



## CenterPoint Energy Declares \$0.15 Quarterly Dividend

HOUSTON, July 27, 2006 /PRNewswire-FirstCall via COMTEX News Network/ -- CenterPoint Energy, Inc.'s (NYSE: CNP) board of directors today declared a regular quarterly cash dividend of \$0.15 per share of common stock payable on September 8, 2006, to shareholders of record as of the close of business on August 16, 2006. This equates to an annual dividend of \$0.60 per share of common stock.

CenterPoint Energy, Inc., headquartered in Houston, Texas, is a domestic energy delivery company that includes electric transmission & distribution, natural gas distribution, competitive natural gas sales and services, and pipeline and field services operations. The company serves more than five million metered customers primarily in Arkansas, Louisiana, Minnesota, Mississippi, Oklahoma, and Texas. Assets total approximately \$16 billion. With about 9,000 employees, CenterPoint Energy and its predecessor companies have been in business for more than 130 years. For more information, visit the Web site at <http://www.CenterPointEnergy.com>.

This news release includes forward-looking statements. Actual events and results may differ materially from those projected. The statements in this news release regarding future events and other statements that are not historical facts are forward-looking statements. Factors that could affect actual results include the financial performance of CenterPoint Energy, the timing and impact of future regulatory decisions, and other factors discussed in CenterPoint Energy's Form 10-K for the period ended Dec. 31, 2005, and Form 10-Q for the period ended March 31, 2006, and other filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

SOURCE CenterPoint Energy, Inc.

media, Leticia Lowe, +1-713-207-7702, or investors, Marianne Paulsen, +1-713-207-6500, both of CenterPoint Energy, Inc.

<http://www.prnewswire.com>

Copyright (C) 2006 PR Newswire. All rights reserved.

News Provided by COMTEX