## FORM 4

## **UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**

|   | OMB APPRO                | VAL       |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|---|--------------------------|-----------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
|   | OMB Number:              | 3235-0287 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| l | Estimated average burden |           |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| l | 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*   |   |  |            |                             |                | 2. Issuer Name <b>and</b> Ticker or Trading Symbol CENTERPOINT ENERGY INC [ CNP ] |                         |   |               |                                      |   |   |              |   | Check all            | ship of Reporti<br>applicable)<br>rector                     | ' '  |  | ssuer<br>Owner  |  |  |
|--|---|--|------------|-----------------------------|----------------|---|-------------------------|---|---------------|--------------------------------------|---|---|--------------|---|----------------------|--|--|--|---|--|--|
| (Last) (First) (Middle) 1111 LOUISIANA   |   |  |            |                             |                | 3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year) 04/24/2014                       |                         |   |               |                                      |   |   |              |   |                      | fficer (give title<br>elow)                                  |  | Other (specify below)  |   |  |  |
| (Street) HOUSTON TX 77002  (City) (State) (Zip)                                  |   |  |            |                             | 4. If          | 4. If Amendment, Date of Original Filed (Month/Day/Year)                          |                         |   |               |                                      |   |   |              |   | ine)<br>X F<br>F     |  |  |  |   |  |  |
| Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned |   |  |            |                             |                |   |                         |   |               |                                      |   |   |              |   |                      |  |  |  |   |  |  |
| 1. Title of Security (Instr. 3)  2. Trans Date (Month/                           |   |  |            |                             |                | ar)   i   | Executi if any          | A. Deemed<br>Recution Date,<br>any<br>lonth/Day/Year) |               | Transaction Disposed Code (Instr. 5) |   | ities Acquired (A)<br>d Of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 |              |   | ind Sec<br>Bei<br>Ow | mount of<br>urities<br>neficially<br>ned Following<br>ported | Fo<br>(D)  | Ownership<br>orm: Direct<br>) or Indirect<br>(Instr. 4)            | 7. Nature<br>of Indirect<br>Beneficial<br>Ownership<br>(Instr. 4) |  |  |
|  |   |  |            |                             | Code           | v   | Amount                  |   | (A) or<br>(D) | Pric                                 | Tra   | nsaction(s)<br>tr. 3 and 4)                 |              |   | (111501.4)           |  |  |  |   |  |  |
| Common   | Stock   |  |            | 04/24                       | <b>1/201</b> 4 | 1   |                         |   | A             |                                      | 5,000   | (1)   | A            | (:                                      | 2)                   | 5,000  | D  |  |   |  |  |
|  |   | Та   | ble II - C |                             |                |   |                         |   |               |                                      | sed of,<br>onvertib   |   |              |   |                      | ed   |  |  |   |  |  |
| 1. Title of<br>Derivative<br>Security<br>(Instr. 3)                              | 2.<br>Conversion<br>or Exercise<br>Price of<br>Derivative<br>Security | Exercise (Month/Day/Year) if any (Month/Day/Year) irvative |            | Transaction Code (Instr. 8) |                | of<br>Deri<br>Sec<br>Acq<br>(A) of<br>Disp  | oosed<br>D)<br>tr. 3, 4 |   |               | е                                    | 7. Title and Amount of Securities Underlying Derivative Security (Instr. and 4)  Amoun or Numbe of Title Shares |   | ount<br>nber | 8. Price Derivative Security (Instr. 5) |                      | у  | 10.<br>Ownership<br>Form:<br>Direct (D)<br>or Indirect<br>(I) (Instr. 4) | 11. Nature<br>of Indirect<br>Beneficial<br>Ownership<br>(Instr. 4) |   |  |  |

## **Explanation of Responses:**

1. Time-based restricted stock units granted under the Stock Plan for Outside Directors, as amended, to outside directors then in office as of May 1, 2014. Shares will vest on the first anniversary of the Annual Award Date if the reporting person is a director of the Company through such date; provided however, the shares become fully vested in the event of a change of control of issuer.

## Remarks:

Richard B. Dauphin Attorney 04/28/2014 in Fact

\*\* 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.

<sup>2.</sup> Price is not applicable.

CENTERPOINT ENERGY, INC. 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 Scott E. Rozzell, Christopher J. Arntzen, Douglas H. Darrow, and Richard B. Dauphin, 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 Section 16 of the Exchange Act.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned has executed this instrument this 12th day of December, 2013.

/s/ Scott J. McLean Name: Scott J. McLean