
**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): May 1, 2008

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)
 - Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d-2(b) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14d-2(b))
 - Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13e-4(c) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.13e-4(c))
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Item 1.01 Entry into a Material Definitive Agreement.

On May 1, 2008, CenterPoint Energy, Inc. (“CenterPoint Energy”) entered into an Underwriting Agreement, dated as of May 1, 2008 (the “Underwriting Agreement”), among CenterPoint Energy and the several Underwriters named in Schedule I to the Underwriting Agreement, relating to the underwritten public offering of \$300,000,000 aggregate principal amount of CenterPoint Energy’s 6.50% Senior Notes due 2018 (the “Notes”). The offering is being made pursuant to CenterPoint Energy’s registration statement on Form S-3 (Registration No. 333-116246).

The Notes are being issued pursuant to the Indenture, dated as of May 19, 2003, between CenterPoint Energy and The Bank of New York Trust Company, National Association (successor to JPMorgan Chase Bank, National Association (formerly JPMorgan Chase Bank)), as trustee (the “Trustee”), as amended by Supplemental Indenture No. 8, dated as of May 6, 2008, between CenterPoint Energy and the Trustee. The terms of the Notes are further described in the prospectus supplement of CenterPoint Energy dated May 1, 2008, together with the related prospectus dated December 16, 2004, as filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission under Rule 424(b)(2) of the Securities Act of 1933 on May 2, 2008, which description is incorporated herein by reference.

A copy of the Underwriting Agreement, the Indenture and the form of Supplemental Indenture No. 8 (including the form of Note) have been filed as Exhibits 1.1, 4.1 and 4.2, respectively, to this report and are incorporated by reference herein.

Item 9.01 Financial Statements and Exhibits.

The exhibits listed below are filed herewith.

- (d) Exhibits.
 - 1.1 Underwriting Agreement dated as of May 1, 2008, among CenterPoint Energy, Inc. and the several Underwriters named in Schedule I thereto.
 - 4.1 Indenture dated as of May 19, 2003, between CenterPoint Energy, Inc. and The Bank of New York Trust Company, National Association (successor to JPMorgan Chase Bank, National Association (formerly JPMorgan Chase Bank)), as trustee (the “Indenture”) (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.1 to CenterPoint Energy’s Current Report on Form 8-K dated May 19, 2003).
 - 4.2 Form of Supplemental Indenture No. 8 dated as of May 6, 2008, to the Indenture between CenterPoint Energy, Inc. and The Bank of New York Trust Company, National Association, as trustee.
 - 4.3 Form of Note (included in Exhibit 4.2 hereto).
 - 5.1 Opinion of Baker Botts L.L.P.
 - 23.1 Consent of Baker Botts L.L.P. (included in Exhibit 5.1 hereto).
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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.

CENTERPOINT ENERGY, INC.

Date: May 6, 2008

By: /s/ Walter L. Fitzgerald

Walter L. Fitzgerald

Senior Vice President and Chief Accounting Officer

EXHIBIT INDEX

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4.3	Form of Note (included in Exhibit 4.2 hereto).
5.1	Opinion of Baker Botts L.L.P.
23.1	Consent of Baker Botts L.L.P. (included in Exhibit 5.1 hereto).

CENTERPOINT ENERGY, INC.
\$300,000,000
6.50% Senior Notes due 2018
Underwriting Agreement
May 1, 2008

Greenwich Capital Markets, Inc.
600 Steamboat Road
Greenwich, Connecticut 06830

Lehman Brothers Inc.
745 Seventh Avenue
New York, New York 10019

Wachovia Capital Markets, LLC
One Wachovia Center
301 South College Street
Charlotte, North Carolina 28288

c/o Lehman Brothers Inc.
745 Seventh Avenue
New York, New York 10019

as the Representatives of the several Underwriters

Ladies and Gentlemen:

CenterPoint Energy, Inc., a Texas corporation (the “**Company**”), confirms, subject to the terms and conditions stated herein, its agreement to issue and sell to the Underwriters named in Schedule I hereto (the “**Underwriters**”) \$300,000,000 aggregate principal amount of its 6.50% Senior Notes due 2018 (the “**Notes**”) to be issued pursuant to an Indenture dated as of May 19, 2003 (the “**Base Indenture**”) between the Company and The Bank of New York Trust Company, National Association (successor to JPMorgan Chase Bank, National Association), as trustee (the “**Trustee**”) and a Supplemental Indenture No. 8 to the Base Indenture dated as of May 6, 2008 (the “**Supplemental Indenture**,” and together with the Base Indenture and any amendments or supplements thereto, the “**Indenture**”), between the Company and the Trustee. The Company understands that the several Underwriters propose to offer the Notes for sale upon the terms and conditions contemplated by this Agreement and by the documents listed in Schedule III (such documents herein called the “**Pricing Disclosure Package**”).

1. Representations and Warranties of the Company.

(a) The Company represents and warrants to, and agrees with, each of the Underwriters, on and as of the date hereof and the Closing Date (as defined in Section 2) that:

(i) A registration statement on Form S-3 with respect to the Notes and other securities with an aggregate maximum initial public offering price of \$1,000,000,000 (File No. 333-116246), copies of which have been delivered to the Underwriters, has been prepared and filed by the Company with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the “**Commission**”). Such registration statement, including a prospectus, has been declared effective under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the “**1933 Act**”), and no stop order suspending its effectiveness has been issued and no proceeding for that purpose or pursuant to Section 8 A of the 1933 Act against the Company or related to the offering has been initiated or, to the best knowledge of the Company, threatened by the Commission. The term “**Registration Statement**” means such registration statement, as deemed revised pursuant to Rule 430B(f)(1) under the 1933 Act on the date of such registration statement’s effectiveness for purposes of Section 11 of the 1933 Act, as such section applies to the Company and the Underwriters for the Notes pursuant to Rule 430B(f)(2) under the 1933 Act (the “**Effective Date**”). The base prospectus included in the Registration Statement relating to the Notes and certain other issues of debt and equity securities (exclusive of any supplement filed pursuant to Rule 424) is herein called the “**Basic Prospectus**”. The Basic Prospectus as amended and supplemented by a preliminary prospectus supplement dated May 1, 2008 relating to the Notes immediately prior to the Applicable Time (as defined below) is hereinafter called the “**Preliminary Prospectus**”. The Company proposes to file together with the Basic Prospectus and pursuant to Rule 424 under the 1933 Act a prospectus supplement specifically relating to the Notes and reflecting the terms of the Notes and plan of distribution arising from this Agreement (herein called the “**Pricing Supplement**”) and has previously advised the Underwriters of all the information to be set forth therein. The term “**Prospectus**” means the Basic Prospectus together with the Pricing Supplement, as first filed with the Commission pursuant to Rule 424.

Any reference herein to the Basic Prospectus, the Preliminary Prospectus or the Prospectus shall be deemed to refer to and include the documents incorporated by reference therein, or deemed to be incorporated by reference therein, and filed under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the “**1934 Act**”), on or before the date of such Basic Prospectus, Preliminary Prospectus or Prospectus, as applicable; any reference herein to the terms “amend,” “amendment” or “supplement” with respect to the Basic Prospectus, the Preliminary Prospectus or Prospectus shall be deemed to refer to and include, without limitation, the filing of any document under the 1934 Act deemed to be incorporated therein by reference after the date of such Basic Prospectus, Preliminary Prospectus or Prospectus.

For purposes of this Agreement, the “**Applicable Time**” is 5:00 p.m. (New York Time) on the date of this Agreement.

(ii) The Registration Statement, the Permitted Free Writing Prospectus (as defined in Section 3(a)), the Preliminary Prospectus and the Prospectus conform, and any amendments or supplements thereto will conform, in all material respects to the requirements of the 1933 Act and the Trust Indenture Act of 1939, as amended (the “TIA”), and the rules and regulations of the Commission under the 1933 Act and the TIA; and (A) the Registration Statement will not, as of the Effective Date, contain an untrue statement of a material fact or omit to state a material fact required to be stated therein or necessary to make the statements therein not misleading, and (B) (i) the Pricing Disclosure Package does not as of the Applicable Time, (ii) the Prospectus and any amendment or supplement thereto will not, as of their dates, and (iii) the Prospectus, as it may be amended or supplemented pursuant to Section 4 hereof, as of the Closing Date will not, contain an untrue statement of a material fact or omit to state a material fact required to be stated therein or necessary to make the statements therein, in the light of the circumstances under which they were made, not misleading; *provided, however*, that this representation and warranty shall not apply to: (A) any statements or omissions made in reliance upon and in conformity with any information furnished in writing by, or through the Representatives on behalf of, any Underwriter for use therein, and (B) any Form T-1 Statement of Eligibility and Qualification included as an exhibit to the Registration Statement;

(iii) Each document filed or to be filed pursuant to the 1934 Act and incorporated by reference, or deemed to be incorporated by reference in the Preliminary Prospectus or the Prospectus (including, without limitation, any document to be filed pursuant to the 1934 Act which will be incorporated by reference in the Prospectus) conformed or, when so filed, will conform in all material respects to the requirements of the 1934 Act and the applicable rules and regulations of the Commission thereunder, and none of such documents included or, when so filed, will include any untrue statement of a material fact or omitted or, when so filed, will omit to state any material fact required to be stated therein or necessary to make the statements therein, in the light of the circumstances under which they were made, not misleading;

(iv) Any Permitted Free Writing Prospectus listed on Schedule III hereto does not include anything that conflicts with the information contained or incorporated by reference in the Registration Statement, the Preliminary Prospectus or the Prospectus;

(v) At the determination date for purposes of the Notes within the meaning of Rule 164(h) under the 1933 Act, the Company was not an “ineligible issuer” as defined in Rule 405 under the 1933 Act. The Company has been since the time of the initial filing of the Registration Statement and continues to be eligible to use Form S-3 under the 1933 Act;

(vi) The Company has been duly incorporated and is validly existing in good standing under the laws of the State of Texas, with corporate power and authority to own its properties and conduct its business as described in the Pricing Disclosure Package and the Prospectus;

(vii) Each Significant Subsidiary (as defined in Regulation S-X under the 1933 Act) of the Company has been duly formed and is validly existing in good standing under the laws of the jurisdiction of its formation, with power and authority (corporate and other) to own its properties and conduct its business as described in the Pricing Disclosure Package and the Prospectus; and each Significant Subsidiary of the Company is duly qualified to do business as a foreign corporation, limited partnership or limited liability company in good standing in all other jurisdictions in which its ownership or lease of property or the conduct of its business requires such qualification; all of the issued and outstanding ownership interests of each Significant Subsidiary of the Company have been duly authorized and validly issued in accordance with the organizational documents of such Significant Subsidiary; and the ownership interests of each Significant Subsidiary owned by the Company, directly or through subsidiaries, are owned free from liens, encumbrances and defects;

(viii) This Agreement has been duly authorized, executed and delivered by the Company;

(ix) The Notes and the Indenture have been duly authorized by the Company and, when the Supplemental Indenture has been duly executed and delivered by the Company in accordance with its terms, and assuming the valid execution and delivery thereof by the Trustee, the Indenture will constitute, and, in the case of the Notes, when they are delivered by the Company, paid for pursuant to this Agreement and the Indenture and duly authenticated and delivered by the Trustee, the Notes will, on the Closing Date, constitute, valid and legally binding obligations of the Company, enforceable in accordance with their respective terms, subject, as to enforcement, to bankruptcy, insolvency, fraudulent transfer, reorganization and other laws of general applicability relating to or affecting creditors' rights and to general equity principles (regardless of whether such enforceability is considered in a proceeding in equity or at law); the Notes when delivered by the Company, paid for pursuant to this Agreement and the Indenture and duly authenticated and delivered by the Trustee, will be entitled to the benefits of the Indenture; and the Notes conform to the descriptions thereof in the Pricing Disclosure Package and the Prospectus;

(x) The issuance by the Company of the Notes, the compliance by the Company with all of the provisions of this Agreement, the Notes and the Indenture, and the consummation of the transactions contemplated herein and therein (a) will not conflict with or result in a breach or violation of any of the terms or provisions of, or constitute a default under, any indenture, mortgage, deed of trust, loan agreement or other agreement or instrument to which the Company or any subsidiary is a party or by which the Company or any subsidiary is bound or to which any of the property or assets of the Company or any subsidiary is subject, which conflict, breach, violation, or default would individually, or in the aggregate, have a material adverse effect on the financial condition, business or results of operations of the Company and its subsidiaries, taken as a whole ("**Material Adverse Effect**"); and (b) will not result in any violation of the provisions of the Certificate of Incorporation or By-laws or other organizational documents of the Company, the charter, by-laws or other organizational documents of any subsidiary of the Company or any existing statute or any order, rule or

regulation of any court or governmental agency or body having jurisdiction over the Company's or any of its or its subsidiaries' properties;

(xi) The Commission has issued an order under the 1933 Act declaring the Registration Statement effective and qualifying the Indenture under the TIA and no other consent, approval, authorization, order, registration or qualification of or with any such court or governmental agency or body is required for the issuance of the Notes or the consummation by the Company of the other transactions contemplated by this Agreement and the Indenture, except such consents, approvals, authorizations, registrations or qualifications as may be required under state securities or blue sky laws in connection with the issuance by the Company of the Notes and the purchase and distribution of the Notes by the Underwriters;

(xii) The Company and its subsidiaries possess certificates, authorities or permits issued by appropriate governmental agencies or bodies necessary to conduct the business now operated by them and have not received any notice of proceedings relating to the revocation or modification of any such certificate, authority or permit that, if determined adversely to the Company or any of its subsidiaries, would individually or in the aggregate have a Material Adverse Effect;

(xiii) Except as disclosed in the Pricing Disclosure Package and the Prospectus, neither the Company nor any of its subsidiaries is in violation of any statute, any rule, regulation, decision or order of any governmental agency or body or any court, domestic or foreign, relating to the use, disposal or release of hazardous or toxic substances or relating to the protection or restoration of the environment or human exposure to hazardous or toxic substances (collectively, "**Environmental Laws**"), owns or operates any real property contaminated with any substance that is subject to any Environmental Laws, is liable for any off-site disposal or contamination pursuant to any Environmental Laws, or is subject to any claim relating to any Environmental Laws, which violation, contamination, liability or claim would individually or in the aggregate have a Material Adverse Effect; and the Company is not aware of any pending investigation which has a reasonable possibility of leading to such a claim;

(xiv) Except as disclosed in the Pricing Disclosure Package and the Prospectus, there are no pending actions, suits or proceedings against or affecting the Company, any of its subsidiaries or any of their respective properties that, if determined adversely to the Company or any of its subsidiaries, would individually or in the aggregate have a Material Adverse Effect, or would materially and adversely affect the ability of the Company to perform its obligations under the Indenture or this Agreement, or which are otherwise material in the context of the sale of the Notes; and no such actions, suits or proceedings are threatened or, to the Company's knowledge, contemplated;

(xv) The financial statements included or incorporated by reference in the Registration Statement, the Pricing Disclosure Package and the Prospectus present fairly the financial position of the Company and its consolidated subsidiaries as of the dates shown and their results of operations and cash flows for the

periods shown, and, except as otherwise disclosed in the Registration Statement, the Pricing Disclosure Package and the Prospectus, such financial statements have been prepared in conformity with the generally accepted accounting principles in the United States applied on a consistent basis; and

(xvi) Since the date of the latest audited financial statements incorporated by reference in the Registration Statement, the Pricing Disclosure Package and the Prospectus and except as disclosed in the Registration Statement, the Pricing Disclosure Package and the Prospectus there has been no material adverse change in the business, financial condition, prospects or results of operations of the Company and its subsidiaries taken as a whole, and there has been no dividend or distribution of any kind declared, paid or made by the Company on any class of its equity interests (other than regular quarterly dividends on the common stock, par value \$0.01 per share, of the Company).

(xvii) The Company maintains a system of internal accounting controls and maintains disclosure controls and procedures in conformity with the requirements of the 1934 Act and is otherwise in compliance in all material respects with the requirements of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 and the rules and regulations promulgated in connection therewith.

(xviii) Deloitte & louche LLP, who have certified certain financial statements of the Company and its subsidiaries, are an independent registered public accounting firm with respect to the Company and its subsidiaries within the applicable rules and regulations adopted by the Commission and the Public Accounting Oversight Board (United States) and as required by the 1933 Act.

(xix) The Company is not, and after giving effect to the offering and sale of the Notes and the application of the proceeds thereof as described in the Prospectus under the caption "Use of Proceeds," will not be an "investment company" as such term is defined in the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended (the "**Investment Company Act**").

2. Sale and Delivery.

(a) Subject to the terms and conditions herein set forth, the Company agrees to issue and sell to each of the Underwriters, and each of the Underwriters agrees, severally and not jointly, to purchase from the Company, the principal amount of the Notes set forth in Schedule I opposite the name of such Underwriter (plus an additional amount of Notes that such Underwriter may become obligated to purchase pursuant to the provisions of Section 8 hereof) at a price equal to 98.837% of the principal amount thereof, plus accrued interest, if any, from May 6, 2008 to the Closing Date.

(b) The Notes to be purchased by each Underwriter hereunder will be represented by one or more registered global notes in book-entry form which will be deposited by or on behalf of the Company with The Depository Trust Company ("**DTC**") or its designated custodian. The Company will deliver the Notes to Lehman Brothers

Inc., acting on behalf of the Underwriters for the account of each Underwriter, against payment by or on behalf of such Underwriter of the amount therefor, as set forth above, by wire transfer of Federal (same day) funds to a commercial bank account located in the United States and designated in writing at least forty-eight hours prior to the Closing Date by the Company to Lehman Brothers Inc., by causing DTC to credit the Notes to the account of Lehman Brothers Inc., at DTC. The Company will cause the global certificates representing the Notes to be made available to Greenwich Capital Markets, Inc., Lehman Brothers Inc. and Wachovia Capital Markets, LLC, as joint-book running managing underwriters (together, the “**Representatives**”), acting on behalf of the Underwriters, for checking at least twenty-four hours prior to the Closing Date at the office of DTC or its designated custodian (the “**Designated Office**”). The time and date of such delivery and payment shall be 9:30 a.m., New York City time, on May 6, 2008 or such other time and date as the Representatives and the Company may agree upon in writing. Such time and date are herein called the “**Closing Date.**”

(c) The documents to be delivered on the Closing Date by or on behalf of the parties hereto pursuant to Section 6 hereof, including the cross-receipt for the Notes and any additional certificates requested by the Underwriters pursuant to Section 6(h) hereof, will be delivered at such time and date at the offices of Baker Botts L.L.P., One Shell Plaza, 910 Louisiana, Houston, Texas 77002-4995 or such other location as the Representatives and the Company may agree in writing (the “**Closing Location**”), and the Notes will be delivered at the Designated Office, all on the Closing Date. A meeting will be held at the Closing Location at 1:00 p.m., New York City time or at such other time as the Representatives and the Company may agree in writing, on the New York Business Day next preceding the Closing Date, at which meeting the final drafts of the documents to be delivered pursuant to the preceding sentence will be available for review by the parties hereto. For the purposes of this Section 2, “**New York Business Day**” shall mean each Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday which is not a day on which banking institutions in New York are generally authorized or obligated by law or executive order to close.

3. Free Writing Prospectuses.

(a) The Company represents and agrees that, without the prior consent of the Representatives, it has not made and will not make any offer relating to the Notes that would constitute a “free writing prospectus” as defined in Rule 405 under the 1933 Act, other than a Permitted Free Writing Prospectus; each Underwriter, severally and not jointly, represents and agrees that, without the prior consent of the Company and the Representatives, it has not made and will not make any offer relating to the Notes that would constitute a “free writing prospectus” as defined in Rule 405 under the 1933 Act, other than a Permitted Free Writing Prospectus or a free writing prospectus that is not required to be filed by the Company pursuant to Rule 433; any such free writing prospectus (which shall include the pricing term sheet discussed in Section 3(b) hereof), the use of which has been consented to by the Company and the Representatives, is listed on Schedule III and herein called a “**Permitted Free Writing Prospectus.**”

(b) The Company agrees to prepare a term sheet specifying the terms of the Notes not contained in the Preliminary Prospectus, substantially in the form of Schedule II hereto and approved by the Representatives, and to file such pricing term sheet pursuant to Rule 433 (d) under the 1933 Act within the time period prescribed by such Rule.

(c) The Company and the Representatives have complied and will comply with the requirements of Rule 433 under the 1933 Act applicable to any free writing prospectus, including timely Commission filing where required and legending.

(d) The Company agrees that if at any time following issuance of a Permitted Free Writing Prospectus any event has occurred that results in such Permitted Free Writing Prospectus conflicting with the information in the Registration Statement, the Preliminary Prospectus or the Prospectus, or the Pricing Disclosure Package including an untrue statement of a material fact or omitting to state any material fact necessary in order to make the statements therein, in light of the circumstances then prevailing, not misleading, the Company will give prompt notice thereof to the Representatives and, if requested by the Representatives, will prepare and furnish without charge to each Underwriter a free writing prospectus or other document, the use of which has been consented to by the Representatives, which will correct such conflict, statement or omission; provided, however, that this representation and warranty shall not apply to any statements or omissions in the Pricing Disclosure Package made in reliance upon and in conformity with information furnished in writing to the Company by, or through the Representatives on behalf of, any Underwriter expressly for use therein.

4. Covenants and Agreements.

The Company covenants and agrees with each of the Underwriters:

(a) That the Company will furnish without charge to the Underwriters a copy of the Registration Statement, including all documents incorporated by reference therein and exhibits filed with the Registration Statement (other than exhibits which are incorporated by reference and have previously been so furnished), and, during the period mentioned in paragraph (c) below, as many written and electronic copies of the Preliminary Prospectus, the Pricing Disclosure Package and the Prospectus, any documents incorporated by reference therein at or after the date thereof (including documents from which information has been so incorporated) and any supplements and amendments thereto as each Underwriter may reasonably request;

(b) That the Company will cause the Preliminary Prospectus and the Prospectus to be filed pursuant to, and in compliance with, Rule 424(b) and will promptly advise the Underwriters (i) when any amendment to the Registration Statement shall have been filed; provided, that, with respect to documents filed pursuant to the 1934 Act and incorporated by reference into the Registration Statement, such notice shall only be required during such time as the Underwriters are required in the reasonable opinion of the Representatives, based on advice of Dewey & LeBoeuf LLP, counsel for the Underwriters, to deliver a prospectus (or in lieu thereof, the notice referred to in Rule

173(a) under the 1933 Act), (ii) of any request by the Commission for any amendment of the Registration Statement, (iii) of the issuance by the Commission of any stop order suspending the effectiveness of the Registration Statement or the institution or threatening of any proceeding for that purpose or pursuant to Section 8A of the 1933 Act against the Company or related to the offering, and (iv) of the receipt by the Company of any notification with respect to the suspension of the qualification of the Notes for sale in any jurisdiction or the initiation or threatening of any proceeding for such purpose. So long as any Underwriter is required in the reasonable opinion of the Representatives, based on advice of Dewey & LeBoeuf LLP, to deliver a prospectus (or in lieu thereof, the notice referred to in Rule 173 (a) under the 1933 Act), the Company will not file any amendment to the Registration Statement or supplement to the Preliminary Prospectus or the Prospectus to which the Representatives or Dewey & LeBoeuf LLP shall have reasonably objected in writing and the Company shall furnish one copy of every such amendment or supplement to each of the Representatives and to Dewey & LeBoeuf LLP. If the Commission shall issue a stop order suspending the effectiveness of the Registration Statement, the Company will take such steps to obtain the lifting of that order as promptly as practical;

(c) That if, at any time when in the reasonable opinion of the Representatives, based on advice of Dewey & LeBoeuf LLP, the information in the Pricing Disclosure Package or the Prospectus (or in lieu thereof, the notice referred to in Rule 173 (a) under the 1933 Act) is required by law to be delivered by an Underwriter or a dealer, any event shall occur as a result of which it is necessary, in the reasonable opinion of the Representatives, based on advice of Dewey & LeBoeuf LLP, or counsel for the Company, to amend or supplement the Pricing Disclosure Package or the Prospectus or modify the information incorporated by reference therein in order to make the statements therein, in light of the circumstances existing when the information in the Pricing Disclosure Package or the Prospectus (or in lieu thereof, the notice referred to in Rule 173(a) under the 1933 Act) is delivered to a purchaser, not misleading, or if it shall be necessary in the reasonable opinion of any such counsel, to amend or supplement the Pricing Disclosure Package or the Prospectus or modify such information to comply with law, the Company will forthwith (i) prepare and furnish, at its own expense, to the Underwriters and to the dealers (whose names and addresses the Underwriters will furnish to the Company) to whom Notes may have been sold by the Underwriters and to any other dealers upon reasonable request, either amendments or supplements to the Pricing Disclosure Package or the Prospectus or (ii) file with the Commission documents incorporated by reference in the Pricing Disclosure Package and Prospectus, which shall be so supplied to the Underwriters and such dealers, in either case so that the statements in the Pricing Disclosure Package or the Prospectus as so amended, supplemented or modified will not, in light of the circumstances when the information in the Pricing Disclosure Package or the Prospectus (or in lieu thereof, the notice referred to in Rule 173(a) under the 1933 Act) is delivered to a purchaser, be misleading or so that the Pricing Disclosure Package and the Prospectus will comply with law;

(d) That the Company will endeavor to qualify, at its expense, the Notes for offer and sale under the securities or Blue Sky laws of such jurisdictions as the Underwriters shall reasonably request and to pay all filing fees, reasonable expenses and

legal fees in connection therewith and in connection with the determination of the eligibility for investment of the Notes; provided, that the Company shall not be required to qualify as a foreign corporation or a dealer in securities or to file any consents to service of process under the laws of any jurisdiction;

(e) That the Company will make generally available to its security holders and the holders of the Notes as soon as practicable an earnings statement of the Company covering a twelve-month period beginning after the Closing Date which shall satisfy the provisions of Section 11 (a) of the 1933 Act and the rules and regulations of the Commission thereunder (including Rule 158 under the 1933 Act); and

(f) That during the period beginning on the date of this Agreement and continuing to and including the Closing Date, the Company will not offer, sell, contract to sell or otherwise distribute any notes, any security convertible into or exchangeable into or exercisable for notes or any other debt securities substantially similar to the Notes (except for the Notes issued pursuant to this Agreement), without the prior written consent of the Representatives.

5. Expenses.

The Company covenants and agrees with the several Underwriters that the Company will pay or cause to be paid the following: (i) all expenses in connection with the preparation, printing and filing of the Registration Statement as originally filed and of each amendment thereto; (ii) the fees, disbursements and expenses of the Company's counsel and accountants in connection with the issue of the Notes and all other expenses in connection with the preparation, printing and filing of the Basic Prospectus, any Permitted Free Writing Prospectus, the Preliminary Prospectus, the Pricing Disclosure Package and the Prospectus, and any amendments and supplements thereto and the mailing and delivering of copies thereof to the Underwriters and dealers; (iii) all reasonable expenses in connection with the qualification of the Notes for offering and sale under state securities laws as provided in Section 4(d) hereof, including the reasonable fees and disbursements of counsel for the Underwriters in connection with such qualification and in connection with the Blue Sky and legal investment surveys; (iv) any fees charged by rating services for rating the Notes; (v) the cost of preparing the Notes; (vi) the fees and expenses of the Trustee and any agent of the Trustee and the fees and disbursements of counsel for the Trustee in connection with the Indenture; and (vii) all other costs and expenses incident to the performance of its obligations hereunder which are not otherwise specifically provided for in this Section. It is understood, however, that, except as provided in this Section, and Sections 7 and 10 hereof, the Underwriters will pay all of their own costs and expenses, including any advertising expenses connected with any offers they may make and the reasonable fees, disbursements and expenses of counsel for the Underwriters.

6. Conditions of Underwriters' Obligations.

The obligations of the Underwriters hereunder shall be subject to the accuracy, at and (except as otherwise stated herein) as of the date hereof, at and as of the

Applicable Time, and at and as of the Closing Date, of the representations and warranties made herein by the Company, to compliance at and as of the Closing Date by the Company with its covenants and agreements herein contained and the other provisions hereof to be satisfied at or prior to the Closing Date, and to the following additional conditions:

(a) (i) No stop order suspending the effectiveness of the Registration Statement shall be in effect, and no proceeding for such purpose or pursuant to Section 8A of the 1933 Act against the Company or related to the offering shall be pending before or threatened by the Commission, (ii) the Prospectus shall have been filed with the Commission pursuant to Rule 424(b) within the applicable time period prescribed for filing by the rules and regulations under the 1933 Act and in accordance herewith and each Permitted Free Writing Prospectus shall have been filed by the Company with the Commission within the applicable time periods prescribed for such filings by, and otherwise in compliance with Rule 433 under the 1933 Act to the extent so required and (iii) the Underwriters shall have received on and as of the Closing Date, a certificate dated such date, signed by an executive officer (including, without limitation, the Treasurer) of the Company, to the foregoing effect (which certificate may be to the best of such officer's knowledge after reasonable investigation).

(b) Subsequent to the execution and delivery of this Agreement, there shall not have occurred (i) any change in the business, financial condition, prospects or results of operations of the Company and its subsidiaries taken as one enterprise which, in the reasonable judgment of the Representatives, is material and adverse and makes it impractical to proceed with completion of the offering or the sale of and payment for the Notes on the terms set forth herein; (ii) any downgrading in the rating of any debt securities of the Company by any "nationally recognized statistical rating organization" (as defined for purposes of Rule 436(g) under the 1933 Act), or any public announcement that any such organization has newly placed under surveillance or review its rating of any debt securities of the Company (other than an announcement with positive implications of a possible upgrading, and no implication of a possible downgrading, of such rating); (iii) any material suspension or material limitation of trading in securities generally on the New York Stock Exchange, or on the over-the-counter market or any suspension of trading of any securities of the Company on any exchange or in the over-the-counter market; (iv) any general moratorium on commercial banking activities declared by U.S. Federal or New York State authorities; (v) any major disruption of settlements of securities or clearance services in the United States or (vi) any act of terrorism in the United States, any attack on, outbreak or escalation of hostilities involving the United States, any declaration of war by Congress or any other national or international calamity or crisis if, in the judgment of the Representatives, the effect of any such attack, outbreak, escalation, act, declaration, calamity or crisis on the financial markets makes it impractical to proceed with completion of the offering or sale of and payment for the Notes on the terms set forth herein.

(c) Dewey & LeBoeuf LLP, counsel for the Underwriters, shall have furnished to you such opinion or opinions, dated the Closing Date, with respect to such matters as you may reasonably request, and such counsel shall have received such papers

and information as they may reasonably request to enable them to pass upon such matters.

(d) Scott Rozzell, Esq., Executive Vice President and General Counsel of the Company, or Rufus S. Scott, Esq., Senior Vice President and Deputy General Counsel of the Company, shall have furnished to you his written opinion, dated the Closing Date, in form and substance satisfactory to you, to the effect that:

(i) The Company has been duly incorporated and is validly existing in good standing under the laws of the State of Texas and has corporate power and authority to own its properties and conduct its business as described in the Pricing Disclosure Package and the Prospectus and to enter into and perform its obligations under this Agreement, the Indenture and the Notes and the Company is duly qualified to do business as a foreign corporation in good standing in all other jurisdictions in which its ownership or lease of property or the conduct of its business requires such qualification, except where the failure to so qualify would not reasonably be expected, individually or in the aggregate, to have a Material Adverse Effect;

(ii) Each Significant Subsidiary of the Company has been duly formed and is validly existing in good standing under the laws of the jurisdiction of its formation, with power and authority (corporate and other) to own its properties and conduct its business as described in the Pricing Disclosure Package and the Prospectus; and each Significant Subsidiary of the Company is duly qualified to do business as a foreign corporation, limited partnership or limited liability company in good standing in all other jurisdictions in which its ownership or lease of property or the conduct of its business requires such qualification, except where the failure to so qualify would not reasonably be expected, individually or in the aggregate, to have a Material Adverse Effect; all of the issued and outstanding ownership interests of each Significant Subsidiary of the Company have been duly authorized and validly issued in accordance with the organizational documents of such Significant Subsidiary; and the ownership interests of each Significant Subsidiary owned by the Company, directly or through subsidiaries, is owned free from liens, encumbrances and defects;

(iii) No consent, approval, authorization or other order of, or registration with, any governmental regulatory body (other than such as may be required under applicable state securities laws, as to which such counsel need not express an opinion) is required for the issuance and sale of the Notes being delivered at the Closing Date or for the consummation by the Company of the transactions contemplated by this Agreement, the Indenture and the Notes;

(iv) To such counsel's knowledge and other than as set forth or contemplated in the Pricing Disclosure Package and the Prospectus, there are no legal or governmental proceedings pending or threatened to which the Company is subject, which, individually or in the aggregate, have a reasonable possibility of having a Material Adverse Effect;

(v) The execution, delivery and performance by the Company of this Agreement, the Indenture and the issuance and sale of the Notes, will not result in the breach or violation of, or constitute a default under, (a) the Certificate of Incorporation, the Bylaws or other organizational documents of the Company, each as amended to date, (b) any indenture, mortgage, deed of trust or other agreement or instrument for borrowed money to which the Company is a party or by which it is bound or to which its property is subject or (c) any law, order, rule or regulation of any court or governmental agency or body having jurisdiction over the Company or its property, in any manner which, in the case of clause (b), individually or in the aggregate, would have a Material Adverse Effect;

(vi) The description of statutes and regulations set forth in Part I of the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2007 under the captions "Business—Regulation" and "Business—Environmental Matters," and those described elsewhere in the Pricing Disclosure Package and the Prospectus, fairly describe in all material respects the portions of the statutes and regulations addressed thereby; and

(vii) Such counsel does not know of any contracts or documents of a character required to be described in the Registration Statement, Pricing Disclosure Package or Prospectus or to be filed as exhibits to the Registration Statement which are not so described and filed.

(e) Baker Botts L.L.P., counsel for the Company, shall have furnished to you their written opinion, dated the Closing Date, in form and substance satisfactory to you, to the effect that:

(i) The statements set forth in the pricing term sheet discussed in Section 3(b) hereof, the Preliminary Prospectus and the Prospectus under the caption "Description of the Notes", and in the Basic Prospectus under the caption "Description of Our Senior Debt Securities" accurately summarize in all material respects the terms of the Notes;

(ii) The Notes conform, as to legal matters in all material respects to the descriptions thereof contained in the Pricing Disclosure Package and the Prospectus including, without limitation, the description in the Preliminary Prospectus and the Prospectus under the caption "Description of the Notes", and in the Basic Prospectus including, without limitation, under the caption "Description of Our Senior Debt Securities";

(iii) The Notes are in the form prescribed in or pursuant to the Indenture, have been duly and validly authorized by all necessary corporate action on the part of the Company and, when duly executed, issued and authenticated in accordance with the terms of the Indenture and delivered against payment therefor pursuant to the terms of this Agreement, will constitute legal, valid and binding obligations of the Company enforceable against the Company in accordance with their terms and will be entitled to the benefits afforded by the Indenture, except as such enforceability and

entitlement are subject to the effect of (a) any applicable bankruptcy, insolvency, reorganization, fraudulent conveyance, moratorium or other law relating to or affecting creditors' rights generally, (b) general principles of equity (regardless of whether such enforceability is considered in a proceeding in equity or at law) and (c) any implied covenants of good faith and fair dealing;

(iv) The execution and delivery of the Indenture have been duly and validly authorized by all necessary corporate action on the part of the Company; the Indenture has been duly and validly executed and delivered by the Company; the Indenture constitutes a valid and binding instrument enforceable against the Company in accordance with its terms, except as such enforceability is subject to the effect of (a) any applicable bankruptcy, insolvency, reorganization, fraudulent conveyance, moratorium or other law relating to or affecting creditors' rights generally, (b) general principles of equity (regardless of whether such enforceability is considered in a proceeding in equity or at law) and (c) any implied covenants of good faith and fair dealings;

(v) The Indenture has been duly qualified under the TIA;

(vi) The Registration Statement has become effective under the 1933 Act, and, to the best of such counsel's knowledge, no stop order suspending the effectiveness of the Registration Statement or any part thereof has been issued and no proceedings for that purpose or pursuant to Section 8A of the 1933 Act against the Company or related to the offering have been instituted and are pending or are threatened by the Commission under the 1933 Act; the Registration Statement, as of the date of this Agreement, and the Permitted Free Writing Prospectus and the Prospectus, as of their dates and on the Closing Date (except for (A) the financial statements, pro forma financial statements and financial statement schedules contained or incorporated by reference therein (including the notes thereto and the auditors' reports thereon) and (B) the other financial information and any statistical information contained or incorporated by reference therein, or omitted therefrom, as to which such counsel need not express an opinion) appear on their face to have complied or to comply as to form in all material respects with the requirements of the 1933 Act and the applicable rules and regulations of the Commission thereunder, and each document incorporated by reference therein as originally filed pursuant to the 1934 Act (except for (A) the financial statements, pro forma financial statements and financial statement schedules contained or incorporated by reference therein (including the notes thereto and the auditors' reports thereon) and (B) the other financial information and any statistical information contained or incorporated by reference therein, or omitted therefrom, as to which such counsel need not express an opinion) when so filed appears on its face to have complied as to form in all material respects with the 1934 Act and the applicable rules and regulations of the Commission thereunder;

(vii) The execution, delivery and performance by the Company of this Agreement has been duly authorized by all necessary corporate action on the part of the Company, and this Agreement has been duly executed and delivered by the Company; and

(viii) The Company is not and, after giving effect to the offering and sale of the Notes and the application of the proceeds thereof as described in the Pricing Disclosure Package and Prospectus, will not be an “investment company” as defined in the Investment Company Act.

In addition, such counsel shall state that such counsel have participated in conferences with officers and other representatives of the Company, representatives of the independent public accountants of the Company and representatives of the Underwriters, at which the contents of the Registration Statement, the Pricing Disclosure Package and the Prospectus and related matters were discussed. Although such counsel have not undertaken to determine independently, and do not assume any responsibility for, the accuracy, completeness or fairness of the statements contained in the Registration Statement, the Pricing Disclosure Package and the Prospectus or any of the documents incorporated by reference in the Registration Statement, the Pricing Disclosure Package and the Prospectus (except to the extent set forth in paragraphs (i) and (ii) above), such counsel advises the Underwriters that, on the basis of the foregoing, no facts have come to the attention of such counsel that lead them to believe that the Registration Statement (except for (A) the financial statements, pro forma financial statements and financial statement schedules contained or incorporated by reference therein (including the notes thereto and the auditors’ reports thereon), (B) the other financial information and any statistical information contained or incorporated by reference therein, or omitted therefrom, (C) the representations and warranties and other statements of fact included in any exhibit thereto, and (D) any Form T-1 Statement of Eligibility and Qualification of the Trustee included as an exhibit to the Registration Statement, as to which such counsel need not comment) as of the date of this Agreement, contained any untrue statement of a material fact or omitted to state a material fact required to be stated therein or necessary to make the statements therein not misleading, or that the Pricing Disclosure Package (except for (A) the financial statements, pro forma financial statements and financial statement schedules contained or incorporated by reference therein (including the notes thereto and the auditors’ reports thereon) and (B) the other financial information and any statistical information contained or incorporated by reference therein, or omitted therefrom, as to which such counsel need not comment), as of the Applicable Time contained any untrue statement of a material fact or omitted to state a material fact necessary in order to make the statements therein, in light of the circumstances under which they were made, not misleading, or that the Prospectus (except for (A) the financial statements, pro forma financial statements and financial statement schedules contained or incorporated by reference therein (including the notes thereto and the auditors’ reports thereon) and (B) the other financial information and any statistical information contained or incorporated by reference therein, or omitted therefrom, as to which such counsel need not comment) contained, as of its date, or contains, on the Closing Date, any untrue statement therein of a material fact or omitted, as of its date, or omits, on the Closing Date, to state a material fact necessary in order to make the statements therein, in the light of the circumstances under which they were made, not misleading.

In rendering its opinions and statements in subparagraphs (e)(vi) and in the immediately preceding paragraph above, such counsel may assume that the date of this Agreement is

“the earlier of the date the Prospectus is first used or the date and time of the first contract of sale of the Notes” unless the Representatives shall advise that the earlier of such events occurred on a different date that it shall specify, in which case the phrase “as of the date of this Agreement” in such subparagraph and paragraph shall be replaced by the date so identified.

(f) At the time of execution of this Agreement, Deloitte & Touche LLP shall have furnished to you a letter dated the date of such execution, substantially in the form heretofore supplied and deemed satisfactory to you.

(g) At the Closing Date, Deloitte & Touche LLP shall have furnished you a letter, dated the Closing Date, to the effect that such accountants reaffirm, as of the Closing Date and as though made on the Closing Date, the statements made in the letter furnished by such accountants pursuant to paragraph (f) of this Section 6, except that the specified date referred to in such letter will be a date not more than three business days prior to the Closing Date.

(h) The Company shall have furnished or caused to be furnished to you at the Closing Date certificates of the President or any Vice President and a principal financial or accounting officer of the Company in which such officers, to the best of their knowledge after reasonable investigation, shall state that (i) the representations and warranties of the Company in this Agreement are true and correct, (ii) the Company has complied with all agreements and satisfied all conditions on its part to be performed or satisfied hereunder at or prior to the Closing Date, (iii) subsequent to the date of the most recent financial statements in the Pricing Disclosure Package and the Prospectus, there has been no material adverse change in the business, financial condition, prospects or results of operations of the Company and its subsidiaries taken as a whole except as set forth in or contemplated by the Pricing Disclosure Package and the Prospectus or as described in such certificate and (iv) as to such other matters as you may reasonably request.

(i) No action shall have been taken and no statute, rule, regulation or order shall have been enacted, adopted or issued by any governmental agency or body which would as of the Closing Date, prevent the issuance or the sale of the Notes; and no injunction, restraining order or order of any other nature by any court of competent jurisdiction shall have been issued as of the Closing Date which would prevent the issuance or sale of the Notes.

(j) The Notes shall be eligible for clearance and settlement through DTC.

7. Indemnification and Contribution.

(a) The Company agrees to indemnify and hold harmless each Underwriter, the directors and officers of each Underwriter and each person, if any, who controls each Underwriter within the meaning of the 1933 Act or the 1934 Act, against any losses, claims, damages, liabilities or expenses (including the reasonable cost of investigating and defending against any claims therefor and counsel fees incurred in

connection therewith as such expenses are incurred), joint or several, which may be based upon either the 1933 Act, or the 1934 Act, or any other statute or at common law, on the ground or alleged ground that the Registration Statement, any preliminary prospectus, the Basic Prospectus, the Preliminary Prospectus, any Permitted Free Writing Prospectus, the Prospectus or any other Issuer Free Writing Prospectus (as defined in Rule 433 of the 1933 Act) (or any such document, as from time to time amended, or deemed to be amended, supplemented or modified) includes or allegedly includes an untrue statement of material fact or omits to state a material fact required to be stated therein or necessary in order to make the statements therein not misleading, unless such statement or omission was made in reliance upon, and in conformity with, written information furnished to the Company by, or through the Representatives on behalf of, any Underwriter specifically for use in the preparation thereof, it being understood and agreed that the only such information consists of the information described as such in subsection (b) below; provided that in no case is the Company to be liable with respect to any claims made against any Underwriter or any such director, officer or controlling person unless such Underwriter or such director, officer or controlling person shall have notified the Company in writing within a reasonable time after the summons or other first legal process giving information of the nature of the claim shall have been served upon such Underwriter or such director, officer or controlling person, but failure to notify the Company of any such claim (i) shall not relieve the Company from liability under this paragraph unless and to the extent the Company did not otherwise learn of such claim and such failure results in the forfeiture by the Company of substantial rights and defenses and (ii) shall not relieve the Company from any liability which it may have to such Underwriter or such director, officer or controlling person otherwise than on account of the indemnity agreement contained in this paragraph.

The Company will be entitled to participate at its own expense in the defense, or, if it so elects, to assume the defense of any suit brought to enforce any such liability, but, if the Company elects to assume the defense, such defense shall be conducted by counsel chosen by it. In the event that the Company elects to assume the defense of any such suit and retains such counsel, the Underwriter or Underwriters or director or directors, officer or officers, controlling person or persons, defendant or defendants in the suit, may retain additional counsel but shall bear the fees and expenses of such counsel unless (i) the Company shall have specifically authorized the retaining of such counsel or (ii) the parties to such suit include the Underwriter or Underwriters or director or directors, officer or officers, controlling person or persons and the Underwriter or Underwriters or director or directors, officer or officers or controlling person or persons and the Company have been advised by such counsel that one or more legal defenses may be available to it or them which may not be available to the Company, in which case the Company shall not be entitled to assume the defense of such suit on behalf of such Underwriter or Underwriters or director or directors, officer or officers or controlling person or persons, notwithstanding their obligation to bear the reasonable fees and expenses of such counsel, it being understood, however, that the Company shall not, in connection with any one such suit or proceeding or separate but substantially similar or related actions or proceedings in the same jurisdiction arising out of the same general allegations or circumstances, be liable for the reasonable fees and expenses of more than one separate firm of attorneys (and not more than one local counsel) at any time for all

such Underwriters and their directors, officers and controlling persons, which firm shall be designated in writing by the Representatives. The Company shall not be liable to indemnify any person for any settlement of any such claim effected without the Company's prior written consent. This indemnity agreement will be in addition to any liability which the Company might otherwise have.

(b) Each Underwriter agrees severally and not jointly to indemnify and hold harmless the Company, each of the Company's directors, each of the Company's officers who have signed the Registration Statement, and each person, if any, who controls the Company within the meaning of the 1933 Act or the 1934 Act, against any losses, claims, damages, liabilities or expenses (including the reasonable cost of investigating and defending against any claims therefor and counsel fees incurred in connection therewith as such expenses are incurred), joint or several, which may be based upon the 1933 Act, or any other statute or at common law, on the ground or alleged ground that the Registration Statement, any preliminary prospectus, the Basic Prospectus, the Preliminary Prospectus, any Permitted Free Writing Prospectus or the Prospectus (or any such document, as from time to time amended, or deemed to be amended, supplemented or modified) includes or allegedly includes an untrue statement of a material fact or omits to state a material fact required to be stated therein or necessary in order to make the statements therein not misleading, but only insofar as any such statement or omission was made in reliance upon, and in conformity with, written information furnished to the Company by, or through the Representatives on behalf of, such Underwriter specifically for use in the preparation thereof, it being understood and agreed that the only such information furnished by any Underwriter consists of the following information in the Preliminary Prospectus and the Prospectus, (i) furnished on behalf of each Underwriter, the information in the third paragraph, the third and fourth sentences of the fourth paragraph and the fifth paragraph and (ii) furnished by Lazard Capital Markets LLC by separate letter to the Company, the information in the eighth paragraph, each under the heading "Underwriting"; provided that in no case is such Underwriter to be liable with respect to any claims made against the Company or any such director, officer, trustee or controlling person unless the Company or any such director, officer, trustee or controlling person shall have notified such Underwriter in writing within a reasonable time after the summons or other first legal process giving information of the nature of the claim shall have been served upon the Company or any such director, officer, trustee or controlling person, but failure to notify such Underwriter of any such claim (i) shall not relieve such Underwriter from liability under this paragraph unless and to the extent such Underwriter did not otherwise learn of such action and such failure results in the forfeiture by such Underwriter of substantial rights and defenses and (ii) shall not relieve such Underwriter from any liability which it may have to the Company or any such director, officer, trustee or controlling person otherwise than on account of the indemnity agreement contained in this paragraph. Such Underwriter will be entitled to participate at its own expense in the defense, or, if it so elects, to assume the defense of any suit brought to enforce any such liability, but, if such Underwriter elects to assume the defense, such defense shall be conducted by counsel chosen by it. In the event that such Underwriter elects to assume the defense of any such suit and retain such counsel, the Company or such director, officer, trustee or controlling person, defendant or defendants in the suit, may retain additional counsel but shall bear

the fees and expenses of such counsel unless (i) such Underwriter shall have specifically authorized the retaining of such counsel or (ii) the parties to such suit include the Company or any such director, officer, trustee or controlling person and such Underwriter and the Company or such director, officer, trustee or controlling person have been advised by such counsel that one or more legal defenses may be available to it or them which may not be available to such Underwriter, in which case such Underwriter shall not be entitled to assume the defense of such suit on behalf of the Company or such director, officer, trustee or controlling person, notwithstanding its obligation to bear the reasonable fees and expenses of such counsel, it being understood, however, that such Underwriter shall not, in connection with any one such suit or proceeding or separate but substantially similar or related actions or proceedings in the same jurisdiction arising out of the same general allegations or circumstances, be liable for the reasonable fees and expenses of more than one separate firm of attorneys (and not more than one local counsel) at any time for all of the Company and any such director, officer, trustee or controlling person, which firm shall be designated in writing by the Company. Such Underwriter shall not be liable to indemnify any person for any settlement of any such claim effected without such Underwriter's prior written consent. This indemnity agreement will be in addition to any liability which such Underwriter might otherwise have.

(c) If the indemnification provided for in this Section 7 is unavailable or insufficient to hold harmless an indemnified party under subsection (a) or (b) above, then each indemnifying party shall contribute to the amount paid or payable by such indemnified party as a result of the losses, claims, damages or liabilities referred to in subsection (a) or (b) above (i) in such proportion as is appropriate to reflect the relative benefits received by the Company on the one hand and the Underwriters on the other from the offering of the Notes or (ii) if the allocation provided by clause (i) above is not permitted by applicable law, in such proportion as is appropriate to reflect not only the relative benefits referred to in clause (i) above but also the relative fault of the Company on the one hand and the Underwriters on the other in connection with the statements or omissions which resulted in such losses, claims, damages or liabilities as well as any other relevant equitable considerations. The relative benefits received by the Company on the one hand and the Underwriters on the other shall be deemed to be in the same proportion as the total net proceeds from the offering (before deducting expenses) received by the Company bear to the total discounts and commissions received by the Underwriters from the Company under this Agreement. The relative fault shall be determined by reference to, among other things, whether the untrue or alleged untrue statement of a material fact or the omission or alleged omission to state a material fact relates to information supplied by the Company or the Underwriters and the parties' relative intent, knowledge, access to information and opportunity to correct or prevent such untrue statement or omission. The amount paid by an indemnified party as a result of the losses, claims, damages or liabilities referred to in the first sentence of this subsection (c) shall be deemed to include any legal or other expenses reasonably incurred by such indemnified party in connection with investigating or defending any action or claim which is the subject of this subsection (c). Notwithstanding the provisions of this subsection (c), no Underwriter shall be required to contribute any amount in excess of the amount by which the total price at which the Notes purchased by it were resold exceeds the amount of any damages which such Underwriter

has otherwise been required to pay by reason of such untrue or alleged untrue statement or omission or alleged omission. No person guilty of fraudulent misrepresentation (within the meaning of Section 11 (f) of the 1933 Act) shall be entitled to contribution from any person who was not guilty of such fraudulent misrepresentation. The Underwriters' obligations in this subsection (c) to contribute are several in proportion to their respective purchase obligations and not joint.

8. Substitution of Underwriters.

If any Underwriter shall default in its obligation to purchase the Notes which it has agreed to purchase hereunder and the aggregate principal amount of such Notes which such defaulting Underwriter agreed but failed to purchase does not exceed 10% of the total principal amount of Notes, the non-defaulting Underwriters may make arrangements satisfactory to the Company for the purchase of the aggregate principal amount of such Notes by other persons, including any of the non-defaulting Underwriters, but if no such arrangements are made by the Closing Date, the non-defaulting Underwriters shall be obligated severally, in proportion to their respective commitments hereunder, to purchase the Notes that such defaulting Underwriter agreed but failed to purchase. If any Underwriter or Underwriters shall so default and the aggregate principal amount of Notes with respect to which such default or defaults occur exceeds 10% of the total principal amount of Notes and arrangements satisfactory to the non-defaulting Underwriters and the Company for the purchase of such Notes by other persons are not made within 36 hours after such default, this agreement will terminate.

If the non-defaulting Underwriter or Underwriters or substituted underwriter or underwriters are required hereby or agree to take up all or part of the Notes of the defaulting Underwriter as provided in this Section 8, (i) the Company shall have the right to postpone the Closing Date for a period of not more than five full business days, in order that the Company may effect whatever changes may thereby be made necessary in the Registration Statement, Pricing Disclosure Package or Prospectus or in any other documents or arrangements, and the Company agrees to promptly file any amendments to the Registration Statement or supplements to the Prospectus which may thereby be made necessary, and (ii) the respective aggregate principal amount of Notes which the non-defaulting Underwriters or substituted purchaser or purchasers shall thereafter be obligated to purchase shall be taken as the basis of their underwriting obligation for all purposes of this Agreement. Nothing herein contained shall relieve any defaulting Underwriter of its liability to the Company or the non-defaulting Underwriters for damages occasioned by its default hereunder. Any termination of this Agreement pursuant to this Section 8 shall be without liability on the part of the non-defaulting Underwriters or the Company, other than as provided in Sections 7 and 10.

9. Survival of Indemnities, Representations, Warranties, etc.

The respective indemnities, agreements, representations, warranties and other statements of the Company and the several Underwriters, as set forth in this Agreement or made by or on behalf of them, respectively, pursuant to this Agreement, shall remain in full force and effect, regardless of any investigation (or any statement as

to the results thereof) made by or on behalf of any Underwriter or any controlling person of any Underwriter, or the Company, or any officer or director or controlling person of the Company, and shall survive delivery of and payment for the Notes.

10. Termination.

If this Agreement shall be terminated pursuant to Section 8 or if for any reason the purchase of the Notes by the Underwriters is not consummated, the Company shall remain responsible for the expenses to be paid or reimbursed by it pursuant to Section 5 and the respective obligations of the Company and the Initial Purchasers pursuant to Section 7 shall remain in effect. If the purchase of the Notes by the Underwriters is not consummated for any reason other than solely because of the termination of this Agreement pursuant to Section 8 or the occurrence of any event specified in clause (iii), (iv), (v) or (vi) of Section 6(b), the Company will reimburse the Underwriters for all out-of-pocket expenses (including fees and disbursements of counsel) reasonably incurred by them in connection with the offering of the Notes.

11. Notices.

In all dealings hereunder, the Representatives shall act on behalf of each of the Underwriters, and the parties hereto shall be entitled to act and rely upon any statement, request, notice or agreement on behalf of any Underwriter made or given by the Representatives.

All statements, requests, notices and agreements hereunder shall be in writing, and (i) if to the Underwriters shall be delivered or sent by mail, telex or facsimile transmission to the Underwriters in care of Greenwich Capital Markets, Inc., 600 Steamboat Road, Greenwich, Connecticut 06830, Attention: Debt Capital Markets Syndicate, with copies to Lehman Brothers Inc., 745 Seventh Avenue, New York, New York 10019, Attention Debt Capital Markets, Global Power Group and the General Counsel at the same address and Wachovia Capital Markets, LLC, 301 South College Street, Charlotte, North Carolina 28288, Attention: Transaction Management Department (facsimile number: 704-383-9165) and (ii) if to the Company shall be delivered or sent by mail, telex or facsimile transmission to the Company, 1111 Louisiana Avenue, Houston, Texas 77002, Attention: Rufus Scott (facsimile number: 713-207-0490). Any such statements, requests, notices or agreements shall take effect upon receipt thereof.

12. Successors.

This Agreement shall inure to the benefit of and be binding upon the several Underwriters and the Company and their respective successors and the directors, trustees, officers and controlling persons referred to in Section 7 of this Agreement. Nothing expressed or mentioned in this Agreement is intended or shall be construed to give any person other than the persons mentioned in the preceding sentence any legal or equitable right, remedy or claim under or in respect of this Agreement, or any provisions herein contained; this Agreement and all conditions and provisions hereof being intended to be, and being, for the sole and exclusive benefit of such persons and for the benefit of

no other person; except that the representations, warranties, covenants, agreements and indemnities of the Company contained in this Agreement shall also be for the benefit of the person or persons, if any, who control any Underwriter within the meaning of the 1933 Act or the 1934 Act, and the representations, warranties, covenants, agreements and indemnities of the several Underwriters shall also be for the benefit of each director of the Company, each person who has signed the Registration Statement and the person or persons, if any, who control the Company within the meaning of the 1933 Act.

13. Relationship

The Company acknowledges and agrees that (i) the purchase and sale of the Notes pursuant to this Agreement is an arm's length commercial transaction between the Company, on the one hand, and the several Underwriters, on the other, (ii) in connection therewith and with the process leading to such transaction each Underwriter is acting solely as a principal and not the agent or fiduciary of the Company, (iii) no Underwriter has assumed an advisory or fiduciary responsibility in favor of the Company with respect to the offering contemplated hereby or the process leading thereto (irrespective of whether such Underwriter has advised or is currently advising the Company on other matters) or any other obligation to the Company except the obligations expressly set forth in this Agreement and (iv) the Company has consulted its own legal and financial advisors to the extent it deemed appropriate. The Company agrees that it will not claim that the Underwriters, or any of them, has rendered advisory services of any nature or respect, or owes a fiduciary or similar duty to the Company, in connection with such transaction or the process leading thereto.

14. Applicable Law.

This Agreement shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of New York.

The Company hereby submits to the non-exclusive jurisdiction of the Federal and state courts in the Borough of Manhattan in The City of New York in any suit or proceeding arising out of or relating to this Agreement or the transactions contemplated hereby.

15. Counterparts.

This Agreement may be executed by any one or more of the parties hereto in any number of counterparts, each of which shall be deemed to be an original, but all such respective counterparts shall together constitute one and the same instrument. Delivery of an executed signature page of this Agreement by facsimile or any other rapid transmission device designed to produce a written record of the communication transmitted shall be as effective as delivery of a manually executed counterpart thereof.

If the foregoing is in accordance with your understanding, please sign and return to us seven (7) counterparts hereof, and upon the acceptance hereof by you, on behalf of each of the Underwriters, this letter and such acceptance hereof shall constitute a binding agreement between each of the Underwriters and the Company. It is understood that your acceptance of this letter on behalf of each of the Underwriters is pursuant to the authority set forth in a form of Agreement among Underwriters, the form of which shall be submitted to the Company for examination upon request, but without warranty on your part as to the authority of the signers thereof.

Very truly yours,

CENTERPOINT ENERGY, INC.

By: /s/ David M. McClanahan

Name: David M. McClanahan

Title: President and
Chief Executive Officer

Accepted as of the date hereof:

GREENWICH CAPITAL MARKETS, INC.

By: /s/ Okwudiri Onyedum
Name: Okwudiri Onyedum
Title: Senior Vice President

LEHMAN BROTHERS INC.

By: /s/ Gregory J. Hall
Name: Gregory J. Hall
Title: Managing Director

WACHOVIA CAPITAL MARKETS, LLC

By: /s/ Carolyn Coan
Name: Carolyn Coan
Title: Vice President

For Themselves and as Representatives of the Underwriters Listed on Schedule I

SCHEDULE I

	Principal Amount of Underwriters' Notes
Greenwich Capital Markets, Inc.	\$ 70,000,000
Lehman Brothers Inc.	70,000,000
Wachovia Capital Markets, LLC	70,000,000
Barclays Capital Inc.	15,000,000
HSBC Securities (USA) Inc.	15,000,000
Lazard Capital Markets LLC	15,000,000
RBC Capital Markets Corporation	15,000,000
SunTrust Robinson Humphrey, Inc.	15,000,000
Wells Fargo Securities, LLC	15,000,000
Total	\$ 300,000,000

SCHEDULE II
PRICING TERM SHEET

Issuer:	CenterPoint Energy, Inc.
Security:	6.50% Senior Notes due 2018
Legal Format:	SEC Registered
Size:	\$300,000,000
Trade Date:	May 1, 2008
Expected Settlement Date:	May 6, 2008
Maturity Date:	May 1, 2018
Coupon:	6.50%
Interest Payment Dates:	May 1 and November 1, commencing November 1, 2008
Price to Public:	99.487%
Benchmark Treasury:	3.50% due February 15, 2018
Benchmark Treasury Yield:	3.751%
Spread to Benchmark Treasury:	+ 282 basis points
Yield:	6.571%
Make-whole call:	At any time at a discount rate of Treasury plus 45 basis points
CUSIP:	15189TAQ0
Anticipated Ratings:	Moody's Bal S&P BBB- Fitch BBB-
Joint Book-Running Managers:	Greenwich Capital Markets, Inc. Lehman Brothers Inc. Wachovia Capital Markets, LLC
Co-Managers:	Barclays Capital Inc. HSBC Securities (USA) Inc. Lazard Capital Markets LLC RBC Capital Markets Corporation SunTrust Robinson Humphrey, Inc. Wells Fargo Securities, LLC

Note: A securities rating is not a recommendation to buy, sell or hold securities and may be subject to revision or withdrawal at any time.

The issuer has filed a registration statement (including a prospectus) with the SEC for the offering to which this communication relates. Before you invest, you should read the prospectus in that registration statement and other documents the issuer has filed with the

SEC for more complete information about the issuer and this offering. You may get these documents for free by visiting EDGAR on the SEC Web site at www.sec.gov. Alternatively, the issuer, any underwriter or any dealer participating in the offering will arrange to send you the prospectus if you request it by calling Greenwich Capital Markets, Inc. toll-free at 1-866-884-2071, Lehman Brothers Inc. toll-free at 1-888-603-5847 or Wachovia Capital Markets, LLC toll-free at 1-800-326-5897.

SCHEDULE III
PRICING DISCLOSURE PACKAGE

- 1) Preliminary Prospectus dated May 1, 2008
- 2) Permitted Free Writing Prospectuses
 - a) Pricing Term Sheet attached as Schedule II hereto

CENTERPOINT ENERGY, INC.

To

THE BANK OF NEW YORK TRUST COMPANY, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION
(successor to JPMorgan Chase Bank, National Association (formerly JPMorgan Chase Bank))

Trustee

SUPPLEMENTAL INDENTURE NO. 8

Dated as of May 6, 2008

\$300,000,000

6.50% Senior Notes due 2018

CENTERPOINT ENERGY, INC.
SUPPLEMENTAL INDENTURE NO. 8
6.50% Senior Notes due 2018

SUPPLEMENTAL INDENTURE No. 8, dated as of May 6, 2008, between CENTERPOINT ENERGY, INC., a Texas corporation (the “Company”), and THE BANK OF NEW YORK TRUST COMPANY, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (successor to JPMorgan Chase Bank, National Association (formerly JPMorgan Chase Bank)), as Trustee (the “Trustee”).

RECITALS

The Company has heretofore executed and delivered to the Trustee an Indenture, dated as of May 19, 2003 (the “Original Indenture” and, as hereby supplemented and amended, the “Indenture”), providing for the issuance from time to time of one or more series of the Company’s Securities.

Pursuant to the terms of the Indenture, the Company desires to provide for the establishment of a new series of Securities to be designated as the “6.50% Senior Notes due 2018” (the “Notes”), the form and substance of such Notes and the terms, provisions and conditions thereof to be set forth as provided in the Original Indenture and this Supplemental Indenture No. 8.

Section 301 of the Original Indenture provides that various matters with respect to any series of Securities issued under the Indenture may be established in an indenture supplemental to the Indenture.

Subparagraph (7) of Section 901 of the Original Indenture provides that the Company and the Trustee may enter into an indenture supplemental to the Indenture to establish the form or terms of Securities of any series as permitted by Sections 201 and 301 of the Original Indenture.

For and in consideration of the premises and the issuance of the series of Securities provided for herein, it is mutually covenanted and agreed, for the equal and proportionate benefit of the Holders of the Securities of such series, as follows:

ARTICLE I

Relation to Indenture; Additional Definitions

Section 101 *Relation to Indenture*. This Supplemental Indenture No. 8 constitutes an integral part of the Original Indenture.

Section 102 *Additional Definitions*. For all purposes of this Supplemental Indenture No. 8:

Capitalized terms used herein shall have the meaning specified herein or in the Original Indenture, as the case may be;

“Affiliate” of, or a Person “affiliated” with, a specific Person means a Person that directly, or indirectly through one or more intermediaries, controls, or is controlled by, or is under common control with, the Person specified. For purposes of this definition, “control” (including the terms “controlled by” and “under common control with”) means the possession, direct or indirect, of the power to direct or cause the direction of the management and policies of a Person, whether through the ownership of voting shares, by contract, or otherwise.

“Business Day” means, with respect to any Note, any day other than a Saturday, a Sunday or a day on which banking institutions in The City of New York are authorized or required by law, regulation or executive order to close. If any Interest Payment Date, Stated Maturity or Redemption Date of a Note falls on a day that is not a Business Day, the required payment will be made on the next succeeding Business Day with the same force and effect as if made on the relevant date that the payment was due and no interest will accrue on such payment for the period from and after the Interest Payment Date, Stated Maturity or Redemption Date, as the case may be, to the date of that payment on the next succeeding Business Day. The definition of “Business Day” in this Supplemental Indenture No. 8 and the provisions described in the preceding sentence shall supersede the definition of Business Day in the Original Indenture and Section 113 of the Original Indenture.

“Capital Lease” means a lease that, in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, would be recorded as a capital lease on the balance sheet of the lessee;

“CenterPoint Houston” means CenterPoint Energy Houston Electric, LLC, a Texas limited liability company, and any successor thereto; provided, that at any given time, there shall not be more than one such successor;

“CERC” means CenterPoint Energy Resources Corp., a Delaware corporation, and any successor thereto; provided, that at any given time, there shall not be more than one such successor;

“Comparable Treasury Yield” has the meaning set forth in Section 402(a) hereof;

“Corporate Trust Office” means the principal office of the Trustee at which at any particular time its corporate trust business shall be administered, as follows: (a) for payment, registration and transfer of the Securities: 2001 Bryan Street, 9th Floor, Dallas, Texas 75201, Attention: Bondholder Communications; telephone (214) 672-5125 or (800) 275-2048; telecopy: (214) 672-5873; and (b) for all other communications relating to the Securities: 601 Travis Street, 18th Floor, Houston, Texas 77002, Attention: Global Corporate Trust; telephone: (713) 483-6817; telecopy: (713) 483-7038;

“Equity Interests” means any capital stock, partnership, joint venture, member or limited liability or unlimited liability company interest, beneficial interest in a trust or similar entity or other equity interest or investment of whatever nature;

“H.15 Statistical Release” has the meaning set forth in Section 402(b) hereof;

The term “Indebtedness” as applied to any Person, means bonds, debentures, notes and other instruments or arrangements representing obligations created or assumed by any such Person, in respect of: (i) obligations for money borrowed (other than unamortized debt discount or premium); (ii) obligations evidenced by a note or similar instrument given in connection with the acquisition of any business, properties or assets of any kind; (iii) obligations as lessee under a Capital Lease; and (iv) any amendments, renewals, extensions, modifications and refundings of any such indebtedness or obligations listed in clause (i), (ii) or (iii) above. All indebtedness of such type, secured by a lien upon property owned by such Person although such Person has not assumed or become liable for the payment of such indebtedness, shall also for all purposes hereof be deemed to be indebtedness of such Person. All indebtedness for borrowed money incurred by any other Persons which is directly guaranteed as to payment of principal by such Person shall for all purposes hereof be deemed to be indebtedness of any such Person, but no other contingent obligation of such Person in respect of indebtedness incurred by any other Persons shall for any purpose be deemed to be indebtedness of such Person.

“Independent Investment Banker” has the meaning set forth in Section 401(c) hereof;

“Interest Payment Date” has the meaning set forth in Section 204(a) hereof;

“Issue Date” has the meaning provided in Section 204(a) hereof;

“Long-Term Indebtedness” means, collectively, the Company’s outstanding: (a) 5.875% Senior Notes due 2008, (b) 6.850% Senior Notes due 2015, (c) 7.25% Senior Notes due 2010, (d) 3.75% Convertible Senior Notes due 2023 and (e) any long-term indebtedness (but excluding for this purpose any long-term indebtedness incurred pursuant to any revolving credit facility, letter of credit facility or other similar bank credit facility) of the Company issued subsequent to the issuance of the Notes and prior to the Termination Date containing a covenant substantially similar to the covenant set forth in Section 301 hereof, or an event of default substantially similar to the event of default set forth in Section 501(c) hereof, but not containing a provision substantially similar to the provision set forth in Section 302 hereof;

“Make-Whole Premium” has the meaning set forth in Section 401(b) hereof;

“Maturity Date” has the meaning set forth in Section 203 hereof;

“Notes” has the meaning set forth in the second paragraph of the Recitals hereof;

“Original Indenture” has the meaning set forth in the first paragraph of the Recitals hereof;

“Redemption Price” has the meaning set forth in Section 401(a) hereof;

“Regular Record Date” has the meaning set forth in Section 204(a) hereof;

“Remaining Term” has the meaning set forth in Section 402(a) hereof;

“Significant Subsidiary” means, CERC, CenterPoint Houston and any other Subsidiary which, at the time of the creation of a pledge, mortgage, security interest or other lien upon any Equity Interests of such Subsidiary, has consolidated gross assets (having regard to the Company’s beneficial interest in the shares, or the like, of that Subsidiary) that represents at least 25% of the Company’s consolidated gross assets appearing in the Company’s most recent audited consolidated financial statements;

“Subsidiary” of any entity means any corporation, partnership, joint venture, limited liability company, trust or estate of which (or in which) more than 50% of (i) the issued and outstanding capital stock or Equity Interests having ordinary voting power to elect a majority of the Board of Directors or comparable governing body of such corporation or other entity (irrespective of whether at the time capital stock of any other class or classes of such corporation or other entity shall or might have voting power upon the occurrence of any contingency), (ii) the interest in the capital or profits of such limited liability company, partnership, joint venture or other entity, or (iii) the beneficial interest in such trust or estate is at the time directly or indirectly owned or controlled by such entity, by such entity and one or more of its other Subsidiaries, or by one or more of such entity’s other Subsidiaries;

“Termination Date” has the meaning set forth in Section 302.

All references herein to Articles and Sections, unless otherwise specified, refer to the corresponding Articles and Sections of this Supplemental Indenture No. 8; and

The terms “herein,” “hereof,” “hereunder” and other words of similar import refer to this Supplemental Indenture No. 8.

ARTICLE II

The Series of Securities

Section 201 *Title of the Securities*. The Notes shall be designated as the “6.50% Senior Notes due 2018”.

Section 202 *Limitation on Aggregate Principal Amount.* The Trustee shall authenticate and deliver the Notes for original issue on the Issue Date in the aggregate principal amount of \$300,000,000 upon a Company Order for the authentication and delivery thereof and satisfaction of Sections 301 and 303 of the Original Indenture. Such order shall specify the amount of the Notes to be authenticated, the date on which the original issue of Notes is to be authenticated and the name or names of the initial Holder or Holders. The aggregate principal amount of Notes that may initially be outstanding shall not exceed \$300,000,000; provided, however, that the authorized aggregate principal amount of the Notes may be increased above such amount by a Board Resolution to such effect.

Section 203 *Stated Maturity.* The stated maturity of the Notes shall be May 1, 2018 (the "Maturity Date").

Section 204 *Interest and Interest Rates.*

(a) The Notes shall bear interest at a rate of 6.50% per year, from and including May 6, 2008 (the "Issue Date") to, but excluding, the Maturity Date. Such interest shall be payable semiannually in arrears on May 1 and November 1 of each year (each an "Interest Payment Date"), beginning November 1, 2008 to the persons in whose names the Notes (or one or more Predecessor Securities) are registered at the close of business on April 15 and October 15 (each a "Regular Record Date") (whether or not a Business Day), as the case may be, immediately preceding such Interest Payment Date.

(b) Any such interest not so punctually paid or duly provided for shall forthwith cease to be payable to the Holder on such Regular Record Date and shall either (i) be paid to the Person in whose name such Note (or one or more Predecessor Securities) is registered at the close of business on the Special Record Date for the payment of such Defaulted Interest to be fixed by the Trustee, notice whereof shall be given to Holders of the Notes not less than 10 days prior to such Special Record Date, or (ii) be paid at any time in any other lawful manner not inconsistent with the requirements of any securities exchange or automated quotation system on which the Notes may be listed or traded, and upon such notice as may be required by such exchange or automated quotation system, all as more fully provided in the Indenture.

(c) The amount of interest payable for any period shall be computed on the basis of a 360-day year of twelve 30-day months. The amount of interest payable for any partial period shall be computed on the basis of a 360-day year of twelve 30-day months and the days elapsed in any partial month. In the event that any date on which interest is payable on a Note is not a Business Day, then a payment of the interest payable on such date will be made on the next succeeding day which is a Business Day (and without any interest or other payment in respect of any such delay) with the same force and effect as if made on the date the payment was originally payable.

(d) Any principal and premium, if any, and any installment of interest, which is overdue shall bear interest at the rate of 6.50% per annum (to the extent permitted by law), from the dates such amounts are due until they are paid or made available for payment, and such interest shall be payable on demand.

Section 205 *Paying Agent; Place of Payment*. The Trustee shall initially serve as the Paying Agent for the Notes. The Company may appoint and change any Paying Agent or approve a change in the office through which any Paying Agent acts without notice, other than notice to the Trustee. The Company or any of its Subsidiaries or any of their Affiliates may act as Paying Agent. The Place of Payment where the Notes may be presented or surrendered for payment shall be the Corporate Trust Office of the Trustee. At the option of the Company, payment of interest may be made (i) by check mailed to the address of the Person entitled thereto as such address shall appear in the Security Register or (ii) by wire transfer in immediately available funds at such place and to such account as may be designated in writing by the Person entitled thereto as specified in the Security Register.

Section 206 *Place of Registration or Exchange; Notices and Demands With Respect to the Notes*. The place where the Holders of the Notes may present the Notes for registration of transfer or exchange and may make notices and demands to or upon the Company in respect of the Notes shall be the Corporate Trust Office of the Trustee.

Section 207 *Percentage of Principal Amount*. The Notes shall be initially issued at 99.487% of their principal amount plus accrued interest, if any, from May 6, 2008.

Section 208 *Global Securities*.

(a) The Notes shall be issuable in whole or in part in the form of one or more Global Securities. Such Global Securities shall be deposited with, or on behalf of, The Depository Trust Company, New York, New York, which shall act as Depository with respect to the Notes. Such Global Securities shall bear the legends set forth in the form of Security attached as Exhibit A hereto

Section 209 *Form of Securities*. The Notes shall be substantially in the form attached as Exhibit A hereto.

Section 210 *Securities Registrar*. The Trustee shall initially serve as the Security Registrar for the Notes.

Section 211 *Sinking Fund Obligations*. The Company shall have no obligation to redeem or purchase any Notes pursuant to any sinking fund or analogous requirement or upon the happening of a specified event or at the option of a Holder thereof.

Section 212 *Defeasance and Discharge; Covenant Defeasance*.

(a) Article Fourteen of the Original Indenture, including without limitation Sections 1402 and 1403 thereof (as modified by Section 212(b) hereof), shall apply to the Notes.

(b) Solely with respect to the Notes issued hereby, the first sentence of Section 1403 of the Original Indenture is hereby deleted in its entirety, and the following is substituted in lieu thereof:

“Upon the Company’s exercise of its option (if any) to have this Section 1403 applied to any Securities or any series of Securities, as the case may be,
(1) the Company

shall be released from its obligations under Article Eight and under any covenants provided pursuant to Section 301(20), 901(2) or 901(7) for the benefit of the Holders of such Securities, including, without limitation, the covenants provided for in Article Three of Supplemental Indenture No. 8 to the Indenture, and (2) the occurrence of any event specified in Sections 501(4) (with respect to Article Eight and to any such covenants provided pursuant to Section 301(20), 901(2) or 901(7)) and 501(7) shall be deemed not to be or result in an Event of Default, in each case with respect to such Securities as provided in this Section 1403 on and after the date the conditions set forth in Section 1404 are satisfied (hereinafter called "Covenant Defeasance")."

ARTICLE III

Additional Covenant

Section 301 *Limitations on Liens*. The Company shall not pledge, mortgage, hypothecate, or grant a security interest in, or permit any such mortgage, pledge, security interest or other lien upon any Equity Interests now or hereafter owned by the Company in any Significant Subsidiary to secure any Indebtedness, without making effective provisions whereby the outstanding Notes shall be equally and ratably secured with or prior to any and all such Indebtedness and any other Indebtedness similarly entitled to be equally and ratably secured; provided, however, that this provision shall not apply to or prevent the creation or existence of:

- (a) any mortgage, pledge, security interest, lien or encumbrance upon the Equity Interests of CenterPoint Energy Transition Bond Company, LLC, CenterPoint Energy Transition Bond Company II, LLC, CenterPoint Energy Transition Bond Company III, LLC or any other special purpose Subsidiary created on or after the date of this Supplemental Indenture by the Company in connection with the issuance of securitization bonds for the economic value of generation-related regulatory assets and stranded costs;
- (b) any mortgage, pledge, security interest, lien or encumbrance upon any Equity Interests in a Person which was not affiliated with the Company prior to one year before the grant of such mortgage, pledge, security interest, lien or encumbrance (or the Equity Interests of a holding company formed to acquire or hold such Equity Interests) created at the time of the Company's acquisition of the Equity Interests or within one year after such time to secure all or a portion of the purchase price for such Equity Interests; provided that the principal amount of any Indebtedness secured by such mortgage, pledge, security interest, lien or encumbrance does not exceed 100% of such purchase price and the fees, expenses and costs incurred in connection with such acquisition and acquisition financing;
- (c) any mortgage, pledge, security interest, lien or encumbrance existing upon Equity Interests in a Person which was not affiliated with the Company prior to one year before the grant of such mortgage, pledge, security interest, lien or encumbrance at the time of the Company's acquisition of such Equity Interests (whether or not the obligations

secured thereby are assumed by the Company or such Subsidiary becomes a Significant Subsidiary); provided that (i) such mortgage, pledge, security interest, lien or encumbrance existed at the time such Person became a Significant Subsidiary and was not created in anticipation of the acquisition, and (ii) any such mortgage, pledge, security interest, lien or encumbrance does not by its terms secure any Indebtedness other than Indebtedness existing or committed immediately prior to the time such Person becomes a Significant Subsidiary;

(d) liens for taxes, assessments or governmental charges or levies to the extent not past due or which are being contested in good faith by appropriate proceedings diligently conducted and for which the Company has provided adequate reserves for the payment thereof in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles;

(e) pledges or deposits in the ordinary course of business to secure obligations under workers' compensation laws or similar legislation;

(f) materialmen's, mechanics', carriers', workers' and repairmen's liens imposed by law and other similar liens arising in the ordinary course of business for sums not yet due or currently being contested in good faith by appropriate proceedings diligently conducted;

(g) attachment, judgment or other similar liens, which have not been effectively stayed, arising in connection with court proceedings; provided that such liens, in the aggregate, shall not secure judgments which exceed \$50,000,000 aggregate principal amount at any one time outstanding; provided further that the execution or enforcement of each such lien is effectively stayed within 30 days after entry of the corresponding judgment (or the corresponding judgment has been discharged within such 30 day period) and the claims secured thereby are being contested in good faith by appropriate proceedings timely commenced and diligently prosecuted;

(h) other liens not otherwise referred to in paragraphs (a) through (g) above, provided that the Indebtedness secured by such liens in the aggregate, shall not exceed 1% of the Company's consolidated gross assets appearing in the Company's most recent audited consolidated financial statements at any one time outstanding;

(i) any mortgage, pledge, security interest, lien or encumbrance on the Equity Interests of any Subsidiary that was otherwise permitted under this Section 301 if such Subsidiary subsequently becomes a Significant Subsidiary; or

(j) any extension, renewal or refunding of Indebtedness secured by any mortgage, pledge, security interest, lien or encumbrance described in paragraphs (a) through (i) above; provided that the principal amount of any such Indebtedness is not increased by an amount greater than the fees, expenses and costs incurred in connection with such extension, renewal or refunding.

Section 302 *Expiration of Restrictions on Liens*. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary herein, on the date (the “Termination Date”) (and continuing thereafter) on which there remains outstanding, in the aggregate, no more than \$200,000,000 in principal amount of Long-Term Indebtedness, the covenant of the Company set forth in Section 301 hereof shall terminate and the Company shall no longer be subject to the covenant set forth in such Section.

ARTICLE IV

Optional Redemption of the Notes

Section 401 *Redemption Price*.

(a) The Company shall have the right to redeem the Notes, in whole or in part, at its option at any time from time to time at a price equal to (i) 100% of the principal amount thereof plus (ii) accrued and unpaid interest thereon, if any, to (but excluding) the Redemption Date plus (iii) the Make-Whole Premium, if any (collectively, the “Redemption Price”).

(b) The amount of the Make-Whole Premium with respect to any Note (or portion thereof) to be redeemed will be equal to the excess, if any, of: (i) the sum of the present values, calculated as of the Redemption Date, of: (A) each interest payment that, but for such redemption, would have been payable on the Note (or portion thereof) being redeemed on each Interest Payment Date occurring after the Redemption Date (excluding any accrued and unpaid interest for the period prior to the Redemption Date); and (B) the principal amount that, but for such redemption, would have been payable on the Note (or portion thereof) being redeemed at the Maturity Date; over (ii) the principal amount of the Note (or portion thereof) being redeemed. The present values of interest and principal payments referred to in clause (i) above will be determined in accordance with generally accepted principles of financial analysis. Such present values will be calculated by discounting the amount of each payment of interest or principal from the date that each such payment would have been payable, but for the redemption, to the Redemption Date at a discount rate equal to the Comparable Treasury Yield (as defined below) plus 45 basis points.

(c) The Make-Whole Premium shall be calculated by an independent investment banking institution of national standing appointed by the Company; *provided*, that if the Company fails to make such appointment at least 45 days prior to the Redemption Date, or if the institution so appointed is unwilling or unable to make such calculation, such calculation shall be made by Greenwich Capital Markets, Inc., Lehman Brothers Inc. or Wachovia Capital Markets, LLC, or, if such firms are unwilling or unable to make such calculation, by a different independent investment banking institution of national standing appointed by the Company (in any such case, an “Independent Investment Banker”).

Section 402 *Make-Whole Premium Calculation*.

(a) For purposes of determining the Make-Whole Premium, “Comparable Treasury Yield” means a rate of interest per annum equal to the weekly average yield to maturity of United States Treasury securities that have a constant maturity that corresponds to the remaining term to maturity of the Notes to be redeemed, calculated to the nearest 1/12th of a year (the

“Remaining Term”). The Comparable Treasury Yield shall be determined as of the third Business Day immediately preceding the applicable Redemption Date.

(b) The weekly average yields of United States Treasury securities shall be determined by reference to the most recent statistical release published by the Federal Reserve Bank of New York and designated “H.15 (519) Selected Interest Rates” or any successor release (the “H.15 Statistical Release”). If the H.15 Statistical Release sets forth a weekly average yield for United States Treasury securities having a constant maturity that is the same as the Remaining Term, then the Comparable Treasury Yield shall be equal to such weekly average yield. In all other cases, the Comparable Treasury Yield shall be calculated by interpolation, on a straight-line basis, between the weekly average yields on the United States Treasury securities that have a constant maturity closest to and greater than the Remaining Term and the United States Treasury securities that have a constant maturity closest to and less than the Remaining Term (in each case as set forth in the H.15 Statistical Release). Any weekly average yields so calculated by interpolation shall be rounded to the nearest 1/100th of 1%, with any figure of 1/200th of 1% or above being rounded upward. If weekly average yields for United States Treasury securities are not available in the H.15 Statistical Release or otherwise, then the Comparable Treasury Yield shall be calculated by interpolation of comparable rates selected by the Independent Investment Banker.

Section 403 Partial Redemption. If the Company redeems the Notes in part pursuant to this Article Four, the Trustee shall select the Notes to be redeemed on a pro rata basis or by lot or by such other method that the Trustee in its sole discretion deems fair and appropriate. The Company shall redeem Notes pursuant to this Article IV in multiples of \$1,000 in original principal amount. A new Note in principal amount equal to the unredeemed portion of the original Note shall be issued upon cancellation of the original Note.

Section 404 Notice of Optional Redemption. If the Company elects to exercise its right to redeem all or some of the Notes pursuant to this Article IV, the Company or the Trustee shall mail a notice of such redemption to each Holder of a Note that is to be redeemed not less than 30 days and not more than 60 days before the Redemption Date. If any Note is to be redeemed in part only, the notice of redemption shall state the portion of the principal amount to be redeemed.

ARTICLE V

Remedies

Section 501 Additional Events of Default; Acceleration of Maturity.

(a) Solely with respect to the Notes issued hereby, Section 501(5) of the Original Indenture is hereby deleted in its entirety, and the following is substituted in lieu thereof as an Event of Default in addition to the other events set forth in Section 501 of the Original Indenture:

“(5) the entry by a court having jurisdiction in the premises of (A) a decree or order for relief in respect of the Company, CERC or CenterPoint Houston in an involuntary case or proceeding under any applicable federal or state bankruptcy,

insolvency, reorganization or other similar law or (B) a decree or order adjudging the Company, CERC or CenterPoint Houston a bankrupt or insolvent, or approving as properly filed a petition seeking reorganization, arrangement, adjustment or composition of or in respect of the Company, CERC or CenterPoint Houston under any applicable federal or state law, or appointing a custodian, receiver, liquidator, assignee, trustee, sequestrator or other similar official of the Company, CERC or CenterPoint Houston or of any substantial part of its respective property, or ordering the winding up or liquidation of its respective affairs, and the continuance of any such decree or order for relief or any such other decree or order unstayed and in effect for a period of 90 consecutive days; provided that any specified event in (A) or (B) involving CERC or CenterPoint Houston shall not constitute an Event of Default if, at the time such event occurs, CERC or CenterPoint Houston, as the case may be, shall no longer be an Affiliate of the Company; or”

(b) Solely with respect to the Notes issued hereby, Section 501(6) of the Original Indenture is hereby deleted in its entirety, and the following is substituted in lieu thereof as an Event of Default in addition to the other events set forth in Section 501 of the Original Indenture:

“(6) the commencement by the Company, CERC or CenterPoint Houston of a voluntary case or proceeding under any applicable federal or state bankruptcy, insolvency, reorganization or other similar law or of any other case or proceeding to be adjudicated a bankrupt or insolvent, or the consent by any of them to the entry of a decree or order for relief in respect of the Company, CERC or CenterPoint Houston in an involuntary case or proceeding under any applicable federal or state bankruptcy, insolvency, reorganization or other similar law or to the commencement of any bankruptcy or insolvency case or proceeding against any of them, or the filing by any of them of a petition or answer or consent seeking reorganization or relief under any applicable federal or state law, or the consent by any of them to the filing of such petition or to the appointment of or taking possession by a custodian, receiver, liquidator, assignee, trustee, sequestrator or other similar official of the Company, CERC or CenterPoint Houston or of any substantial part of its respective property, or the making by any of them of an assignment of a substantial part of its respective property for the benefit of creditors, or the admission by any of them in writing of the inability of any of the Company, CERC or CenterPoint Houston to pay its respective debts generally as they become due, or the taking of corporate action by the Company, CERC or CenterPoint Houston in furtherance of any such action; provided that any such specified event involving CERC or CenterPoint Houston shall not

constitute an Event of Default if, at the time such event occurs, CERC or CenterPoint Houston, as the case may be, shall no longer be an Affiliate of the Company; or”

(c) Solely with respect to the Notes issued hereby, and pursuant to Section 501(7) of the Original Indenture, Section 501(7) of the Original Indenture is hereby deleted in its entirety, and the following is substituted in lieu thereof, as an “Event of Default” in addition to the other events set forth in Section 501 of the Original Indenture:

“(7) The default by the Company, CERC or CenterPoint Houston in a scheduled payment at maturity, upon redemption or otherwise, in the aggregate principal amount of \$50 million or more, after the expiration of any applicable grace period, of any Indebtedness or the acceleration of any Indebtedness of the Company, CERC or CenterPoint Houston in such aggregate principal amount so that it becomes due and payable prior to the date on which it would otherwise have become due and payable and such payment default is not cured or such acceleration is not rescinded within 30 days after notice to the Company in accordance with the terms of the Indebtedness; provided that such payment default or acceleration of CERC or CenterPoint Houston shall not to be an Event of Default if, at the time such event occurs, CERC or CenterPoint Houston, as the case may be, shall not be an Affiliate of the Company.”

Section 502 *Expiration of Additional Event of Default*. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary herein, on the Termination Date (and continuing thereafter), the event of default of the Company set forth in Section 501(c) hereof shall terminate and the Company shall no longer be subject to such event of default.

ARTICLE VI

Miscellaneous Provisions

Section 601 The Indenture, as supplemented and amended by this Supplemental Indenture No. 8, is in all respects hereby adopted, ratified and confirmed.

Section 602 This Supplemental Indenture No. 8 may be executed in any number of counterparts, each of which shall be an original, but such counterparts shall together constitute but one and the same instrument.

Section 603 THIS SUPPLEMENTAL INDENTURE NO. 8 AND EACH NOTE SHALL BE DEEMED TO BE A CONTRACT MADE UNDER THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK AND SHALL BE GOVERNED BY AND CONSTRUED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK WITHOUT REGARD TO CONFLICTS OF LAWS PRINCIPLES THEREOF.

Section 604 If any provision in this Supplemental Indenture No. 8 limits, qualifies or conflicts with another provision hereof which is required to be included herein by any provisions of the Trust Indenture Act, such required provision shall control.

Section 605 In case any provision in this Supplemental Indenture No. 8 or the Notes shall be invalid, illegal or unenforceable, the validity, legality and enforceability of the remaining provisions shall not in any way be affected or impaired thereby.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have caused this Supplemental Indenture No. 8 to be duly executed, as of the day and year first written above.

CENTERPOINT ENERGY, INC.

By: _____
Gary L. Whitlock
Executive Vice President and
Chief Financial Officer

Attest:

Richard B. Dauphin
Assistant Corporate Secretary

(SEAL)

THE BANK OF NEW YORK TRUST
COMPANY, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION,
As Trustee

By: _____
Name: Kathryn Shotwell
Title: Assistant Treasurer and Trust Officer

(SEAL)

Exhibit A

[FORM OF FACE OF SECURITY]

[IF THIS SECURITY IS TO BE A GLOBAL SECURITY -] THIS SECURITY IS A GLOBAL SECURITY WITHIN THE MEANING OF THE INDENTURE HEREINAFTER REFERRED TO AND IS REGISTERED IN THE NAME OF A DEPOSITARY OR A NOMINEE OF A DEPOSITARY. THIS SECURITY IS EXCHANGEABLE FOR SECURITIES REGISTERED IN THE NAME OF A PERSON OTHER THAN THE DEPOSITARY OR ITS NOMINEE ONLY IN THE LIMITED CIRCUMSTANCES DESCRIBED IN THE INDENTURE AND MAY NOT BE TRANSFERRED EXCEPT AS A WHOLE BY THE DEPOSITARY TO A NOMINEE OF THE DEPOSITARY OR BY A NOMINEE OF THE DEPOSITARY TO THE DEPOSITARY OR ANOTHER NOMINEE OF THE DEPOSITARY.

[For as long as this Global Security is deposited with or on behalf of The Depository Trust Company it shall bear the following legend.] Unless this certificate is presented by an authorized representative of The Depository Trust Company, a New York corporation ("DTC"), to CenterPoint Energy, Inc. or its agent for registration of transfer, exchange, or payment, and any certificate issued is registered in the name of Cede & Co. or in such other name as is requested by an authorized representative of DTC (and any payment is made to Cede & Co. or to such other entity as is requested by an authorized representative of DTC), ANY TRANSFER, PLEDGE, OR OTHER USE HEREOF FOR VALUE OR OTHERWISE BY OR TO ANY PERSON IS WRONGFUL inasmuch as the registered owner hereof, Cede & Co., has an interest herein.

CENTERPOINT ENERGY, INC.

6.50% Senior Notes due 2018

No. _____

\$ _____
CUSIP No. _____

CENTERPOINT ENERGY, INC., a corporation duly organized and existing under the laws of the State of Texas (herein called the "Company", which term includes any successor Person under the Indenture hereinafter referred to), for value received, hereby promises to pay to _____, or registered assigns, the principal sum of _____ Dollars on May 1, 2018, and to pay interest thereon from May 6, 2008 or from the most recent Interest Payment Date to which interest has been paid or duly provided for, semi-annually on May 1 and November 1 in each year, commencing November 1, 2008, at the rate of 6.50% per annum, until the principal hereof is paid or made available for payment, provided that any principal and premium, and any such installment of interest, which is overdue shall bear interest at the rate of 6.50% per annum (to the extent permitted by applicable law), from the dates such amounts are due until they are paid or made available for payment, and such interest shall be payable on demand. The amount of interest payable for any period shall be computed on the basis of twelve

30-day months and a 360-day year. The amount of interest payable for any partial period shall be computed on the basis of a 360-day year of twelve 30-day months and the days elapsed in any partial month. In the event that any date on which interest is payable on this Security is not a Business Day, then a payment of the interest payable on such date will be made on the next succeeding day which is a Business Day (and without any interest or other payment in respect of any such delay) with the same force and effect as if made on the date the payment was originally payable. A "Business Day" shall mean any day other than a Saturday, a Sunday or a day on which banking institutions in The City of New York are authorized or required by law, regulation or executive order to close. The interest so payable, and punctually paid or duly provided for, on any Interest Payment Date will, as provided in such Indenture, be paid to the Person in whose name this Security (or one or more Predecessor Securities) is registered at the close of business on the Regular Record Date for such interest, which shall be April 15 or October 15 (whether or not a Business Day), as the case may be, next preceding such Interest Payment Date. Any such interest not so punctually paid or duly provided for shall forthwith cease to be payable to the Holder on such Regular Record Date and shall either be paid to the Person in whose name this Security (or one or more Predecessor Securities) is registered at the close of business on a Special Record Date for the payment of such Defaulted Interest to be fixed by the Trustee, notice whereof shall be given to Holders of Securities of this series not less than 10 days prior to such Special Record Date, or be paid at any time in any other lawful manner not inconsistent with the requirements of any securities exchange or automated quotation system on which the Securities of this series may be listed or traded, and upon such notice as may be required by such exchange or automated quotation system, all as more fully provided in said Indenture.

Payment of the principal of (and premium, if any) and any such interest on this Security will be made at the Corporate Trust Office of the Trustee, in such coin or currency of the United States of America as at the time of payment is legal tender for payment of public and private debts; provided, however, that at the option of the Company payment of interest may be made (i) by check mailed to the address of the Person entitled thereto as such address shall appear in the Security Register or (ii) by wire transfer in immediately available funds at such place and to such account as may be designated in writing by the Person entitled thereto as specified in the Security Register.

Reference is hereby made to the further provisions of this Security set forth on the reverse hereof, which further provisions shall for all purposes have the same effect as if set forth at this place.

Unless the certificate of authentication hereon has been executed by the Trustee referred to on the reverse hereof by manual signature, this Security shall not be entitled to any benefit under the Indenture or be valid or obligatory for any purpose.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Company has caused this instrument to be duly executed under its corporate seal.

Dated: _____

CENTERPOINT ENERGY, INC.

By: _____

(SEAL)

Name:

Title:

Attest:

Name:

Title:

This is one of the Securities of the series designated therein referred to in the within-mentioned Indenture.

THE BANK OF NEW YORK TRUST
COMPANY, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION
As Trustee

Date of Authentication: _____

By: _____

Authorized Signatory

[FORM OF REVERSE SIDE OF SECURITY]

CENTERPOINT ENERGY, INC.

6.50% NOTES DUE 2018

This Security is one of a duly authorized issue of securities of the Company (herein called the "Securities"), issued and to be issued in one or more series under an Indenture, dated as of May 19, 2003 (herein called the "Indenture", which term shall have the meaning assigned to it in such instrument), between the Company and The Bank of New York Trust Company, National Association (successor to JPMorgan Chase Bank, National Association (formerly JPMorgan Chase Bank)), as Trustee (herein called the "Trustee", which term includes any successor trustee under the Indenture), to which Indenture and all indentures supplemental thereto reference is hereby made for a statement of the respective rights, limitations of rights, duties and immunities thereunder of the Company, the Trustee and the Holders of the Securities and of the terms upon which the Securities are, and are to be, authenticated and delivered. This Security is one of the series designated on the face hereof, initially limited in aggregate principal amount to \$300,000,000; provided, however, that the authorized aggregate principal amount of the Securities may be increased above such amount by a Board Resolution to such effect.

The Company shall have the right to redeem the Securities of this series, in whole or in part, at its option at any time from time to time at a price equal to (i) 100% of the principal amount thereof plus (ii) accrued and unpaid interest thereon, if any, to (but excluding) the Redemption Date plus (iii) the Make-Whole Premium, if any.

The amount of the Make-Whole Premium with respect to any Security of this Series (or portion thereof) to be redeemed will be equal to the excess, if any, of: (i) the sum of the present values, calculated as of the Redemption Date, of: (A) each interest payment that, but for such redemption, would have been payable on the Security of this series (or portion thereof) being redeemed on each Interest Payment Date occurring after the Redemption Date (excluding any accrued and unpaid interest for the period prior to the Redemption Date); and (B) the principal amount that, but for such redemption, would have been payable on the Security of this series (or portion thereof) being redeemed at May 1, 2018; over (ii) the principal amount of the Security of this series (or portion thereof) being redeemed. The present values of interest and principal payments referred to in clause (i) above will be determined in accordance with generally accepted principles of financial analysis. Such present values will be calculated by discounting the amount of each payment of interest or principal from the date that each such payment would have been payable, but for the redemption, to the Redemption Date at a discount rate equal to the Comparable Treasury Yield (as defined below) plus 45 basis points.

For purposes of determining the Make-Whole Premium, "Comparable Treasury Yield" means a rate of interest per annum equal to the weekly average yield to maturity of United States Treasury securities that have a constant maturity that corresponds to the remaining term to maturity of the Securities of this series, calculated to the nearest 1/12th of a year (the "Remaining Term"). The Comparable Treasury Yield shall be determined as of the third Business Day immediately preceding the Redemption Date.

The weekly average yields of United States Treasury securities shall be determined by reference to the most recent statistical release published by the Federal Reserve Bank of New York and designated “H.15 (519) Selected Interest Rates” or any successor release (the “H.15 Statistical Release”). If the H.15 Statistical Release sets forth a weekly average yield for United States Treasury securities having a constant maturity that is the same as the Remaining Term, then the Comparable Treasury Yield shall be equal to such weekly average yield. In all other cases, the Comparable Treasury Yield shall be calculated by interpolation, on a straight-line basis, between the weekly average yields on the United States Treasury securities that have a constant maturity closest to and greater than the Remaining Term and the United States Treasury securities that have a constant maturity closest to and less than the Remaining Term (in each case as set forth in the H.15 Statistical Release). Any weekly average yields so calculated by interpolation shall be rounded to the nearest 1/100th of 1%, with any figure of 1/200th of 1% or above being rounded upward. If weekly average yields for United States Treasury securities are not available in the H.15 Statistical Release or otherwise, then the Comparable Treasury Yield shall be calculated by interpolation of comparable rates selected by the Independent Investment Banker.

In the event of redemption of this Security in part only, a new Security or Securities of this series and of like tenor for the unredeemed portion hereof will be issued in the name of the Holder hereof upon the cancellation hereof.

The Securities of this series are not entitled to the benefit of any sinking fund.

The Indenture contains provisions for satisfaction and discharge of the entire indebtedness of this Security upon compliance by the Company with certain conditions set forth in the Indenture.

The Indenture contains provisions for defeasance at any time of the entire indebtedness of this Security or certain restrictive covenants and Events of Default with respect to this Security, in each case upon compliance with certain conditions set forth in the Indenture.

If an Event of Default with respect to Securities of this series shall occur and be continuing, the principal of the Securities of this series may be declared due and payable in the manner and with the effect provided in the Indenture.

The Indenture permits, with certain exceptions as therein provided, the amendment thereof and the modification of the rights and obligations of the Company and the rights of the Holders of the Securities of each series to be affected under the Indenture at any time by the Company and the Trustee with the consent of the Holders of a majority in principal amount of the Securities at the time Outstanding of each series to be affected. The Indenture also contains provisions permitting the Holders of specified percentages in principal amount of the Securities of each series at the time Outstanding, on behalf of the Holders of all Securities of such series, to waive compliance by the Company with certain provisions of the Indenture and certain past defaults under the Indenture and their consequences. Any such consent or waiver by the Holder of this Security shall be conclusive and binding upon such Holder and upon all future Holders of this Security and of any Security issued upon the registration of transfer hereof or in exchange

herefor or in lieu hereof, whether or not notation of such consent or waiver is made upon this Security.

As provided in and subject to the provisions of the Indenture, the Holder of this Security shall not have the right to institute any proceeding with respect to the Indenture or for the appointment of a receiver or trustee or for any other remedy thereunder, unless such Holder shall have previously given the Trustee written notice of a continuing Event of Default with respect to the Securities of this series, the Holders of not less than 25% in principal amount of the Securities of this series at the time Outstanding shall have made written request to the Trustee to institute proceedings in respect of such Event of Default as Trustee and offered the Trustee reasonable indemnity, and the Trustee shall not have received from the Holders of a majority in principal amount of Securities of this series at the time Outstanding a direction inconsistent with such request, and shall have failed to institute any such proceeding, for 60 days after receipt of such notice, request and offer of indemnity. The foregoing shall not apply to any suit instituted by the Holder of this Security for the enforcement of any payment of principal hereof or any premium or interest hereon on or after the respective due dates expressed herein.

No reference herein to the Indenture and no provision of this Security or of the Indenture shall alter or impair the obligation of the Company, which is absolute and unconditional, to pay the principal of and any premium and interest on this Security at the times, place and rate, and in the coin or currency, herein prescribed.

As provided in the Indenture and subject to certain limitations therein set forth, the transfer of this Security is registrable in the Security Register, upon surrender of this Security for registration of transfer at the office or agency of the Company in any place where the principal of and any premium and interest on this Security are payable, duly endorsed by, or accompanied by a written instrument of transfer in form satisfactory to the Company and the Security Registrar duly executed by the Holder hereof or his attorney duly authorized in writing, and thereupon one or more new Securities of this series and of like tenor, of authorized denominations and for the same aggregate principal amount, will be issued to the designated transferee or transferees. No service charge shall be made for any such registration of transfer or exchange, but the Company may require payment of a sum sufficient to cover any tax or other governmental charge payable in connection therewith.

Prior to due presentment of this Security for registration of transfer, the Company, the Trustee and any agent of the Company or the Trustee may treat the Person in whose name this Security is registered as the owner hereof for all purposes, whether or not this Security be overdue, and neither the Company, the Trustee nor any such agent shall be affected by notice to the contrary.

The Securities of this series are issuable only in registered form without coupons in denominations of \$1,000 and any integral multiple thereof. As provided in the Indenture and subject to certain limitations therein set forth, Securities of this series are exchangeable for a like aggregate principal amount of Securities of this series and of like tenor of a different authorized denomination, as requested by the Holder surrendering the same.

All terms used in this Security which are defined in the Indenture shall have the meanings assigned to them in the Indenture.

THE INDENTURE AND THIS SECURITY SHALL BE GOVERNED BY AND CONSTRUED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK WITHOUT REGARD TO CONFLICTS OF LAWS PRINCIPLES THEREOF.

BAKER BOTTS LLP

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713.229.1522	NEW YORK
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	WASHINGTON

May 6, 2008

001166.1403

CenterPoint Energy, Inc.
1111 Louisiana
Houston, Texas 77002

Ladies and Gentlemen:

In connection with the issuance by CenterPoint Energy, Inc., a Texas corporation (the "Company"), of \$300,000,000 aggregate principal amount of its 6.50% Senior Notes due 2018 (the "Notes") pursuant to (a) the Company's Registration Statement on Form S-3 (Registration No. 333-116246) (the "Registration Statement"), which was filed by the Company with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "Commission") under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the "Act"), and (b) the related prospectus dated December 16, 2004, as supplemented by the prospectus supplement relating to the sale of the Notes dated May 1, 2008 (as so supplemented, the "Prospectus"), as filed by the Company with the Commission pursuant to Rule 424(b) under the Act, certain legal matters with respect to the Notes are being passed upon for you by us. At your request, this opinion is being furnished to you for filing as Exhibit 5.1 to the Company's Current Report on Form 8-K to be filed with the Commission on the date hereof (the "Form 8-K").

The Notes are to be issued pursuant to an Indenture, dated as of May 19, 2003, as heretofore supplemented and amended (the "Base Indenture"), between the Company and The Bank of New York Trust Company, National Association (successor to JPMorgan Chase Bank, National Association (formerly JPMorgan Chase Bank)), as trustee (the "Trustee"), as supplemented by Supplemental Indenture No. 8 thereto, dated as of May 6, 2008 (the "Supplemental Indenture," and together with the Base Indenture, the "Indenture"), between the Company and the Trustee. The terms of the Notes (including the form of Note) are established by the Supplemental Indenture.

In our capacity as your counsel in the connection referred to above, we have examined originals, or copies certified or otherwise identified, of (i) the Company's Articles of Incorporation and By-laws, in each case as amended to date; (ii) the Underwriting Agreement dated May 1, 2008 (the "Underwriting Agreement") by and among the Company and the Underwriters named in Schedule I thereto (the "Underwriters"), relating to the issuance and sale of the Notes; (iii) the Registration Statement and the Prospectus; (iv) the Indenture; and (v) the corporate records of the Company as furnished to us by you, certificates of public officials and of representatives of the Company, statutes and other instruments and documents as a basis for the opinions hereinafter expressed. In giving such opinions, we have relied upon certificates of officers of the Company and of public officials with respect to the accuracy of the material factual matters contained in such certificates. In giving the opinions below, we have assumed that the signatures on all documents examined by us are genuine, that all documents submitted to us as originals are accurate and complete, that all documents submitted to

us as originals are accurate and complete, that all documents submitted to us as copies are true and correct copies of the originals thereof and that all information submitted to us was accurate and complete.

On the basis of the foregoing, and subject to the assumptions, limitations and qualifications hereinafter set forth, we are of the opinion that the Notes will, when duly executed, issued and delivered by the Company, authenticated and delivered by the Trustee in accordance with the terms of the Indenture and duly purchased and paid for by the Underwriters in accordance with the terms of the Underwriting Agreement, constitute legal, valid and binding obligations of the Company, enforceable against the Company in accordance with their terms, except as that enforcement is subject to any applicable bankruptcy, insolvency, reorganization, moratorium, fraudulent transfer or conveyance or other laws relating to or affecting creditors' rights generally, general principles of equity (regardless of whether that enforceability is considered in a proceeding in equity or at law) and any implied covenants of good faith and fair dealing.

The opinions set forth above are limited in all respects to matters of the contract law of the State of New York, the laws of the State of Texas and applicable federal law. We hereby consent to the filing of this opinion of counsel as Exhibit 5.1 to the Form 8-K. We also consent to the reference to our Firm under the heading "Legal Matters" in the Prospectus. In giving this consent, we do not hereby admit that we are in the category of persons whose consent is required under Section 7 of the Act or the rules and regulations of the Commission thereunder.

Very truly yours,

/s/ BAKER BOTTS L.L.P.