#### UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

#### FORM 8-K

CURRENT REPORT Pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

Date of Report (Date of earliest event reported): March 4, 2016

# **CENTERPOINT ENERGY, INC.**

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Texas (State or other jurisdiction of incorporation) 1-31447 (Commission File Number) 74-0694415 (IRS Employer Identification No.)

1111 Louisiana Houston, Texas (Address of principal executive offices)

77002 (Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: (713) 207-1111

Check the appropriate box below if the Form 8-K filing is intended to simultaneously satisfy the filing obligation of the registrant under any of the following provisions (see General Instruction A.2. below):

□ Written communications pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act (17 CFR 230.425)

□ Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14a-12)

D Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d-2(b) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14d-2(b))

D Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13e-4(c) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.13e-4(c))

#### Item 7.01 Regulation FD Disclosure.

The attached Exhibit 99.1 is a slide presentation that will be used with investors in meetings during the week of March 7, 2016 and is being posted to CenterPoint Energy, Inc.'s website.

#### Item 9.01 Financial Statements and Exhibits.

99.1

Exhibit 99.1 is furnished, not filed, pursuant to Item 7.01. Accordingly, the information in Exhibit 99.1 will not be incorporated by reference into any registration statement filed by CenterPoint Energy under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, unless specifically identified as being incorporated by reference.

(d) Exhibits.

#### EXHIBIT NUMBER EXHIBIT DESCRIPTION

Slides to be presented at investor meetings during the week of March 7, 2016

SIGNATURE

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned hereunto duly authorized.

Date: March 4, 2016

CENTERPOINT ENERGY, INC.

By: /s/ Kristie Colvin

Kristie Colvin Senior Vice President and Chief Accounting Officer

#### EXHIBIT <u>NUMBER</u>

99.1

#### NUMBER EXHIBIT DESCRIPTION

Slides to be presented at investor meetings during the week of March 7, 2016

# Focused on Energy Delivery, Positioned to Execute

Introduction to CenterPoint Energy March 2016





A Fortune 500 company included in the:

S&P 500 Index S&P 500 Utility Index Dow Jones Utility Average Index PHLX Utility Sector Index Russell 1000 Index

## **Cautionary Statement**



This presentation and the oral statements made in connection herewith may contain statements concerning our expectations, beliefs, plans, objectives, goals, strategies, future operations, events, financial position, earnings, growth, revenues costs, prospects, objectives, capital investments or performance and underlying assumptions and other statements that are not historical facts. These statements are "forward-looking statements" within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. You should not place undue reliance on forward-looking statements. Actual results may differ materially from those expressed or implied by these statements. You can generally identify our forward-looking statements by the words "anticipate," "believe," "continue," "could," "estimate," "expect," "forecast," "goal," "project," "intend," "may," "objective," "plan," "potential," "predict," "project," "should," "will," or other similar words. The absence of these words, however, does not mean that the statements are not forward-looking.

Forward-looking statements in this presentation include statements about the pending Continuum transaction, EPS growth and earnings guidance, future financial and operational performance, future capital investments and growth, expected regulatory actions and recovery, dividend growth, customer growth, future Enable performance, future liquidity, capital resources and interest expense, and future strategic expectations. We have based our forward-looking statements on our management's beliefs and assumptions based on information currently available to our management at the time the statements are made. We caution you that assumptions, beliefs, expectations, intentions, and projections about future events may and often do vary materially from actual results. Therefore, we cannot assure you that actual results will not differ materially from those expressed or implied by our forward-looking statements.

Some of the factors that could cause actual results to differ from those expressed or implied by our forward-looking statements include but are not limited to the timing and impact of future regulatory, legislative and IRS decisions, financial market conditions, future market conditions, economic and employment conditions, customer growth and other factors described in CenterPoint Energy, Inc.'s Form 10-K for the period ended December 31, 2015 under "Risk Factors" and "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations - Certain Factors Affecting Future Earnings" and in other filings with the SEC by CenterPoint Energy, which can be found at <u>www.centerpointenergy.com</u> on the Investor Relations page or on the SEC's website at <u>www.sec.gov</u>.

Slides 19 to 23 are extracted from Enable Midstream Partners, LP's ("Enable Midstream") investor presentation as presented during the company's fourth quarter 2015 earnings call dated February 17, 2016. These slides are included for informational purposes only. The content has not been verified by CenterPoint Energy and CenterPoint Energy assumes no liability for the same. You should consider Enable Midstream's investor materials in the context of their SEC filings and their entire investor presentation, which is available on their website at <a href="http://investors.enablemidstream.com/">http://investors.enablemidstream.com/</a>.

This presentation contains time sensitive information that is accurate as of the date hereof. Unless otherwise stated, data is from the 2015 10-K and fourth quarter earnings materials · Some of the information in this presentation in unaudited and may be subject to change. We undertake no obligation to update the information presented herein except as required by law.

Investors and others should note that we may announce material information using SEC filings, press releases, public conference calls, webcasts and the Investors page of our website. In the future, we will continue to use these channels to distribute material information about the Company and to communicate important information about the Company, key personnel, corporate initiatives, regulatory updates and other matters. Information that we post on our website could be deemed material; therefore, we encourage investors, the media, our customers, business partners and others interested in our Company to review the information we post on our website.

#### Use of Non-GAAP Financial Measures

In addition to presenting its financial results in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles ("GAAP"), CenterPoint Energy also provides guidance based on adjusted diluted earnings per share, which is a non-GAAP financial measure. Generally, a non-GAAP financial measure is a numerical measure of a company's historical or future financial performance that excludes or includes amounts that are not normally excluded or included in the most directly comparable GAAP financial measure. A reconciliation of diluted earnings per share to the adjusted basis used in providing guidance is provided in this presentation on slide 31.

Management evaluates financial performance in part based on adjusted diluted earnings per share and believes that presenting this non-GAAP financial measure enhances an investor's understanding of CenterPoint Energy's overall financial performance by providing them with an additional meaningful and relevant comparison of current and anticipated future results across periods by excluding items that Management does not believe most accurately reflect its fundamental business performance, which items include the items reflected in the reconciliation table on slide 31 of this presentation. This non-GAAP financial measure should be considered as a supplement and complement to, and not as a substitute for, or superior to, the most directly comparable GAAP financial measure and may be different than non-GAAP financial measures used by other companies.

# Agenda



# Overview

- Review of Business Segments
  - Electric Transmission and Distribution
  - Natural Gas Distribution
  - Energy Services
  - Midstream Investments
- Earnings Guidance
- Appendix



All \$ in millions:

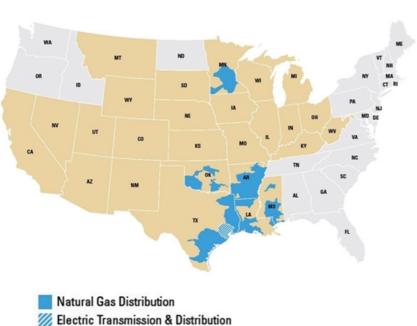
As of and for the year ended December 31, 2015	Operating Income	Total Assets
Electric Transmission and Distribution	\$607	<sup>(1)</sup> \$10,049
Natural Gas Distribution	\$273	\$5,657
Energy Services	\$42	\$857
Midstream Investments	(2)	\$2,594
Other	\$11	\$2,902 <sup>(3)</sup>
Reconciling Eliminations		(725)
Consolidated		\$21,334

Note: As per footnote 17 of the December 31, 2015 10K filing

<sup>1</sup> Includes \$105 million from transition and system restoration bond companies and \$502 million from electric transmission and distribution operations <sup>2</sup> 2015 equity income of \$213 million excluding pre-tax, non-cash impairment charges taken during 2015 totaling \$1,846 million

<sup>3</sup> Included in total assets of other operations as of December 31, 2015, are pension and other

postemployment related regulatory assets of \$814 million.



CenterPoint Energy Services or Continuum Retail Energy Services (3)

(2) Includes Continuum's energy services customers and operational footprint; acquisition expected to close in March or April 2016

(1) As of Dec. 31, 2014 per EEI and AGA

#### **Electric Transmission & Distribution:**

Electric utility operations with ~2.3 million metered customers across ~5,000 square miles in and around Houston, Texas

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- 19<sup>th</sup> largest U.S. investor-owned electric utility by customer base <sup>(1)</sup>
- 84,190,647 MWh delivered in 2015

#### **Gas Operations:**

- 10 regulated gas distribution jurisdictions in six states with ~3.4 million customers
- 6<sup>th</sup> largest U.S. gas distribution company by customer base<sup>(1)</sup>
- Non-regulated competitive natural gas supply and related energy services serving nearly 24,000 commercial and industrial customers across 26 states <sup>(2)</sup>
- Gas distribution company and energy services company delivered ~1.1 TCF of natural gas in 2015

# Our Vision: Lead the nation in delivering energy, service and value

- We are a premier U.S. energy delivery company
- Delivering energy is CenterPoint Energy's core business
- Delivering service and value applies to all stakeholders

# Our Strategy: Operate, Serve, Grow

- Ensure safe, reliable, efficient and environmentally responsible energy delivery businesses
- Utilize new and innovative technology to enhance performance



Add value to energy delivery through superior customer service, new technology and innovation

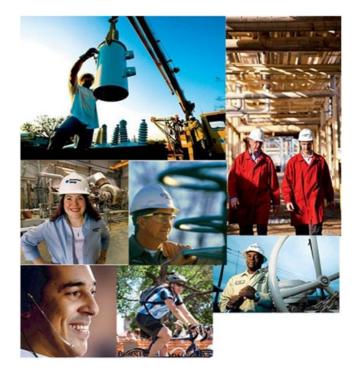
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- Provide leadership in the communities we serve
- Develop a diverse and capable employee base
- Invest in core energy delivery businesses
- Actively govern Enable Midstream investment

# **CenterPoint Energy's Value Proposition**

- Focused on delivering long-term value for all stakeholders
- Targeting 4-6% year-over-year EPS growth through 2018
- Strong operating cash flow and balance sheet
- Solid historical dividend growth expected to continue
- Future capital investment in transmission and distribution assets is expected to sustain earnings momentum
- Capital recovery mechanisms at electric and natural gas utilities help reduce regulatory lag
- Lack of generation assets reduces the environmental risks generally associated with a fully integrated utility
- Commitment to customer experience improves regulatory relationships allowing for constructive dialog to optimize our business model
- Enable's financial performance and balance sheet strength translates into value for CenterPoint shareholders



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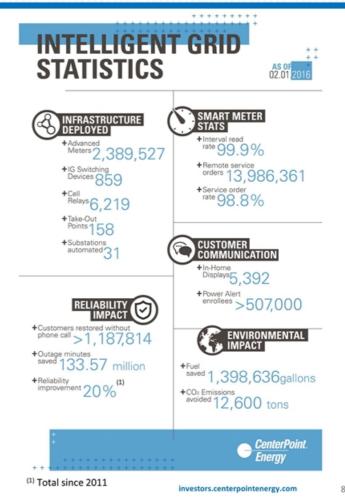
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## Improving Customer Satisfaction while Reducing Carbon Emissions Electric T&D Utility Technology

- Absence of generation assets significantly reduces CenterPoint's carbon footprint compared to integrated utilities
- One of the first large scale Smart Meter deployments in the U.S.
- Intelligent Grid initiative enhances reliability
- Intelligent Grid covers nearly 14 percent of electric service area and continues to grow



Source: Internal CenterPoint data as of February 1, 2016



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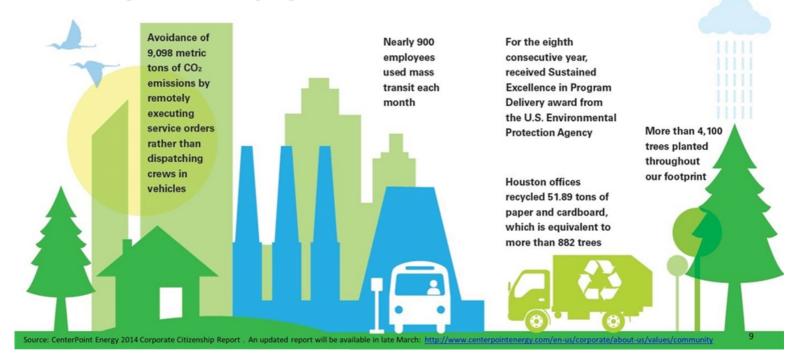
#### **Responsibility to the Environment** Conservation Improvement & Energy Efficiency Programs

In 2014, conservation programs in four natural gas jurisdictions helped our customers save nearly 2 billion cubic feet of natural gas (energy cost savings of \$16.2 million); savings reduced our customers' total carbon footprint by 108,000 metric tons

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Houston Electric customers saved 155,000 megawatt hours in 2014 through conservation programs including ENERGY STAR New Homes program incentives and Residential Advanced Lighting program that encourages the use of LED lighting



# 2015 Highlights



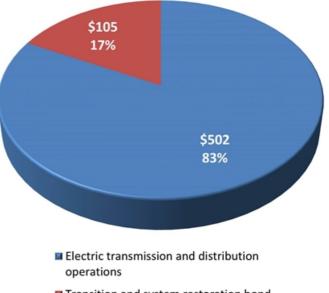
- Strong customer growth nearly 80,000 new utility customers
  - 2% electric metered customer growth
  - 1% natural gas utilities customer growth
- Received nearly \$90 million in annualized rate relief from 2015 filings, excluding interim rates
- ROEs near authorized levels at both electric and gas utilities
- O&M expense growth was flat year-over-year versus 2014, excluding certain expenses that have revenue offsets
- Quarterly dividend increased 4.2% in 2015 and 4% in 2016
- Achieved first quartile safety performance compared to our industry peers (AGA and EEI members)

### **Houston Electric – Overview**

- ~2.3 million metered customers; ~5,000 square miles in and around Houston, Texas
- Consistent residential customer growth of ~2%
- Dec. 2015 average residential electric price in TX: \$0.113/kwh<sup>(1)</sup>
- Has consistently earned at or near its 10% authorized ROE
- Capital recovery mechanisms that reduce regulatory lag
- Delivery-only regulated utility
  - Poles and wires assets; no generation assets which reduces business, environmental, and regulatory risks; no provider of last resort risk
  - Direct customers are ~70 Retail Electric Providers (REPs)
  - Bad debt deferral

(1) U.S. Energy Information Administration; average price for all sectors was \$0.082

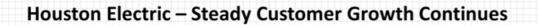
#### 2015 Houston Electric Operating Income (\$, millions) Total: \$607 million

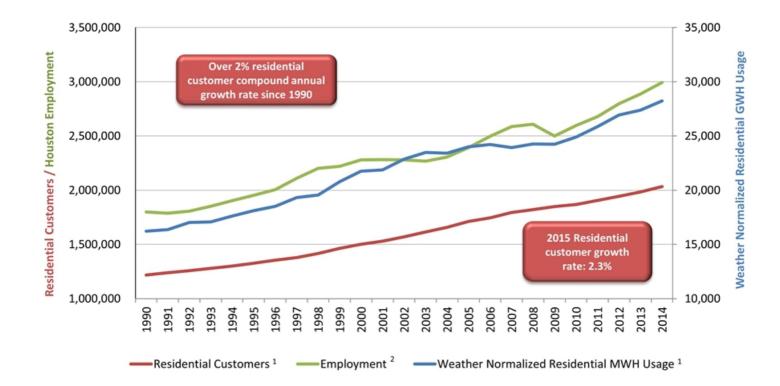


Transition and system restoration bond companies

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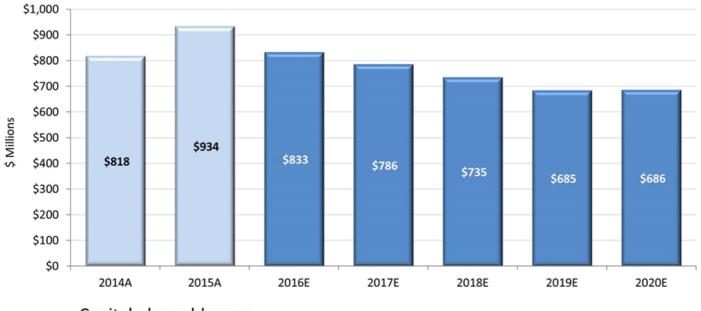


Sources: <sup>(1)</sup> Company Provided <sup>(2)</sup> Texas Workforce Commission (Houston, Sugarland, Woodlands Metro) Chart shown is from Q2 2015 earnings call materials

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# Electric Transmission and Distribution Capital Investment Growth



\$3.7 Billion 2016 – 2020 Capital Plan (1)

Capital plan addresses:

 Brazos Valley Connection (\$270-\$310 million from 2016 into 2018)

Reliability and resiliency

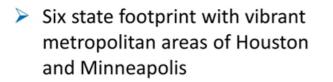
- Customer growth
- Infrastructure improvements
- Technology improvements

(1) Includes AFUDC

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# Gas Operations – Overview Natural Gas Utilities



- ~3.4 million customers
- ~1% annual customer growth since 2010
- Recently named 2<sup>nd</sup> in the South Region in J.D. Power 2015 Customer Satisfaction Study
- Earning at allowed returns; aggregate allowed ROE: 10%
- Capital recovery mechanisms that reduce regulatory lag

#### 2015 Natural Gas Utilities Operating Income (\$, millions) Total: \$273 million



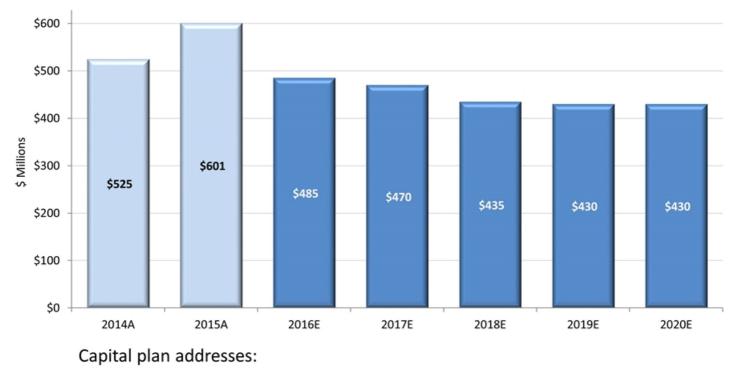
~74% of 2015 Natural Gas Utilities Operating Income from Texas and Minnesota Operations



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# Natural Gas Utilities Capital Investment Growth



\$2.3 Billion 2016 - 2020 Capital Plan

> Aging infrastructure

Minnesota Belt Line Project

Customer growth

Public improvement requirements

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# **CenterPoint Energy Services (CES) Overview**

\$ Millions

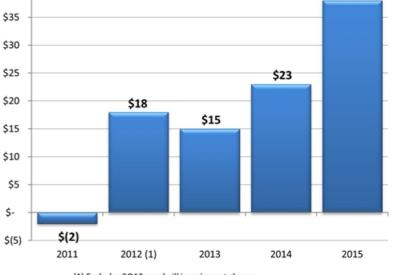
- Competitive natural gas supply and related energy services (1)
- Non-regulated operations
- Complementary to natural gas utilities
- ~18,000 commercial and industrial customers across 19 states
- Low Value at Risk business model - storage and transportation capacity matched to retail customer needs

\$40 \$23

(1) Excludes 3Q12 goodwill impairment charge

(1) Data unless otherwise stated from 2015 10-K and fourth quarter earnings materials

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**CES Operating Income** 

after adjusting for mark-to-market accounting



\$38

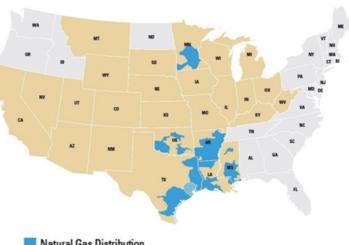
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# CNP Signs Agreement to Acquire Continuum's Retail Energy Services Business

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- Acquisition includes Continuum's retail business, Choice customers, and origination & logistics assets
- Aggregate purchase price for the acquisition is \$77.5 million plus working capital
- Acquisition complements overall natural gas strategy and increases Energy Services' commercial and industrial customer base by over 30%
- Expanded operational footprint positions Energy Services to access more markets, grow efficiently, and achieve economies of scale
- Combined energy services business will continue to operate with a low Value-at-Risk business model
- Expected to increase annual gross margin by approximately 40%
- Anticipate closing in March or April 2016

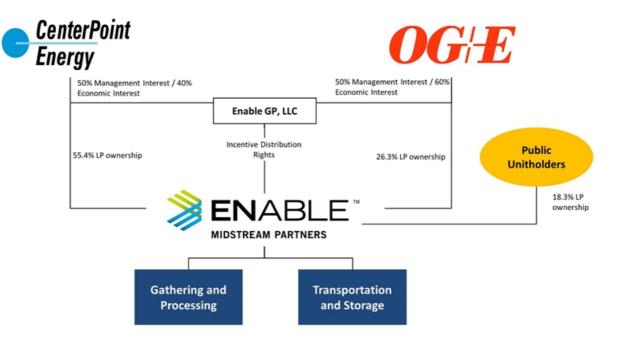
 $^{(1)}$  Includes Continuum's energy services customers and operational footprint



- Natural Gas Distribution
- Electric Transmission & Distribution
  - CenterPoint Energy Services or Continuum Retail Energy Services<sup>(1)</sup>

Combined energy services business projected to contribute \$40 - \$50 million in annual operating income





Note: As of December 31, 2015

# Forward-looking Statements and Non-GAAP Financial Measures

#### **Forward Looking Statements**

This presentation and the oral statements made in connection herewith may contain "forward-looking statements" within the meaning of the securities laws. All statements, other than statements of historical fact, regarding Enable Midstream Partners" ("Enable") strategy, future operations, financial position, estimated revenues, projected costs, prospects, project, "forecast" and similar expressions and are intended to identify forward-looking statements, although not all forward-looking statements contain such identifying words. These forward-looking statements are based on Enable's current expectations and assumptions about future events and are based on currently available information as to the outcome and timing of future events. Enable assumes no obligation to and does not intend to update any forward-looking statements included herein. When considering forward-looking statements, which include statements regarding future commodity prices, the closing of the private sale of perpetual preferred units, future capital expenditures and our financial and operational outlook for 2016, among others, you should keep in mind the risk factors and other cautionary statements described under the heading "Risk Factors" and many of which are beyond its control, incident to the ownership, operation and development of natural gas and crude oil infrastructure assets. These risks include, but are not limited to, contract renewal risk, commodity price risk, environmental risks, operating risks, regulatory changes and the other risks described under "Risk Factors" and elsewhere in our SEC filings. Should one or more of these risks or uncertainties occur, or should underlying assumptions prove incorrect, Enable's actual results and plans could differ materially from these risks or uncertainties occur, or should underlying assumptions prove incorrect, Enable's actual results and plans could differ materially from these risks or uncertainties.

#### **Non GAAP Financial Measures**

Enable has included the non-GAAP financial measures gross margin, Adjusted EBITDA and distributable cash flow in this presentation based on information in its condensed combined and consolidated financial statements.

Gross margin, Adjusted EBITDA and distributable cash flow are supplemental financial measures that management and external users of the Enable's financial statements, such as industry analysts, investors, lenders and rating agencies may use to assess:

- Enable's operating performance as compared to those of other publicly traded partnerships in the midstream energy industry, without regard to capital structure or historical cost basis;
- The ability of Enable's assets to generate sufficient cash flow to make distributions to its partners;
- Enable's ability to incur and service debt and fund capital expenditures; and
- The viability of acquisitions and other capital expenditure projects and the returns on investment of various investment opportunities.

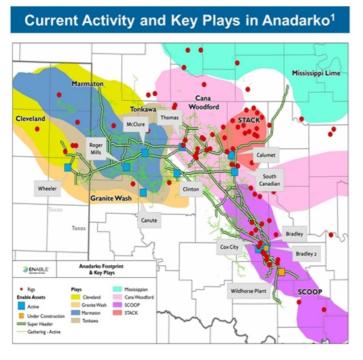
The appendix to this presentation includes a reconciliation of gross margin to revenues, Adjusted EBITDA and distributable cash flow to net income attributable to controlling interest, and Adjusted EBITDA to net cash provided by operating activities, the most directly comparable GAAP financial measures, on a historical basis, as applicable, for each of the periods indicated. Enable believes that the presentation of gross margin, Adjusted EBITDA and distributable cash flow provides information useful to investors in assessing its financial condition and results of operations. Gross margin, Adjusted EBITDA and distributable cash flow should not be considered as alternatives to net income, operating income, revenue, cash provided by operations or any other measure of financial performance or liquidity presented in accordance with GAAP. Gross margin, Adjusted EBITDA and distributable cash flow have important limitations as analytical tools because they exclude some but not all items that affect the most directly comparable GAAP measures. Additionally, because gross margin, Adjusted EBITDA and distributable cash flow may be defined differently by other companies in Enable's industry, its definitions of gross margin, Adjusted EBITDA and distributable cash flow may not be comparable to similarly titled measures of other companies, thereby diminishing their utility.



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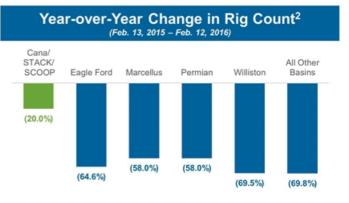
# **Producers Remain Active In The Anadarko Basin**

#### Producers remain active within Enable's Anadarko Basin footprint despite the continued downward pressure on commodity prices



Active Rigs on Enable's Acre Dedications

- Total of 28 rigs are currently drilling wells scheduled to be connected to Enable in the Anadarko basin
  - 12 rigs in the SCOOP
  - 13 in the Cana Woodford / STACK
  - 3 rigs in the Greater Granite Wash



Rig data per Drillinginfo as of February 9, 2016 Baker Hughes rig count data as of February 12, 2016; Cana/STACK/SCOOP represents the Cana Woodford in Baker Hughes nomenclature and includes rigs located in Dewey, Blaine, Canadian and Grady counties, Oklahoma 2. 20



# **Transportation And Storage Revenue Profile**

# The majority of the Transportation and Storage segment revenues are from Firm Contracts

- Firm Contracts provide fixed revenues from monthly reservation charges
- Firm Contracts are held by a diversified portfolio of customers including major utilities, power generation facilities and other end-use customers in addition to producers and marketing companies, many of whom are investment grade
- Percent of Capacity under Firm Contracts
  - Interstate Transportation 86%
  - Storage 76%
- ▶ Enable's Perryville Hub<sup>™</sup> services create a sought after market center
  - Supplies for new LNG export facilities
  - Traditional Southeast and Northeast downstream markets



# 2016 Capital Outlook

- Enable previously announced the reduction of its 2016 expansion capital to \$375 million
- The majority of the reduced capital was gathering, compression and processing capital, including delaying the in-service date of the 200 MMcf/d Wildhorse Processing Plant to late 2017
- The 2016 expansion capital includes:

\$ in millions	2016 Expansion Capital
Gathering Pipeline, Compression and Related Capital	~\$300
Processing Plants	~\$50
Transportation and Storage Organic Growth, including EGT Expansion Project	~\$25
Total Capital	~\$375

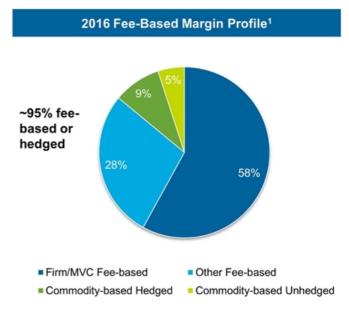
Enable has further flexibility to adjust capital as 2016 develops





# **Commodity Exposure**

- Enable targets firm, fee-based contracts
- Certain gathering and processing contracts have provisions to protect against low commodity price environments and volume decreases
- Commodity sensitivities, including the impact of hedges:
  - A 10% increase or decrease in natural gas and ethane prices together from forecasted levels would have a minimal impact to Adjusted EBITDA for 2016 due to Enable's hedged positions and processing contracts with feebased floors
  - A 10% increase or decrease in NGL (excluding ethane) and condensate prices from forecasted levels would result in an increase or decrease of approximately \$3 million in Adjusted EBITDA for 2016



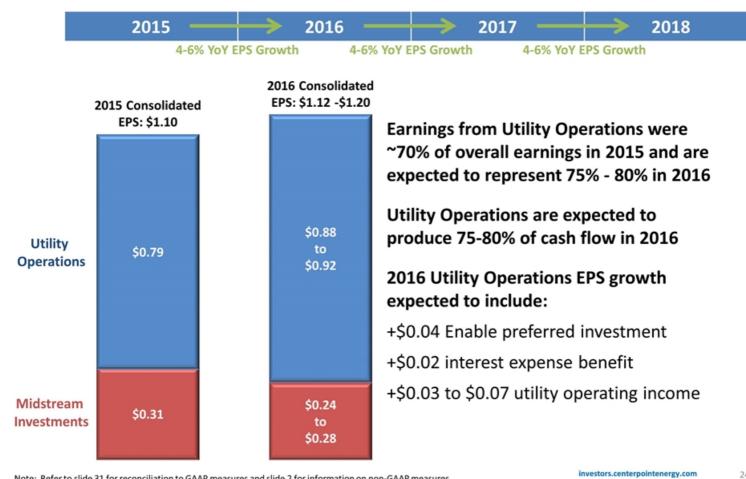


<sup>1.</sup> Percentages in pie charts based on Gross Margin contribution 23

### 2016 Earnings Guidance

Guidance Provided on Feb. 26, 2016





Note: Refer to slide 31 for reconciliation to GAAP measures and slide 2 for information on non-GAAP measures

# **Additional Reference Materials**



Category	Reference Material	Link			
Financial Information	Quarterly Financial Tables				
	Debt & Maturity Schedules				
	Equity Return Amortization Schedules	http://investors.centerpointenergy.com/results.cfm			
	Supplemental Year End Materials				
	State Commission Website Access Points				
Regulatory Information	Houston Electric	http://investors.centerpointenergy.com/regulatory-info.c			
	Natural Gas Utilities				
Industry Associations	Edison Electric Institute (EEI)	www.eei.org			
	American Gas Association (AGA)	www.aga.org			

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Brandi Summersill – IR Coordinator; brandi.summersill@centerpointenergy.com



Appendix

## **Strategic Update**

- Core strategy is to invest organically to grow and strengthen our current utility service territories
- In January, announced two investments that are expected to be EPS accretive:
  - \$363 million investment in Enable Midstream Partners' 10% perpetual preferred securities; closed on February 18, 2016
  - Acquisition of Continuum Energy's retail energy services creates access to more markets, increases Energy Services' commercial and industrial customer base by over 30%, and generates economies of scale; expected to close in March or April 2016
- Continue to evaluate strategic opportunities:
  - Options for Enable Midstream Partners ownership (sale or spin-off)
  - Real Estate Investment Trust (REIT) for utility assets
- Expect to provide an update on the strategic reviews in the second half of 2016, if not sooner

Note: For more information, refer to Investor News and 4Q 2015 earnings materials on our website

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### **Regulatory Mechanisms**

### **Houston Electric**

- Distribution Cost Recovery Factor (DCRF) filed annually
- Transmission Cost of Service (TCOS) eligible to file 2 times per year

#### **Gas Operations**

- Infrastructure Capital Cost Recovery
  - Texas Gas Reliability Infrastructure Program (GRIP)
  - Arkansas Main Replacement Program (MRP)
  - Arkansas Act 310
- Forward Test Year in Minnesota
- Cost of Service Adjustment in Louisiana, Mississippi, and Oklahoma
- Gas Margin Stabilization
  - Minnesota Decoupling
  - Arkansas Billing Determinant Adjustment (BDA)
  - Weather Normalization Adjustment (WNA) in Louisiana, Mississippi, and Oklahoma

Note: For more information, refer to Investor News and 4Q 2015 earnings materials on our website



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## **Liquidity and Capital Resources**

### > 2015

- Record year with \$1.6 billion total capital investment
- Cash flow covered all capital expenditures in 2015
- Borrowing<sup>(1)</sup> increased ~\$330 million

#### > 2016

- Anticipate strong balance sheet and cash flow
- No external sources or cash from operations were needed to finance \$363 million investment in Enable's perpetual preferred securities
- Project total capital investment of approximately \$1.4 billion
- Net incremental borrowings not anticipated to exceed \$150 million, inclusive of funding of the acquisition of Continuum's marketing business
- Expect to refinance \$600 million debt at Houston Electric
- Equity issuance not anticipated
- > 2017
  - No anticipated incremental financing needs; dependent on such factors as bonus depreciation, capital investment plans, and working capital

<sup>(1)</sup> Excludes transition and system restoration bonds Note: For more information, refer to Investor News and 4Q 2015 earnings materials on our website

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#### Interest Expense

- 2015 full-year interest expense was lower than 2014 <sup>(1)</sup>
  - Partial year impact of financing activities in 2015, including retirement of \$270 million of CNP Inc. debt
- > 2016 full-year interest expense is projected to be lower than 2015
  - Full year impact of financing activities in 2015, including retirement of \$270 million of CNP Inc. debt
  - Partial year impact of \$325 million maturity at CERC in May 2016
  - Partially offset by expected Houston Electric fixed rate debt offering

#### **Annual Tax Rates**

- 2015 effective tax rate with impairment: 39%
- 2015 effective tax rate without impairment: 35%
- 2016 anticipated effective tax rate: 36%

<sup>(1)</sup> Excludes transition and system restoration bonds Note: For more information, refer to Investor News and 4Q 2015 earnings materials on our website

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# Reconciliation: Net Income and diluted EPS to the Basis Used in Providing 2015 Earnings Guidance



	Quarter Ended				Twelve Months Ended			
	December 31, 2015			15	December 31, 2015			
	Net Income			Net Income				
	(in millions)			EPS	(in millions)		EPS	
Consolidated as reported	\$	(509)	\$	(1.18)	\$	(692)	\$	(1.61)
Midstream Investments		589		1.37		1,024		2.38
Utility Operations (1)		80		0.19		332		0.77
Loss on impairment of Midstream Investments:								
CenterPoint's impairment of its investment in Enable		613		1.43		769		1.79
CenterPoint's share of Enable's impairment of its goodwill and long-lived assets		7		0.01		388		0.90
Total loss on impairment		620		1.44		1,157	_	2.69
Midstream Investments excluding loss on impairment	\$	31	\$	0.07	\$	133	\$	0.31
maarean meschenes excluding loss on inpannenc	~		~	0.07	-*	155	~	0.01
Consolidated excluding loss on impairment	\$	111	\$	0.26	\$	465	\$	1.08
Timing effects impacting CES <sup>(2)</sup> :								
Mark-to-market (gain) losses		-		-		(2)		(0.01)
ZENS-related mark-to-market (gains) losses:								
Marketable securities (3)		13		0.03		60		0.14
Indexed debt securities <sup>(4)</sup>		(8)		(0.02)		(48)		(0.11)
Utility operations earnings on an adjusted guidance basis	\$	85	\$	0.20	\$	342	\$	0.79
Per the basis used in providing 2015 earnings guidance:								
Utility Operations on a guidance basis	\$	85	\$	0.20	\$	342	\$	0.79
Midstream Investments excluding loss on impairment		31		0.07		133		0.31
2015 Consolidated on guidance basis	\$	116	\$	0.27	\$	475	\$	1.10

(1) CenterPoint earnings excluding Midstream Investments

(2) Energy Services segment

(3) Quarter ended and Twelve months ended results include Time Warner Inc., Time Warner Cable Inc. and Time Inc. Twelve months ended results also include AOLInc. prior to the merger with Verizon (4) Twelve months ended results include amount associated with Verizon merger with AOLInc.

Note: Refer to slide 2 for information on non-GAAP measures; for more information, refer to Investor News and 4Q 2015 earnings materials on our website