

| OMB APPROVAL                                 |           |
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| 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*<br><u>MCCLANAHAN DAVID M</u><br><br>(Last) (First) (Middle)<br><u>1111 LOUISIANA</u><br><br>(Street)<br><u>HOUSTON TX 77002</u><br><br>(City) (State) (Zip) | 2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol<br><u>CENTERPOINT ENERGY INC [ CNP ]</u> | 5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable)<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Director 10% Owner<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Officer (give title below) Other (specify below)<br><u>President and CEO</u> |
|  | 3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)<br><u>03/03/2004</u>                |   |
| 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                              |   | 32,600 <sup>(1)</sup>   | A          | (2)   | 185,022 <sup>(3)</sup>  | D  |   |
| Common Stock                    |                                      |  |                                |   |   |            |       | 27,940  | I  | By Savings Plan <sup>(4)</sup>                        |

**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                              |   | 106,100  |     | (5)  | 03/02/2014      | Common Stock  | 106,100                                    | (2)  | 106,100   | D  |       |

**Explanation of Responses:**

- This common stock is time based restricted stock to be paid on 03/03/2007 if Mr. McClanahan 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 61,200 shares of time based restricted stock to be paid on 03/04/2006 if Mr. McClanahan 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: 35,366 are exercisable on 3/3/2005; 35,367 are exercisable on 3/3/2006; 35,367 are exercisable on 3/3/2007.

**Remarks:**

David M. McClanahan                      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.