

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP

Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5 obligations may continue. See Instruction 1(b).

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 | |
|----------------------------------------------|-----------|
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|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Name and Address of Reporting Person* <u>CARROLL MILTON</u> (Last) (First) (Middle) <u>1111 LOUISIANA</u> (Street) <u>HOUSTON TX 77002</u> (City) (State) (Zip) | 2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol <u>CENTERPOINT ENERGY INC [CNP]</u> | 5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Director 10% Owner <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Officer (give title below) Other (specify below) <u>Executive Chairman</u> |
| | 3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year) <u>03/05/2019</u> | |
| | 4. If Amendment, Date of Original Filed (Month/Day/Year) | |

Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned

| 1. Title of Security (Instr. 3) | 2. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year) | 2A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year) | 3. Transaction Code (Instr. 8) | | 4. Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed Of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5) | | | 5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4) | 6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4) | 7. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4) |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|---|-------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| | | | Code | V | Amount | (A) or (D) | Price | | | |
| Common Stock | 03/05/2019 | | S | | 75,000 | D | \$30.21 ⁽¹⁾ | 150,301 ⁽²⁾ | D | |

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

| 1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 3) | 2. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security | 3. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year) | 3A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year) | 4. Transaction Code (Instr. 8) | | 5. Number of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5) | | 6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year) | | 7. Title and Amount of Securities Underlying Derivative Security (Instr. 3 and 4) | 8. Price of Derivative Security (Instr. 5) | 9. Number of derivative Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 4) | 10. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4) | 11. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4) |
|--------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|---|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|----------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| | | | | Code | V | (A) | (D) | Date Exercisable | Expiration Date | | | | | |

Explanation of Responses:

- The price reported in Column 4 is a weighted average price. These shares were sold in multiple transactions at prices ranging from \$30.20 to \$30.27, inclusive. The Reporting Person undertakes to provide to the Issuer, any security holder of the Issuer, or the staff of the Securities and Exchange Commission, upon request, full information regarding the number of shares sold at each separate price within the ranges set forth in this footnote.
- Total includes (i) 22,873 time-based restricted stock units ("RSUs") awarded under Issuer's Long-term Incentive Plan (the "Plan") and vesting in February 2020, (ii) 23,906 RSUs awarded under Plan and vesting in February 2021 and (iii) 23,742 RSUs awarded under Plan and vesting in February 2022. The award to vest in 2020 shall vest if Reporting Person continues to be an employee of Issuer from grant date through vesting date and on a pro-rata basis in event of his earlier retirement, disability or death. The awards to vest in 2021 and 2022 shall vest (i) if he continues to be an employee of Issuer from grant date through vesting date and (ii) in event of his disability or death. Also, the awards to vest in 2021 and 2022 shall vest on a pro-rata basis in event of his retirement unless he satisfies conditions for full vesting. For all above awards, Reporting Person is treated as currently retirement eligible.

Remarks:

Vincent A. Mercaldi, Attorney-in-Fact 03/06/2019

** 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 4 (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.