

UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE
COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

INITIAL STATEMENT OF BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF
SECURITIES

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

OMB APPROVAL	
OMB Number:	3235-0104
Estimated average burden hours per response:	0.5

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person * <u>Clark Lauren Chesley</u> (Last) (First) (Middle) <u>1111 LOUISIANA STREET</u> (Street) <u>HOUSTON TX 77002</u> (City) (State) (Zip)	2. Date of Event Requiring Statement (Month/Day/Year) <u>10/01/2026</u>	3. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol <u>CENTERPOINT ENERGY INC [CNP]</u> Foreign Trading Symbol		
		4. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable) Director 10% Owner ☒ Officer (give title below) Other (specify below) <u>EVP and CHRO</u>		5. If Amendment, Date of Original Filed (Month/Day/Year)
		6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing (Check Applicable Line) ☒ Form filed by One Reporting Person Form filed by More than One Reporting Person		

Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned

1. Title of Security (Instr. 4)	2. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned (Instr. 4)	3. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 5)	4. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 5)
No securities are beneficially owned	0	D	

Table II - Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned
(e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)

1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 4)	2. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year)		3. Title and Amount of Securities Underlying Derivative Security (Instr. 4)		4. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security	5. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 5)	6. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 5)
	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of Shares			

Explanation of Responses:

Remarks:

Vincent A. Mercaldi
Attorney-in-Fact

10/02/2026

** Signature of Reporting
Person

Date

Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially owned directly or indirectly.

* If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, see Instruction 5 (b)(v).

** Intentional misstatements or omissions of facts constitute Federal Criminal Violations See 18 U.S.C. 1001 and 15 U.S.C. 78ff(a).

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, see Instruction 6 for procedure.

Persons who respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB Number.

Power of Attorney

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

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

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned has executed this instrument this 22nd day of September, 2026.

/s/ Lauren C. Clark
Name: Lauren C. Clark