SEC Form 4

**FORM 4**

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

**UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**

Washington, D.C. 20549

**STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP**

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<sup>*</sup> OCONNELL ROBERT T | 2. Issuer Name **and** Ticker or Trading Symbol CENTERPOINT ENERGY INC [ CNP ] | 5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable) |
|---|---|---|

| (Last) | (First) | (Middle) |
|---|---|---|
| 1111 LOUISIANA | | |

3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)
04/24/2008

X Director / 10% Owner / Officer (give title below) / Other (specify below)

| (Street) | | |
|---|---|---|
| HOUSTON | TX | 77002 |
| (City) | (State) | (Zip) |

4. If Amendment, Date of Original Filed (Month/Day/Year)

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing (Check Applicable Line)

X Form filed by One Reporting Person

Form filed by More than One Reporting Person

**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 | 04/24/2008 | | A | | 4,000[1] | A | [2] | 19,000[3] | 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) | 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 | Amount or Number of Shares | | | | |

**Explanation of Responses:**

1. This common stock is time-based restricted stock awarded to outside directors then in office as of May 1, 2008. Shares will vest in one-third increments on May 1, 2009, May 1, 2010 and May 1, 2011 if the reporting person is a director of Issuer through such dates; provided however, the shares become fully vested in the event of a change of control of issuer.

2. Price is not applicable.

3. Includes 1,000 shares of time-based restricted stock awarded in 2005 that will vest on July 1, 2008; 2,000 shares of time-based restricted stock awarded in 2006 that will vest in 1,000 share increments on June 1, 2008 and June 1, 2009; and 4,000 shares of time-based restricted stock awarded in 2007 that will vest in one-third increments on June 1, 2008, June 1, 2009 and June 1, 2010 if the reporting person is a director of Issuer through such dates; provided however, the shares become fully vested in the event of a change of control of issuer.

**Remarks:**

| Robert T. O'Connell | 04/25/2008 |
|---|---|
| ** 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.**