FORM 4

UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

| Washington, | D.C. | 20549 | |
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| rvasi iii igioi i, | D.O. | 20070 | |

| STATEMENT OF | CHANGES IN | BENEFICIAL | OWNERSHIP |
|--------------|-------------------|-------------------|------------------|

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

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

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

| 1. Name and Address of Reporting Person* <u>Franklin Chris</u> | | | | | 2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol CENTERPOINT ENERGY INC [CNP] | | | | | | | | ck all appl | icable) | ng Per | rson(s) to Is | | | |
|--|--|--|-----------------|------------------------------|---|-------|---|--|----------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|--|--|---------|
| (Last) | (Fi | rst) (M | /liddle) | | 3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year) 05/01/2024 | | | | | | Office below | r (give title | | Other (s below) | specify | | | | |
| 1111 LOUISIANA | | | | | 4. If Amendment, Date of Original Filed (Month/Day/Year) | | | | | | 6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing (Check Applicable Line) | | | | | | | | |
| (Street) | ON T | ζ 7 | 7002 | | | | | | | | | X | X Form filed by One Reporting Person Form filed by More than One Reporting Person | | | | | | |
| (City) | (St | ate) (Z | (ip) | | Rule 10b5-1(c) Transaction Indication | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | action was m ons of Rule 10 | | | | a contract, instruction or written plan that is intended to struction 10. | | | | nded to |
| | | Table | I - Nor | n-Deriva | tive S | Secui | rities | Acq | uired, | Dis | posed of | , or E | Benef | icial | ly Own | ed | | | |
| 1. Title of Security (Instr. 3) 2. Transact Date (Month/Date) | | | Execution Date, | | Date, | | | es Acquired (A) o Of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 | | | Benefic | ties Fo cially (D I Following (I) | | n: Direct or Indirect ostr. 4) | 7. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4) | | | | |
| | | | | | | | Code | v | Amount | (A) (D) | or P | rice | Transac | action(s) 3 and 4) | | ľ | instr. 4) | | |
| Common Stock 05/01 | | | | 05/01/2 | 2024 | | A | | 5,798(1) | A | A . | \$0 16 | | 16,468 | | D | | | |
| | Table II - Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned (e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 3) | 2. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security | 3. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year) | if any | med on Date, Day/Year) | 4. Transaction Code (Instr. 8) 5. Numbe of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5) | | rative rities nired r osed) | Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year) | | 7. Title and Amount of Securities Underlying Derivative Security (Instr. 3 and 4) | | S (I | . Price of Perivative Pecurity Pecurity Pecurity | 9. Number derivative Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transactio (Instr. 4) | y | Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4) | 11. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4) | | |
| | | | | | Code | | | Date Exercis | able | Expiration Date | Title | Amou or Numb of Share | er | | | | | | |

Explanation of Responses:

1. Shares of common stock granted under the Issuer's Stock Plan for Outside Directors, as amended and restated.

Remarks:

Vincent A. Mercaldi, <u>Attorney-in-Fact</u>

05/03/2024

** Signature of Reporting Person Date

Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially owned directly or indirectly.

- * If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, see Instruction 4 (b)(v).
- ** Intentional misstatements or omissions of facts constitute Federal Criminal Violations See 18 U.S.C. 1001 and 15 U.S.C. 78ff(a).

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, see Instruction 6 for procedure.

Persons who respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB Number.