FORM 4

UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

| Vashington, | D.C. | 20549 | |
|-------------|------|-------|--|
| | | | |

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP

| OMB APPROVAL | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------|-----|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| OMB Number: 3235-0287 | | | | | | | | |
| Estimated average burden | | | | | | | | |
| hours per response: | 0.5 | | | | | | | |

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

| 1. Name and Address of Reporting Person* Smitherman Barry T | | | | | 2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol CENTERPOINT ENERGY INC [CNP] | | | | | | | | | | k all app | onship of Reportin all applicable) Director | | rson(s) to Is | |
|--|--|-------|------------------------------|---|--|--|--------|---|--------|--------------------|--|--|---------|--|--|---|---|---------------|---------|
| (Last) (First) (Middle) 1111 LOUISIANA | | | | | 3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year) 03/09/2022 | | | | | | | | | | Office below | er (give title /) | | Other (below) | specify |
| (Street) HOUST(| | | 7002 Zip) | | 4. If <i>i</i> | 4. If Amendment, Date of Original Filed (Month/Day/Year) | | | | | | | | 5. Indir Line) X | Form | or Joint/Group Filing (Check Applicable m filed by One Reporting Person m filed by More than One Reporting son | | | |
| | | Table | I - No | n-Deriva | tive S | Secu | rities | Acq | uired, | Dis | posed of | , or E | Benefic | ially | Own | ed | | | |
| 1. Title of Security (Instr. 3) 2. Transact Date (Month/Day) | | | | | Execution Date, | | Date, | 3. Transaction Code (Instr. 8) 4. Securities Acquired (A Disposed Of (D) (Instr. 3, 5) | | | | 4 and Securit | | ies cially Following | Forn (D) c | n: Direct or Indirect nstr. 4) | 7. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4) | | |
| | | | | | Code V Amount (A) or (D) | | | Pric | e | Transa | saction(s) r. 3 and 4) | | | (111511. 4) | | | | | |
| Common Stock 03/09/2 | | | | | 2022 | | | | S | | 2,000 | D | \$28 | 3.67 23,747 | | | 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) | ve Conversion Date Execution Date, or Exercise (Month/Day/Year) if any | | 4. Transa Code (8) | (Instr. Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5) | | 6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year) Date Expiration Exercisable Date | | 7. Title and Amount of Securities Underlying Derivative Security (Instr. 3 and 4) Amount or Number of Title Shares | | Der Sec (Ins | Price of ivative curity str. 5) | 9. Number derivative Securities Beneficiall Owned Following Reported Transactio (Instr. 4) | y | 10. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4) | 11. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4) | | | | |

Explanation of Responses:

Remarks:

Vincent A. Mercaldi, Attorney-in-Fact

03/11/2022

** 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.