

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

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP

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>SCHAEFFER STEPHEN C</u> (Last) (First) (Middle) 1111 LOUISIANA (Street) HOUSTON TX 77002 (City) (State) (Zip)	2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol <u>CENTERPOINT ENERGY INC [CNP]</u>	5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable) Director 10% Owner <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Officer (give title below) Other (specify below) <u>EVP and Group President</u>
	3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year) 03/03/2004	
4. If Amendment, Date of Original Filed (Month/Day/Year)		

Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned

1. Title of Security (Instr. 3)	2. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	2A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year)	3. Transaction Code (Instr. 8)		4. Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed Of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5)			5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4)	6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4)	7. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4)
			Code	V	Amount	(A) or (D)	Price			
Common Stock	03/03/2004		A		10,200 ⁽¹⁾	A	(2)	92,346 ⁽³⁾	D	
Common Stock								39,153	I	By Savings Plan ⁽⁴⁾

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)	3A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year)	4. Transaction Code (Instr. 8)		5. Number of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5)		6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year)		7. Title and Amount of Securities Underlying Derivative Security (Instr. 3 and 4)	8. Price of Derivative Security (Instr. 5)	9. Number of derivative Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 4)	10. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4)	11. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4)	
				Code	V	(A)	(D)	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date						Title
Employee Stock Option Right To Buy	\$10.92	03/03/2004		A		33,200		(5)	03/02/2014	Common Stock	33,200	(2)	33,200	D	

Explanation of Responses:

- This common stock is time based restricted stock to be paid on 03/03/2007 if Mr. Schaeffer is an employee of Issuer through such date and on a pro rata basis in the event of his earlier retirement, disability or death.
- Price is not applicable.
- Includes 23,000 shares of time based restricted stock to be paid on 03/04/2006 if Mr. Schaeffer is an employee of Issuer through such date and on a pro rata basis in the event of his earlier retirement, disability or death
- Equivalent Shares held in CenterPoint Energy, Inc. Savings Plan as of 03/01/2004.
- The option is exercisable in one-third increments: 11,066 are exercisable on 3/3/2005; 11,067 are exercisable on 3/3/2006; 11,067 are exercisable on 3/3/2007.

Remarks:

Stephen C. Schaeffer

03/05/2004

** 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.