performance of each of our core businesses and positioning them for the future. I am also pleased that a final order from the Texas Public Utility Commission will allow us to begin recovering a portion of our stranded cost true-up balance through a competition transition charge to be implemented in the fall."

For the six months ended June 30, 2005, net income was \$121 million, or \$0.35 per diluted share, compared to \$131 million, or \$0.42 per diluted share, for the same period of 2004. Net income for the six months ended June 30, 2005, included the extraordinary gain of \$30 million, or \$0.08 per diluted share, reflecting the adjustment to the extraordinary loss discussed above. In addition, net income for the six months ended June 30, 2005, included a loss of \$3 million, or \$0.01 per diluted share, from discontinued operations compared to income of \$105 million, or \$0.34 per diluted share, from discontinued operations for the same period of 2004.

Income from continuing operations before extraordinary item for the six months ended June 30, 2005, was \$94 million, or \$0.28 per diluted share, compared to \$26 million, or \$0.08 per diluted share, for the same period of 2004. The six months ended June 30, 2005, included after-tax income of \$45 million, or \$0.13 per diluted share, related to interest on the company's authorized true-up balance.

OPERATING INCOME BY SEGMENT DETAILED

Electric Transmission & Distribution

The electric transmission & distribution segment reported operating income of \$122 million in the second quarter of 2005, consisting of \$113 million for the regulated electric transmission & distribution utility (TDU) and \$9 million for the transition bond company, which is an amount sufficient to pay interest on the transition bonds. Operating income for the second quarter of 2004 totaled \$127 million, consisting of \$118 million for the TDU and \$9 million for the transition bond company.

The TDU's revenues continued to benefit from solid customer growth, with over 48,000 metered customers added since June 30, 2004. Revenues also increased from favorable weather, increased usage and higher transmission cost recovery. Operation and maintenance expenses for the second quarter of 2004 reflected the impact of a \$15 million partial reversal of a reserve related to the final fuel reconciliation of the formerly integrated electric utility. Excluding this impact, operation and maintenance expenses were \$13 million greater than the prior year primarily due to higher tree trimming and transmission costs. Reduced pension expenses partially offset other expense increases. Taxes other than income taxes increased primarily due to higher state and local taxes.

Operating income for the six months ended June 30, 2005, was \$202 million, consisting of \$184 million for the TDU and \$18 million for the transition bond company. Operating income for the same period of 2004 totaled \$212 million, consisting of \$193

million for the TDU and \$19 million for the transition bond company.

Natural Gas Distribution

The natural gas distribution segment reported operating income of \$19 million for the second quarter of 2005, compared to \$23 million for the same period of 2004. The impacts of rate increases, continued customer growth with the addition of nearly 47,000 customers since June 30, 2004, and higher income from the company's competitive natural gas sales business were offset by decreased throughput. Operation and maintenance expenses remained flat in the second quarter of 2005 compared to the same period of 2004, primarily due to a decrease in benefit and pension expenses and the capitalization of previously incurred restructuring expenses as allowed by a recent regulatory order, which offset other expense increases. Depreciation expense increased in the quarter compared to the prior year due to higher plant balances.

Operating income for the six months ended June 30, 2005, was \$158 million compared to \$140 million for the same period of 2004.

Pipelines and Gathering

The pipelines and gathering segment reported operating income of \$52 million for the second quarter of 2005 compared to \$42 million for the same period of 2004. The improvement in operating income for the quarter, largely driven by continuing favorable market dynamics, resulted primarily from higher operating margins in the pipeline business driven by increased demand for transportation and ancillary services. In addition, the company's core gas gathering operations benefited from increased throughput and demand for its services.

Operating income for the six months ended June 30, 2005, was \$116 million compared to \$87 million for the same period of 2004.

Other Operations

The company's other operations reported an operating loss of \$7 million for the second quarter of 2005 compared to an operating loss of \$6 million for the same period of 2004.

The operating loss for the six months ended June 30, 2005, was \$14 million compared to an operating loss of \$13 million for the same period of 2004.

PARTIAL RECOVERY OF TRUE-UP BALANCE

On July 14, 2005, the company received an order from the PUC allowing it to impose a competition transition charge (CTC) on retail electric providers to collect a portion of its approved true-up balance totaling approximately \$570 million over 14 years, plus interest at an annual rate of 11.075 percent. Based on the accrual of interest provided for in the CTC order, the company expects that this amount will increase to approximately \$600 million by the end of the third quarter, which is when the CTC is expected to be implemented. The CTC order also allows the company to collect approximately \$24 million of rate case expenses over three years. The company cannot implement the CTC until the PUC takes final action on the motions for rehearing.

NEW CREDIT FACILITY

In June 2005, the company's natural gas distribution, pipelines and gathering operations subsidiary, CenterPoint Energy Resources, Corp. (CERC), closed on a five-year, \$400 million revolving bank credit facility, replacing a three-year, \$250 million facility due to mature in 2007. The new facility has a fully drawn cost of LIBOR plus 65 basis points at existing credit ratings, versus LIBOR plus 150 basis points for the facility it replaced.

WEBCAST OF EARNINGS CONFERENCE CALL

CenterPoint Energy's management will host an earnings conference call on Monday, August 8, 2005, at 10:30 a.m. Central time or 11:30 a.m. Eastern time. Interested parties may listen to a live, audio broadcast of the conference call at <http://www.CenterPointEnergy.com/investors/events>. A replay of the call can be accessed approximately two hours after the completion of the call, and will be archived on the web site for at least one year.

CenterPoint Energy, Inc., headquartered in Houston, Texas, is a domestic energy delivery company that includes electric transmission & distribution, natural gas distribution and sales, interstate pipeline and gathering operations. The company serves nearly five million metered customers primarily in Arkansas, Louisiana, Minnesota, Mississippi, Oklahoma, and Texas. Assets total approximately \$16 billion. With more than 9,000 employees, CenterPoint Energy and its predecessor companies have been in business for more than 130 years. For more information, visit the Web site at <http://www.CenterPointEnergy.com>.

This news release includes forward-looking statements. Actual events and results may differ materially from those projected. The statements in this news release regarding future financial performance and results of operations and other statements that are not historical facts are forward-looking statements. Factors that could affect actual results include the timing and outcome of the true-up proceeding and any legal proceedings related thereto, the timing and impact of future regulatory and legislative decisions, effects of competition, weather variations, changes in CenterPoint Energy's or its subsidiaries' business plans, financial market conditions, the timing and extent of changes in commodity prices, particularly natural gas, the impact of unplanned facility outages and other factors discussed in CenterPoint Energy's and its subsidiaries' Form 10-Ks for the period ended December 31, 2004, Form 10-Qs for the periods ended March 31, 2005 and June 30, 2005, and other filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

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

	Quarter Ended		Six Months Ended	
	June 30,		June 30,	
	2005	2004	2005	2004
Revenues:				
Electric Transmission & Distribution	\$414,057	\$375,250	\$759,051	\$705,563
Natural Gas Distribution	1,429,692	1,244,985	3,759,924	3,376,317
Pipelines and Gathering	125,015	113,397	245,796	215,800
Other Operations	4,010	2,891	10,689	5,780
Eliminations	(40,518)	(36,141)	(81,396)	(75,260)
Total	1,932,256	1,700,382	4,694,064	4,228,200
Expenses:				
Natural gas	1,192,626	1,010,613	3,140,962	2,772,490
Operation and maintenance	324,776	297,638	637,847	613,480
Depreciation and amortization	135,837	120,074	265,610	236,292
Taxes other than income taxes	92,705	86,176	187,366	180,164
Total	1,745,944	1,514,501	4,231,785	3,802,426
Operating Income	186,312	185,881	462,279	425,774
Other Income (Expense):				
Gain (loss) on Time Warner investment	(18,177)	15,581	(59,291)	(8,872)
Gain (loss) on indexed debt securities	23,819	(17,891)	63,348	9,123
Interest and other finance charges	(179,652)	(188,984)	(352,992)	(371,957)
Interest on transition bonds	(9,077)	(9,547)	(18,297)	(19,221)
Return on true-up balance	35,475	---	69,557	---
Other - net	6,936	12,425	10,748	13,932
Total	(140,676)	(188,416)	(286,927)	(376,995)
Income (Loss) from Continuing Operations Before Income Taxes and Extraordinary Item	45,636	(2,535)	175,352	48,779
Income Tax Expense	(17,931)	(191)	(80,995)	(22,607)
Income (Loss) from Continuing Operations Before Extraordinary Item	27,705	(2,726)	94,357	26,172
Discontinued Operations:				

Income (Loss) from Texas Genco, net of tax	(2,988)	75,636	10,685	131,922
Minority Interest related to Texas Genco, net of tax	---	(15,258)	---	(26,855)
Loss on Disposal of Texas Genco, net of tax	(735)	---	(13,972)	---
Total	(3,723)	60,378	(3,287)	105,067
Income Before Extraordinary Item	23,982	57,652	91,070	131,239
Extraordinary Item, net of tax	30,441	---	30,441	---
Net Income	\$54,423	\$57,652	\$121,511	\$131,239

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

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

	Quarter Ended June 30,		Six Months Ended June 30,	
	2005	2004	2005	2004
Basic Earnings Per Common Share:				
Income (Loss) from Continuing Operations	\$0.09	\$(0.01)	\$0.30	\$0.09
Income (Loss) from Discontinued Operations	(0.01)	0.20	(0.01)	0.34
Extraordinary Item, net of tax	0.10	---	0.10	---
Net Income	\$0.18	\$0.19	\$0.39	\$0.43
Diluted Earnings Per Common Share:				
Income from Continuing Operations	\$0.09	\$(0.01)	\$0.28	\$0.08
Income (Loss) from Discontinued Operations	(0.01)	0.20	(0.01)	0.34
Extraordinary Item, net of tax	0.08	---	0.08	---
Net Income	\$0.16	\$0.19	\$0.35	\$0.42
Dividends Declared per Common Share	\$0.07 (A)	\$0.10	\$0.27 (A)	\$0.20
Weighted Average Common Shares Outstanding (000):				
- Basic	309,098	307,250	308,786	306,631
- Diluted	361,436	309,638	361,076	308,977
Operating Income (Loss) by Segment				

Electric Transmission & Distribution:				
Transmission & Distribution Operations	\$113,190	\$117,822	\$183,799	\$193,129
Transition Bond Company	8,932	9,498	18,015	19,106
Total Electric Transmission & Distribution	122,122	127,320	201,814	212,235
Natural Gas Distribution	19,038	22,775	158,531	139,399
Pipelines and Gathering	52,079	42,236	116,110	87,092
Other Operations	(6,927)	(6,450)	(14,176)	(12,952)
Total	\$186,312	\$185,881	\$462,279	\$425,774

(A) On January 26, 2005, the Company's board of directors declared a dividend of \$0.10 per share of common stock payable on March 10, 2005 to shareholders of record as of the close of business on February 16, 2005. On March 3, 2005, the Company's board of directors declared a dividend of \$0.10 per share of common stock payable on March 31, 2005 to shareholders of record as of the close of business on March 16, 2005. This additional first quarter dividend was declared in lieu of the regular second quarter dividend to address technical restrictions that might limit the Company's ability to pay a regular dividend during the second quarter of this year. On June 2, 2005, the Company's board of directors declared a dividend of \$0.07 per share of common stock payable on June 30, 2005 to shareholders of record as of the close of business on June 15, 2005.

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

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

Electric Transmission & Distribution							
Quarter Ended		Six Months Ended					
June 30,		% Diff		June 30,		% Diff	
-----		Fav/		-----		Fav/	
2005	2004	(Unfav)		2005	2004	(Unfav)	
-----		-----		-----		-----	

Results of Operations:

Electric transmission and distribution revenues	\$388	\$357	9%	\$711	\$672	6%
Electric transmission and distribution expenses:						
Operation and maintenance	153	125	(22%)	291	258	(13%)
Depreciation and amortization	64	63	(2%)	128	123	(4%)
Taxes other than income taxes	58	51	(14%)	108	98	(10%)
Total electric transmission and distribution expenses	275	239	(15%)	527	479	(10%)
Operating Income - Electric transmission and distribution utility	113	118	(4%)	184	193	(5%)

Operating Income - Transition bond company	9	9	---	18	19	(5%)
Total Segment Operating Income	\$122	\$127	(4%)	\$202	\$212	(5%)

Electric Transmission & Distribution Operating Data:	Quarter Ended June 30,			Six Months Ended June 30,		
Actual MWH Delivered	2005	2004		2005	2004	
Residential	6,593,895	5,800,958	14%	10,735,559	10,202,783	5%
Total	18,956,313	18,545,202	2%	34,782,627	34,065,288	2%

Weather (average for service area): Percentage of normal:						
Cooling degree days	103%	100%	3%	105%	100%	5%
Heating degree days	47%	100%	(53%)	76%	86%	(10%)

Average number of metered customers:						
Residential	1,675,573	1,634,202	3%	1,668,447	1,628,074	2%
Total	1,904,090	1,856,846	3%	1,895,556	1,849,762	2%

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

	Natural Gas Distribution					
	Quarter Ended			Six Months Ended		
	June 30,	% Diff		June 30,	% Diff	
		Fav/			Fav/	
	2005	2004 (Unfav)		2005	2004 (Unfav)	
Results of Operations:						
Revenues	\$1,430	\$1,245	15%	\$3,760	\$3,376	11%
Expenses:						
Natural gas	1,213	1,027	(18%)	3,188	2,816	(13%)
Operation						
and maintenance	133	133	---	273	283	4%
Depreciation						
and amortization	39	35	(11%)	77	70	(10%)
Taxes other than						
income taxes	26	27	4%	64	67	4%
Total	1,411	1,222	(15%)	3,602	3,236	(11%)
Operating Income	\$19	\$23	(17%)	\$158	\$140	13%

Natural Gas Distribution Operating Data:						
Throughput data in BCF						
Residential	21	21	---	98	106	(8%)
Commercial and Industrial	43	49	(12%)	120	132	(9%)

Non-rate regulated	148	167 (11%)	331	306	8%
Elimination	(29)	(63) 54%	(78)	(73)	(7%)
Total Throughput	183	174 5%	471	471	---

Weather (average for service area)

Percentage of normal:

Heating degree days	86%	92% (6%)	91%	96% (5%)
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Average number

of customers:

Residential	2,833,773	2,793,297	1%	2,842,645	2,802,379	1%
Commercial and Industrial	246,032	242,111	2%	247,429	244,388	1%
Non-rate regulated	6,533	6,265	4%	6,522	6,228	5%
Total	3,086,338	3,041,673	1%	3,096,596	3,052,995	1%

Pipelines and Gathering

	Quarter Ended		% Diff Fav/ (Unfav)	Six Months Ended		% Diff Fav/ (Unfav)
	June 30, 2005	June 30, 2004		June 30, 2005	June 30, 2004	
Results of Operations:						
Revenues	\$125	\$113	11%	\$246	\$216	14%
Expenses:						
Natural gas	18	18	---	25	28	11%
Operation and maintenance	40	37	(8%)	74	70	(6%)
Depreciation and amortization	11	11	---	22	22	---
Taxes other than income taxes	4	5	20%	9	9	---
Total	73	71	(3%)	130	129	(1%)
Operating Income	\$52	\$42	24%	\$116	\$87	33%

Pipelines and Gathering

Operating Data:

Throughput data in BCF

Natural Gas Sales	3	4 (25%)	4	7 (43%)
Transportation	230	207 11%	501	477 5%
Gathering	87	79 10%	170	154 10%
Elimination	(2)	(3) 33%	(3)	(5) 40%
Total Throughput	318	287 11%	672	633 6%

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

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

Other Operations

Quarter Ended	Six Months Ended
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	June 30,		% Diff	June 30,		% Diff
	-----	-----	Fav/	-----	-----	Fav/
	2005	2004	(Unfav)	2005	2004	(Unfav)
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Results of Operations:						
Revenues	\$4	\$3	33%	\$11	\$6	83%
Expenses	11	9	(22%)	25	19	(32%)
Operating Loss	\$(7)	\$(6)	(17%)	\$(14)	\$(13)	(8%)

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

	Quarter Ended		Six Months Ended	
	June 30,		June 30,	
	2005	2004	2005	2004
Capital Expenditures by Segment				
Electric Transmission & Distribution	\$87	\$52	\$142	\$94
Natural Gas Distribution	56	43	96	80
Pipelines and Gathering	31	9	53	24
Other Operations	5	7	10	12
Total	\$179	\$111	\$301	\$210

Interest Expense Detail
(Millions of Dollars)
(Unaudited)

	Quarter Ended		Six Months Ended	
	June 30,		June 30,	
	-----	-----	-----	-----
	2005	2004	2005	2004
	-----	-----	-----	-----
Interest Expense Detail				
Amortization of Deferred Financing Cost	\$19	\$22	\$39	\$44
Capitalization of Interest Cost	(1)	(1)	(2)	(2)
Transition Bond Interest Expense	9	9	18	18
Other Interest Expense	161	168	316	331
Total Interest Expense	188	198	371	391
Amortization of Deferred Financing Cost				
Reclassified to Discontinued Operations	---	1	---	2
Other Interest Reclassified to Discontinued Operations	---	11	---	22
Total Interest Reclassified to Discontinued Operations (A)	---	12	---	24
Interest Expense Incurred by				
Discontinued Operations	---	---	1	---
Total Expense in Discontinued Operations	---	12	1	24
Total Interest Expense Incurred	\$188	\$210	\$372	\$415

(A) In accordance with Emerging Issues Task Force Issue No. 87-24

Allocation of Interest to Discontinued Operations", in 2004, we have reclassified interest to discontinued operations of Texas Genco based on net proceeds received from the sale of Texas Genco of \$2.5 billion, and have applied the proceeds to the amount of debt assumed to be paid down in 2004 according to the terms of the respective credit facilities in effect for that period. In periods where only the term loan was assumed to be repaid, the actual interest paid was reclassified. In periods where a portion of the revolver was assumed to be repaid, the percentage of that portion of the revolver to the total outstanding balance was calculated, and that percentage was applied to the actual interest paid in those periods to compute the amount of interest reclassified.

Total interest expense was \$188 million and \$210 million for the three months ended June 30, 2005 and 2004, respectively, and \$372 million and \$415 million for the six months ended June 30, 2005 and 2004, respectively. Interest expense of \$12 million for the three months ended June 30, 2004, and \$24 million for the six months ended June 30, 2004, was reclassified to discontinued operations of Texas Genco.

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

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

	June 30, 2005	December 31, 2004
ASSETS		
Current Assets:		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$408,162	\$164,645
Other current assets	1,576,635	2,158,111
Current assets of discontinued operations	---	513,768
Total current assets	1,984,797	2,836,524
Property, Plant and Equipment, net	8,273,291	8,186,393
Other Assets:		
Goodwill, net	1,744,252	1,740,510
Regulatory assets	2,928,968	3,349,944
Other non-current assets	958,383	997,428
Non-current assets of discontinued operations	---	1,051,158
Total other assets	5,631,603	7,139,040
Total Assets	\$15,889,691	\$18,161,957
LIABILITIES AND SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY		
Current Liabilities:		
Current portion of transition bond long-term debt	\$49,352	\$46,806
Current portion of other long-term debt	1,748,083	1,789,182
Other current liabilities	1,840,224	2,902,238
Current liabilities of discontinued operations	---	448,974
Total current liabilities	3,637,659	5,187,200

Other Liabilities:		
Accumulated deferred income taxes, net and investment tax credit	2,522,664	2,468,833
Regulatory liabilities	744,260	1,081,370
Other non-current liabilities	753,072	705,643
Non-current liabilities of discontinued operations	---	420,393
Total other liabilities	4,019,996	4,676,239
Long-term Debt:		
Transition bond	610,462	628,903
Other	6,440,756	6,564,113
Total long-term debt	7,051,218	7,193,016
Shareholders' Equity	1,180,818	1,105,502
Total Liabilities and Shareholders' Equity	\$15,889,691	\$18,161,957

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

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

	Six Months Ended June 30,	
	2005	2004
Cash Flows from Operating Activities:		
Net income	\$121,511	\$131,239
Discontinued operations, net of tax	3,287	(105,067)
Extraordinary item, net of tax	(30,441)	---
Income from continuing operations	94,357	26,172
Adjustments to reconcile income from continuing operations to net cash provided by operating activities:		
Depreciation and amortization	305,131	279,957
Deferred income taxes and investment tax credit	44,321	52,943
Changes in net regulatory assets and liabilities	(132,449)	(157,728)
Changes in other assets and liabilities	(211,379)	253,248
Other, net	6,166	21,045
Net Cash Provided by Operating Activities	106,147	475,637
Net Cash Provided by (Used in) Investing Activities	397,549	(187,953)
Net Cash Used in Financing Activities	(260,179)	(278,254)
Net Increase in Cash and Cash Equivalents	243,517	9,430
Cash and Cash Equivalents at Beginning of Period	164,645	86,922
Cash and Cash Equivalents at End of Period	\$408,162	\$96,352

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

SOURCE CenterPoint Energy, Inc.

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