
**UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**
Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM 8-K

**CURRENT REPORT
Pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d)
of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934**

Date of Report (Date of earliest event reported): **July 30, 2026**

CENTERPOINT ENERGY, INC.
(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Texas
(State or other jurisdiction
of incorporation)

1-31447
(Commission File Number)

74-0694415
(IRS Employer
Identification No.)

**1111 Louisiana Street
Houston Texas**
(Address of principal executive offices)

77002
(Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: **(713) 207-1111**

Check the appropriate box below if the Form 8-K filing is intended to simultaneously satisfy the filing obligation of the registrant under any of the following provisions (*see* General Instruction A.2. below):

- ☐ Written communications pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act (17 CFR 230.425)
- ☐ Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14a-12)
- ☐ Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d-2(b) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14d-2(b))
- ☐ Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13e-4(c) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.13e-4(c))

Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(b) of the Act:

Title of each class	Trading Symbol(s)	Name of each exchange on which registered
Common Stock, \$0.01 par value	CNP	The New York Stock Exchange NYSE Texas

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is an emerging growth company as defined in Rule 405 of the Securities Act of 1933 (§230.405) or Rule 12b-2 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (§240.12b-2).

Emerging Growth Company ☐

If an emerging growth company, indicate by check mark if the registrant has elected not to use the extended transition period for complying with any new or revised financial accounting standards provided pursuant to Section 13(a) of the Exchange Act. ☐

Item 1.01. Entry into a Material Definitive Agreement.

On July 30, 2026, CenterPoint Energy, Inc. (the “Company”) entered into an Underwriting Agreement (the “Underwriting Agreement”) with Mizuho Securities USA LLC, PNC Capital Markets LLC, Scotia Capital (USA) Inc., TD Securities (USA) LLC and U.S. Bancorp Investments, Inc., as representatives of the several Underwriters named in Schedule I to the Underwriting Agreement (the “Underwriters”), relating to the underwritten public offering of \$700,000,000 aggregate principal amount of the Company’s 6.400% Fixed-to-Fixed Reset Rate Junior Subordinated Notes, Series E, due 2058 (the “Notes”). The offering is being made pursuant to the Company’s registration statement on Form S-3 (Registration No. 333-295924).

The Notes are being issued pursuant to the Junior Subordinated Indenture, dated as of August 14, 2024 (the “Junior Subordinated Indenture”), between the Company and The Bank of New York Mellon Trust Company, National Association, as trustee (the “Trustee”), as supplemented by the Supplemental Indenture No. 4 to the Junior Subordinated Indenture to be dated as of August 3, 2026, between the Company and the Trustee (the “Supplemental Indenture”) with respect to the Notes. The form, terms and provisions of the Notes are further described in the Supplemental Indenture and the prospectus supplement of the Company dated July 30, 2026, together with the related prospectus dated May 15, 2026, as filed with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission under Rule 424(b) of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, on July 31, 2026, which description is incorporated herein by reference.

The Notes will be the Company’s unsecured obligations and will rank junior and subordinate in right of payment to the prior payment in full of the Company’s existing and future Senior Indebtedness (as defined in the Supplemental Indenture). Interest on the Notes will accrue from August 3, 2026 and is payable semi-annually in arrears on February 15 and August 15 of each year, beginning on February 15, 2027. The Notes will mature on August 15, 2058. The Notes will bear interest (i) from and including August 3, 2026 to, but excluding, August 15, 2033 at the rate of 6.400% per annum and (ii) from and including August 15, 2033, during each five-year period following August 15, 2033 (each such five-year period, an “Interest Reset Period”) at a rate per annum equal to the Five-Year Treasury Rate (as defined in the Supplemental Indenture) as of two business days prior to the beginning of the applicable Interest Reset Period plus a spread of 1.885%, with such rate per annum to be reset on each five-year anniversary of August 15, 2033; *provided* that the interest rate during any Interest Reset Period will not reset below 6.400% per annum (which is the same interest rate as in effect from and including the original issue date to, but excluding, August 15, 2033). So long as no Event of Default (as defined in the Supplemental Indenture) with respect to the Notes has occurred and is continuing, the Company may, at its option, defer interest payments on the Notes, from time to time, for one or more deferral periods of up to 20 consecutive semi-annual interest payment periods, except that no such Optional Deferral Period (as defined in the Supplemental Indenture) may extend beyond the final maturity date of the Notes or end on a day other than the day immediately preceding an interest payment date.

During any Optional Deferral Period, the Company (and its majority-owned subsidiaries, as applicable) will not (subject to certain exceptions as described in the Supplemental Indenture): (i) declare or pay any dividends or distributions on any of the Company’s capital stock; (ii) redeem, purchase, acquire or make a liquidation payment with respect to any of the Company’s capital stock; (iii) pay any principal, interest (to the extent such interest is deferrable) or premium on, or repay, repurchase or redeem any of the Company’s indebtedness that ranks equally with or junior to the Notes in right of payment (including debt securities of other series); or (iv) make any payments with respect to any guarantees by the Company of any indebtedness if such guarantees rank equally with or junior to the Notes in right of payment.

The Underwriters and their affiliates are full service financial institutions engaged in various activities, which may include securities trading, commercial and investment banking, financial advisory, investment management, investment research, principal investment, hedging, financing and brokerage activities. In the ordinary course of their respective businesses, certain of the Underwriters and/or their affiliates have engaged, and may in the future engage, in commercial banking, investment banking, trust or investment management transactions with the Company and its affiliates for which they have received, and will in the future receive, customary compensation.

The foregoing description is not complete and is qualified in its entirety by reference to the full text of the Underwriting Agreement, the Junior Subordinated Indenture and the form of the Supplemental Indenture No. 4 (including the form of the Notes), each of which have been filed as Exhibits 1.1, 4.1 and 4.2, respectively, to this Current Report on Form 8-K and are incorporated by reference herein.

Item 9.01. Financial Statements and Exhibits

The exhibits listed below are filed herewith.

Agreements and forms of agreements included as exhibits are included only to provide information to investors regarding their terms. Agreements and forms of agreements listed below may contain representations, warranties and other provisions that were made, among other things, to provide the parties thereto with specified rights and obligations and to allocate risk among them, and no such agreement or form of agreement should be relied upon as constituting or providing any factual disclosures about the Company, any other person, any state of affairs or other matters.

(d) Exhibits.

EXHIBIT NUMBER	EXHIBIT DESCRIPTION
1.1	Underwriting Agreement dated July 30, 2026, among CenterPoint Energy, Inc., Mizuho Securities USA LLC, PNC Capital Markets LLC, Scotia Capital (USA) Inc., TD Securities (USA) LLC and U.S. Bancorp Investments, Inc., as representatives of the several Underwriters named in Schedule I thereto.
4.1	Junior Subordinated Indenture, dated as of August 14, 2024, between CenterPoint Energy, Inc. and The Bank of New York Mellon Trust Company, National Association, as trustee (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.1 to the Company's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended September 30, 2024).
4.2	Form of Supplemental Indenture No. 4, to be dated as of August 3, 2026, to the Junior Subordinated Indenture, between CenterPoint Energy, Inc. and The Bank of New York Mellon Trust Company, National Association, as trustee.
4.3	Form of CenterPoint Energy, Inc.'s 6.400% Fixed-to-Fixed Reset Rate Junior Subordinated Notes, Series E, due 2058 (included in Exhibit 4.2 hereto).
5.1	Opinion of Baker Botts L.L.P. regarding validity of the Notes.
8.1	Opinion of Baker Botts L.L.P. regarding certain tax matters related to the Notes.
23.1	Consent of Baker Botts L.L.P. (included in Exhibit 5.1 hereto).
23.2	Consent of Baker Botts L.L.P. (included in Exhibit 8.1 hereto).
104	Cover Page Interactive Data File – the cover page XBRL tags are embedded within the Inline XBRL document.

SIGNATURE

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned hereunto duly authorized.

CENTERPOINT ENERGY, INC.

Date: July 31, 2026

By: /s/ Russell K. Wright

Russell K. Wright

Vice President and Chief Accounting Officer

CENTERPOINT ENERGY, INC.

\$700,000,000 6.400% Fixed-to-Fixed Reset Rate Junior Subordinated Notes, Series E, due 2058

Underwriting Agreement

July 30, 2026

Mizuho Securities USA LLC
1271 Avenue of the Americas
New York, New York 10020

PNC Capital Markets LLC
300 Fifth Avenue, 10th Floor
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15222

Scotia Capital (USA) Inc.
250 Vesey Street
New York, New York 10281

TD Securities (USA) LLC
1 Vanderbilt Avenue, 11th Floor
New York, New York 10017

U.S. Bancorp Investments, Inc.
214 North Tryon Street, 26th Floor
Charlotte, North Carolina 28202

as the Representatives of the several Underwriters

To the Addressees:

CenterPoint Energy, Inc., a Texas corporation (the “**Company**”), confirms, subject to the terms and conditions stated herein, its agreement to issue and sell to the Underwriters named in Schedule I hereto (the “**Underwriters**”) \$700,000,000 aggregate principal amount of its 6.400% Fixed-to-Fixed Reset Rate Junior Subordinated Notes, Series E, due 2058 (the “**Notes**”) to be issued pursuant to an Indenture dated as of August 14, 2024 (the “**Base Indenture**”) between the Company and The Bank of New York Mellon Trust Company, National Association, as trustee (the “**Trustee**”), and a Supplemental Indenture No. 4 to the Base Indenture to be dated as of August 3, 2026 (the “**Supplemental Indenture**” and, together with the Base Indenture and any amendments or supplements thereto, the “**Indenture**”), between the Company and the Trustee. The Company understands that the several Underwriters propose to offer the Notes for sale upon the terms and conditions contemplated by this Agreement and by the documents listed in Schedule III hereto (such documents herein called the “**Pricing Disclosure Package**”).

1. Representations and Warranties of the Company.

(a) The Company represents and warrants to, and agrees with, each of the Underwriters, on and as of the date hereof and the Closing Date (as defined in Section 2) that:

(i) A joint registration statement on Form S-3 with respect to the Notes and other securities (File Nos. 333-295924, 333-295924-01 and 333-295924-02), copies of which have been made available to the Underwriters, has been prepared and filed with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (the “**Commission**”) by the Company, together with CenterPoint Energy Houston Electric, LLC and CenterPoint Energy Resources Corp. Such registration statement, including a prospectus relating to the Notes, has become effective under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the “**1933 Act**”), and no stop order suspending its effectiveness has been issued and no proceeding for that purpose or pursuant to Section 8A of the 1933 Act against the Company or related to the offering has been initiated or, to the best knowledge of the Company, threatened by the Commission. The term “**Registration Statement**” means such registration statement, as deemed revised pursuant to Rule 430B(f)(1) under the 1933 Act on the date of such registration statement’s effectiveness for purposes of Section 11 of the 1933 Act, as such section applies to the Company and the Underwriters for the Notes pursuant to Rule 430B(f)(2) under the 1933 Act (the “**Effective Date**”). The base prospectus relating to the Notes included in the Registration Statement (exclusive of any supplement filed pursuant to Rule 424 under the 1933 Act) is herein called the “**Basic Prospectus**.” The Basic Prospectus as amended and supplemented by a preliminary prospectus supplement dated July 30, 2026 relating to the Notes immediately prior to the Applicable Time (as defined below) is hereinafter called the “**Preliminary Prospectus**.” The Company proposes to file together with the Basic Prospectus and pursuant to Rule 424 under the 1933 Act a prospectus supplement specifically relating to the Notes and reflecting the terms of the Notes and plan of distribution arising from this Agreement (herein called the “**Pricing Supplement**”) and has previously advised the Underwriters of all the information to be set forth therein. The term “**Prospectus**” means the Basic Prospectus together with the Pricing Supplement, as first filed with the Commission pursuant to Rule 424 under the 1933 Act.

Any reference herein to the Basic Prospectus, the Preliminary Prospectus or the Prospectus shall be deemed to refer to and include the documents incorporated by reference therein, or deemed to be incorporated by reference therein, and filed under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the “**1934 Act**”), on or before the date of such Basic Prospectus, Preliminary Prospectus or Prospectus, as applicable; any reference herein to the terms “amend,” “amendment” or “supplement” with respect to the Basic Prospectus, the Preliminary Prospectus or Prospectus shall be deemed to refer to and include, without limitation, the filing of any document under the 1934 Act deemed to be incorporated therein by reference after the date of such Basic Prospectus, Preliminary Prospectus or Prospectus.

For purposes of this Agreement, the “**Applicable Time**” is 2:50 p.m. (New York City Time) on the date of this Agreement.

(ii) The Registration Statement, each Permitted Free Writing Prospectus (as defined in Section 3(a)), the Preliminary Prospectus and the Prospectus conform, and any amendments or supplements thereto will conform, in all material respects, to the requirements of the 1933 Act and the Trust Indenture Act of 1939, as amended (the “**TIA**”), and the rules and regulations of the Commission under the 1933 Act and the TIA; and (A) the Registration Statement will not, as of the Effective Date, contain an untrue statement of a material fact or omit to state a material fact required to be stated therein or necessary to make the statements therein not misleading, and (B) (i) the Pricing Disclosure Package does not, as of the Applicable Time, (ii) the Prospectus and any amendment or supplement thereto will not, as of their dates, and (iii) the Prospectus, as it may be amended or supplemented pursuant to Section 4 hereof, as of the Closing Date will not, contain an untrue statement of a material fact or omit to state a material fact necessary to make the statements therein, in the light of the circumstances under which they were made, not misleading; *provided, however*, that this representation and warranty shall not apply to: (A) any statements or omissions made in reliance upon and in conformity with any information furnished in writing by, or through the Representatives on behalf of, any Underwriter for use therein, and (B) any Form T-1 Statement of Eligibility and Qualification included as an exhibit to the Registration Statement;

(iii) Each document filed, and to the extent such document has been amended, as so amended, or to be filed pursuant to the 1934 Act and incorporated by reference, or deemed to be incorporated by reference in the Preliminary Prospectus or the Prospectus (including, without limitation, any document to be filed pursuant to the 1934 Act which will be incorporated by reference in the Prospectus) conformed or, when so filed, will conform in all material respects to the requirements of the 1934 Act and the applicable rules and regulations of the Commission thereunder, and none of such documents included, and to the extent such document has been amended, as so amended, or, when so filed, will include any untrue statement of a material fact or omitted or, when so filed, will omit to state any material fact necessary to make the statements therein, in the light of the circumstances under which they were made, not misleading;

(iv) Any Permitted Free Writing Prospectus or other Issuer Free Writing Prospectus (such term having the meaning assigned to it by Rule 433 under the 1933 Act (“**Rule 433**”)) does not include anything that conflicts with the information contained or incorporated by reference in the Registration Statement, the Preliminary Prospectus or the Prospectus; and any such Permitted Free Writing Prospectus or other Issuer Free Writing Prospectus, when taken together with the information contained in the Registration Statement, any Preliminary Prospectus and the Prospectus, did not, when issued or filed pursuant to Rule 433, and does not, contain any untrue statement of a material fact or omit to state any material fact necessary in order to make the statements therein, in light of the circumstances under which they were made, not misleading; *provided*, that this representation and warranty shall not apply to any statements or omissions made in reliance upon and in conformity with any information furnished in writing by, or through the Representatives on behalf of, any Underwriter for use therein;

(v) (A) At the time of filing of the Registration Statement, (B) at the time of the most recent amendment to the Registration Statement for the purposes of complying with Section 10(a)(3) of the 1933 Act (whether such amendment was by post-effective amendment, incorporated report filed pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the 1934 Act or form of prospectus) and (C) at the time the Company or any person acting on its behalf (within the meaning, for this clause only, of Rule 163(c) under the 1933 Act) made any offer relating to the Notes in reliance on the exemption of Rule 163 under the 1933 Act, the Company was a “well-known seasoned issuer” (as defined in Rule 405 under the 1933 Act);

(vi) With respect to the Registration Statement, (A) the Registration Statement is an “automatic shelf registration statement” (as defined in Rule 405 under the 1933 Act), (B) the Company has not received from the Commission any notice pursuant to Rule 401(g)(2) of the 1933 Act objecting to the use of the automatic shelf registration statement and (C) the conditions for use of Form S-3 have been, and continue to be, satisfied by the Company;

(vii) At the determination date for purposes of the Notes within the meaning of Rule 164(h) under the 1933 Act, the Company was not an “ineligible issuer” as defined in Rule 405 under the 1933 Act;

(viii) The Company has been duly incorporated and is validly existing in good standing under the laws of the State of Texas, with corporate power and authority to own its properties and conduct its business as described in the Pricing Disclosure Package and the Prospectus;

(ix) Each Significant Subsidiary (as defined in Regulation S-X under the 1933 Act) (each such subsidiary, a “**Significant Subsidiary**”) of the Company has been duly formed, and each Significant Subsidiary is validly existing in good standing (if applicable) under the laws of the jurisdiction of its formation, with power and authority (corporate and other) to own its properties and conduct its business as described in the Pricing Disclosure Package and the Prospectus, except to the extent that the failure to be in good standing or to have such power or authority would not, individually or in the aggregate, reasonably be expected to have a material adverse effect on the financial condition, business or results of operations of the Company and its subsidiaries, taken as a whole (“**Material Adverse Effect**”); and each Significant Subsidiary of the Company is duly qualified to do business as a foreign corporation, limited partnership or limited liability company in good standing in all other jurisdictions in which its ownership or lease of property or the conduct of its business requires such qualification, except to the extent that the failure to be so qualified would not, individually or in the aggregate, reasonably be expected to result in a Material Adverse Effect; all of the issued and outstanding ownership interests of each Significant Subsidiary of the Company have been duly authorized and validly issued in accordance with the organizational documents of such Significant Subsidiary, except to the extent that a failure thereof would not, individually or in the aggregate, reasonably be expected to result in a Material Adverse Effect; and the ownership interests of each Significant Subsidiary owned by the Company, directly or through subsidiaries, are owned free from liens, encumbrances and defects;

(x) This Agreement has been duly authorized, executed and delivered by the Company;

(xi) The Notes and the Indenture have been duly authorized by the Company and, when the Supplemental Indenture has been duly executed and delivered by the Company in accordance with its terms, and assuming the valid execution and delivery thereof by the Trustee, the Indenture will constitute, and, in the case of the Notes, when they are delivered by the Company, paid for pursuant to this Agreement and the Indenture and duly authenticated and delivered by the Trustee, the Notes will, on the Closing Date, constitute, valid and legally binding obligations of the Company, enforceable in accordance with their respective terms, subject, as to enforcement, to bankruptcy, insolvency, fraudulent transfer, reorganization and other laws of general applicability relating to or affecting creditors’ rights and to general equity principles (regardless of whether such enforceability is considered in a proceeding in equity or at law); the Notes, when delivered by the Company, paid for pursuant to this Agreement and the Indenture and duly authenticated and delivered by the Trustee, will be entitled to the benefits of the Indenture; and the Notes and the Indenture conform to the descriptions thereof in the Pricing Disclosure Package and the Prospectus; the Indenture has been qualified under the TIA;

(xii) The issuance by the Company of the Notes, the compliance by the Company with all of the applicable provisions of this Agreement, the Notes and the Indenture, and the consummation by the Company of the transactions contemplated herein and therein (a) will not conflict with or result in a breach or violation of any of the terms or provisions of, or constitute a default under, any indenture, mortgage, deed of trust, loan agreement or other agreement or instrument to which the Company or any subsidiary is a party or by which the Company or any subsidiary is bound or to which any of the property or assets of the Company or any subsidiary is subject, which conflict, breach, violation, or default would individually, or in the aggregate, have a Material Adverse Effect; and (b) will not result in any violation of the provisions of the Amended and Restated Certificate of Formation or the Fifth Amended and Restated Bylaws or other organizational documents of the Company, the charter, by-laws or other organizational documents of any subsidiary of the Company or any existing statute or any order, rule or regulation of any court or governmental agency or body having jurisdiction over the Company's or any of its or its subsidiaries' properties;

(xiii) No consent, approval, authorization, order, registration or qualification of or with any such court or governmental agency or body is required for the issuance of the Notes or the consummation by the Company of the other transactions contemplated by this Agreement and the Indenture, except such consents, approvals, authorizations, registrations or qualifications as may be required under state securities or Blue Sky laws in connection with the issuance by the Company of the Notes and the purchase and distribution of the Notes by the Underwriters;

(xiv) The Company and its subsidiaries possess certificates, authorities or permits issued by appropriate governmental agencies or bodies necessary to conduct the business now operated by them and have not received any notice of proceedings relating to the revocation or modification of any such certificate, authority or permit that, if determined adversely to the Company or any of its subsidiaries, would individually or in the aggregate have a Material Adverse Effect;

(xv) Except as disclosed in the Pricing Disclosure Package and the Prospectus, neither the Company nor any of its subsidiaries is in violation of any statute, any rule, regulation, decision or order of any governmental agency or body or any court, domestic or foreign, relating to the use, disposal or release of hazardous or toxic substances or relating to the protection or restoration of the environment or human exposure to hazardous or toxic substances (collectively, "**Environmental Laws**"), owns or operates any real property contaminated with any substance that is subject to any Environmental Laws, is liable for any off-site disposal or contamination pursuant to any Environmental Laws, or is subject to any claim relating to any Environmental Laws, which violation, contamination, liability or claim would individually or in the aggregate have a Material Adverse Effect; and the Company is not aware of any pending investigation which has a reasonable possibility of leading to such a claim;

(xvi) Except as disclosed in the Pricing Disclosure Package and the Prospectus, there are no pending actions, suits or proceedings against or affecting the Company, any of its subsidiaries or any of their respective properties that, if determined adversely to the Company or any of its subsidiaries, would individually or in the aggregate have a Material Adverse Effect, or would materially and adversely affect the ability of the Company to perform its obligations under the Indenture or this Agreement, or which are otherwise material in the context of the sale of the Notes; and except as disclosed in the Pricing Disclosure Package and the Prospectus, no such actions, suits or proceedings are threatened or, to the Company's knowledge, contemplated;

(xvii) The financial statements of the Company included or incorporated by reference in the Registration Statement, the Pricing Disclosure Package and the Prospectus present fairly the financial position of the Company and its consolidated subsidiaries as of the dates shown and their results of operations and cash flows for the periods shown, and, except as otherwise disclosed in the Registration Statement, the Pricing Disclosure Package and the Prospectus, such financial statements have been prepared in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles in the United States applied on a consistent basis. The interactive data in eXtensible Business Reporting Language included or incorporated by reference in the Registration Statement, the Pricing Disclosure Package and the Prospectus fairly presents the information called for in all material respects and is prepared in accordance with the Commission's rules and guidelines applicable thereto;

(xviii) Since the date of the latest audited financial statements of the Company incorporated by reference in the Registration Statement, the Pricing Disclosure Package and the Prospectus and except as disclosed in the Registration Statement, the Pricing Disclosure Package and the Prospectus, (a) there has been no material adverse change in the business, financial condition, prospects or results of operations of the Company and its subsidiaries taken as a whole, and (b) there has been no dividend or distribution of any kind declared, paid or made by the Company on any class of its equity interests (other than regular quarterly dividends on the Company's common stock, par value \$0.01 per share);

(xix) The Company maintains a system of internal accounting controls and maintains disclosure controls and procedures in conformity with the requirements of the 1934 Act and is otherwise in compliance in all material respects with the requirements of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 and the rules and regulations promulgated in connection therewith;

(xx) Deloitte & Touche LLP, who have certified certain financial statements of each of the Company and its subsidiaries, is an independent registered public accounting firm with respect to the Company and its subsidiaries, within the applicable rules and regulations adopted by the Commission and the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States) and as required by the 1933 Act;

(xxi) The Company is not, and after giving effect to the offering and sale of the Notes and the application of the proceeds thereof as described in the Prospectus under the caption "Use of Proceeds," will not be an "investment company" as such term is defined in the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended (the "**Investment Company Act**");

(xxii) The operations of the Company and its subsidiaries are and, since January 1, 2006, have been conducted at all times in compliance with applicable financial recordkeeping and reporting requirements and the money laundering statutes and the rules and regulations thereunder and any related or similar rules, regulations or guidelines, issued, administered or enforced by any governmental agency (collectively, the “**Money Laundering Laws**”), and no action, suit or proceeding by or before any court or governmental agency, authority or body or any arbitrator involving the Company or any of its subsidiaries with respect to the Money Laundering Laws is pending or, to the knowledge of the Company, threatened; and

(xxiii) Neither the Company nor any of its subsidiaries nor, to the knowledge of the Company, any director, officer, agent, employee or affiliate of the Company or any of its subsidiaries is currently subject to any sanctions administered by the Office of Foreign Assets Control of the U.S. Treasury Department (“**OFAC**”); and the Company will not directly or indirectly use the proceeds of the offering of the Notes, or lend, contribute or otherwise make available such proceeds to any subsidiary, joint venture partner or other person or entity, for the purpose of financing the activities of any person currently subject to any U.S. sanctions administered by OFAC.

2. Sale and Delivery.

(a) Subject to the terms and conditions herein set forth, the Company agrees to issue and sell to each of the Underwriters, and each of the Underwriters agrees, severally and not jointly, to purchase from the Company, the principal amount of the Notes set forth in Schedule I opposite the name of such Underwriter (plus an additional amount of Notes that such Underwriter may become obligated to purchase pursuant to the provisions of Section 8 hereof) at a price equal to 99.000% of the principal amount thereof, plus accrued interest, if any, from August 3, 2026 to the Closing Date.

(b) The Notes to be purchased by each Underwriter hereunder will be represented by one or more registered global securities in book-entry form which will be deposited by or on behalf of the Company with The Depository Trust Company (“**DTC**”) or its designated custodian. The Company will deliver the Notes to Mizuho Securities USA LLC, acting on behalf of the Underwriters for the account of each Underwriter, against payment by or on behalf of such Underwriter of the amount therefor, as set forth above, by wire transfer of Federal (same day) funds to a commercial bank account located in the United States and designated in writing at least forty-eight hours prior to the Closing Date by the Company to Mizuho Securities USA LLC, by causing DTC to credit the Notes to the account of Mizuho Securities USA LLC, at DTC. The Company will cause the global certificates representing the Notes to be made available to Mizuho Securities USA LLC, PNC Capital Markets LLC, Scotia Capital (USA) Inc., TD Securities (USA) LLC and U.S. Bancorp Investments, Inc., as joint-book running managing underwriters (together, the “**Representatives**”), acting on behalf of the Underwriters, for checking at least twenty-four hours prior to the Closing Date at the office of DTC or its designated custodian (the “**Designated Office**”). The time and date of such delivery and payment shall be 9:30 a.m., New York City time, on August 3, 2026 or such other time and date as the Representatives and the Company may agree upon in writing. Such time and date are herein called the “**Closing Date**.”

(c) The documents to be delivered on the Closing Date by or on behalf of the parties hereto pursuant to Section 6 hereof, including the cross-receipt for the Notes and any additional certificates requested by the Underwriters pursuant to Section 6(h) hereof, will be delivered at such time and date at the offices of Baker Botts L.L.P., 910 Louisiana Street, Houston, Texas 77002-4995 or such other location as the Representatives and the Company may agree in writing (the “**Closing Location**”), and the Notes will be delivered at the Designated Office, all on the Closing Date. A meeting will be held at the Closing Location at 1:00 p.m., New York City time or at such other time as the Representatives and the Company may agree in writing, on the New York Business Day next preceding the Closing Date, at which meeting the final drafts of the documents to be delivered pursuant to the preceding sentence will be available for review by the parties hereto. For the purposes of this Section 2, “**New York Business Day**” shall mean each Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday which is not a day on which banking institutions in New York are generally authorized or obligated by law or executive order to close.

3. Free Writing Prospectuses.

(a) The Company represents and agrees that, without the prior consent of the Representatives, it has not made and will not make any offer relating to the Notes that would constitute a “free writing prospectus” as defined in Rule 405 under the 1933 Act, other than a free writing prospectus (which shall include the Pricing Term Sheet discussed in Section 3(b) hereof and as defined below), the use of which has been consented to by the Company and the Representatives; provided that the prior written consent of the parties hereto shall be deemed to have been given in respect of the free writing prospectuses listed on Schedule IV hereto. Any such free writing prospectus consented to by the Representatives and the Company is herein called a “**Permitted Free Writing Prospectus**”; each Underwriter, severally and not jointly, represents and agrees that, without the prior consent of the Company and the Representatives, it has not made and will not make any offer relating to the Notes that would constitute a “free writing prospectus” as defined in Rule 405 under the 1933 Act, other than a Permitted Free Writing Prospectus or a free writing prospectus that is not required to be filed by the Company pursuant to Rule 433.

(b) The Company agrees to prepare a term sheet specifying the terms of the Notes not contained in the Preliminary Prospectus, substantially in the form of Schedule II hereto and approved by the Representatives (the “**Pricing Term Sheet**”), and to file the Pricing Term Sheet pursuant to Rule 433(d) under the 1933 Act within the time period prescribed by such Rule.

(c) The Company and the Representatives have complied and will comply with the requirements of Rule 433 under the 1933 Act applicable to any free writing prospectus, including timely Commission filing where required and legending.

(d) The Company agrees that if at any time following issuance of a Permitted Free Writing Prospectus or other Issuer Free Writing Prospectus any event has occurred that results in such Permitted Free Writing Prospectus or other Issuer Free Writing Prospectus conflicting, or it becomes known that such Permitted Free Writing Prospectus or other Issuer Free Writing Prospectus conflicts with the information in the Registration Statement, the Preliminary Prospectus or the Prospectus, or the Pricing Disclosure Package including an untrue statement of a material fact or omitting to state any material fact necessary in order to make the statements therein, in light of the circumstances then prevailing, not misleading, the Company will give prompt notice thereof to the Representatives and, if requested by the Representatives, will prepare and furnish without charge to each Underwriter a free writing prospectus or other document, the use of which has been consented to by the Representatives, which will correct such conflict, statement or omission; provided, however, that this representation and warranty shall not apply to any statements or omissions in the Pricing Disclosure Package made in reliance upon and in conformity with information furnished in writing to the Company by, or through the Representatives on behalf of, any Underwriter expressly for use therein.

4. Covenants and Agreements.

The Company covenants and agrees with each of the Underwriters:

(a) That the Company will furnish without charge to the Underwriters a copy of the Registration Statement, including all documents incorporated by reference therein and exhibits filed with the Registration Statement (other than exhibits which are incorporated by reference and have previously been so furnished), and, during the period mentioned in paragraph (c) below, as many written and electronic copies of the Preliminary Prospectus, the Pricing Disclosure Package and the Prospectus, any documents incorporated by reference therein at or after the date thereof (including documents from which information has been so incorporated) and any supplements and amendments thereto as each Underwriter may reasonably request;

(b) That the Company will cause the Preliminary Prospectus and the Prospectus to be filed pursuant to, and in compliance with, Rule 424(b) and will promptly advise the Underwriters (i) when any amendment to the Registration Statement shall have been filed; provided, that, with respect to documents filed pursuant to the 1934 Act and incorporated by reference into the Registration Statement, such notice shall only be required during such time as the Underwriters are required in the reasonable opinion of the Representatives, based on advice of Hunton Andrews Kurth LLP, counsel for the Underwriters, to deliver a prospectus (or in lieu thereof, the notice referred to in Rule 173(a) under the 1933 Act), (ii) of any request by the Commission for any amendment of the Registration Statement, (iii) of the issuance by the Commission of any stop order suspending the effectiveness of the Registration Statement or the institution or threatening of any proceeding for that purpose or pursuant to Section 8A of the 1933 Act against the Company or related to the offering, (iv) of the receipt by the Company of any notification with respect to the suspension of the qualification of the Notes for sale in any jurisdiction or the initiation or threatening of any proceeding for such purpose, and (v) of the receipt by the Company of any notice from the Commission pursuant to Rule 401(g)(2) of the 1933 Act. So long as any Underwriter is required in the reasonable opinion of the Representatives, based on advice of Hunton Andrews Kurth LLP, to deliver a prospectus (or in lieu thereof, the notice referred to in Rule 173(a) under the 1933 Act), the Company will not file any amendment to the Registration Statement or supplement to the Preliminary Prospectus or the Prospectus to which the Representatives or Hunton Andrews Kurth LLP shall have reasonably objected in writing and the Company shall furnish one copy of every such amendment or supplement to each of the Representatives and to Hunton Andrews Kurth LLP. If the Commission shall issue a stop order suspending the effectiveness of the Registration Statement, the Company will take such steps to obtain the lifting of that order as promptly as practical. If the Company receives a notice from the Commission pursuant to Rule 401(g)(2) of the 1933 Act, the Company will promptly take such steps including, without limitation, amending the Registration Statement or filing a new registration statement, at its own expense, as may be necessary to permit offers and sales of the Notes by the Underwriters (references herein to the Registration Statement shall include any such amendment or new registration statement);

(c) That if, at any time when in the reasonable opinion of the Representatives, based on advice of Hunton Andrews Kurth LLP, the information in the Pricing Disclosure Package or the Prospectus (or in lieu thereof, the notice referred to in Rule 173(a) under the 1933 Act) is required by law to be delivered by an Underwriter or a dealer, any event shall occur as a result of which it is necessary, in the reasonable opinion of the Representatives, based on advice of Hunton Andrews Kurth LLP, or counsel for the Company, to amend or supplement the Pricing Disclosure Package or the Prospectus or modify the information incorporated by reference therein in order to make the statements therein, in light of the circumstances existing when the information in the Pricing Disclosure Package or the Prospectus (or in lieu thereof, the notice referred to in Rule 173(a) under the 1933 Act) is delivered to a purchaser, not misleading, or if it shall be necessary in the reasonable opinion of any such counsel, to amend or supplement the Pricing Disclosure Package or the Prospectus or modify such information to comply with law, the Company will forthwith (i) prepare and furnish, at its own expense, to the Underwriters and to the dealers (whose names and addresses the Underwriters will furnish to the Company) to whom Notes may have been sold by the Underwriters and to any other dealers upon reasonable request, either amendments or supplements to the Pricing Disclosure Package or the Prospectus or (ii) file with the Commission documents incorporated by reference in the Pricing Disclosure Package and Prospectus, which shall be so supplied to the Underwriters and such dealers, in either case so that the statements in the Pricing Disclosure Package or the Prospectus as so amended, supplemented or modified will not, in light of the circumstances when the information in the Pricing Disclosure Package or the Prospectus (or in lieu thereof, the notice referred to in Rule 173(a) under the 1933 Act) is delivered to a purchaser, be misleading or so that the Pricing Disclosure Package and the Prospectus will comply with law;

(d) That the Company will endeavor to qualify, at its expense, the Notes for offer and sale under the securities or Blue Sky laws of such jurisdictions as the Underwriters shall reasonably request and to pay all filing fees, reasonable expenses and legal fees in connection therewith and in connection with the determination of the eligibility for investment of the Notes; provided, that the Company shall not be required to qualify as a foreign corporation or a dealer in securities or to file any consents to service of process under the laws of any jurisdiction;

(e) That the Company will make generally available to its security holders and the holders of the Notes as soon as practicable an earnings statement of the Company covering a twelve-month period beginning after the Closing Date which shall satisfy the provisions of Section 11(a) of the 1933 Act and the rules and regulations of the Commission thereunder (including Rule 158 under the 1933 Act); and

(f) That during the period beginning on the date of this Agreement and continuing to and including the Closing Date, the Company will not offer, sell, contract to sell or otherwise distribute any notes, any security convertible into or exchangeable into or exercisable for notes or any other debt securities substantially similar to the Notes (except for the Notes issued pursuant to this Agreement), without the prior written consent of the Representatives.

5. Expenses.

The Company covenants and agrees with the several Underwriters that the Company will pay or cause to be paid the following: (i) all expenses in connection with the preparation, printing and filing of the Registration Statement as originally filed and of each amendment thereto; (ii) the fees, disbursements and expenses of the Company's counsel and accountants in connection with the issue of the Notes and all other expenses in connection with the preparation, printing and filing of the Basic Prospectus, any Permitted Free Writing Prospectus, any other Issuer Free Writing Prospectus, the Preliminary Prospectus, the Pricing Disclosure Package and the Prospectus, and any amendments and supplements thereto and the mailing and delivering of copies thereof to the Underwriters and dealers; (iii) all reasonable expenses in connection with the qualification of the Notes for offering and sale under state securities laws as provided in Section 4(d) hereof, including the reasonable fees and disbursements of counsel for the Underwriters in connection with such qualification and in connection with the Blue Sky and legal investment surveys; (iv) any fees charged by rating services for rating the Notes; (v) the cost of preparing the Notes; (vi) costs and expenses relating to investor presentations or any "road show" in connection with the offering and sale of the Notes including, without limitation, any travel expenses of the Company's officers and employees; (vii) the fees and expenses of the Trustee and any agent of the Trustee and the fees and disbursements of counsel for the Trustee in connection with the Indenture; and (viii) all other costs and expenses incident to the performance of its obligations hereunder which are not otherwise specifically provided for in this Section. It is understood, however, that, except as provided in this Section, and Sections 7 and 10 hereof, the Underwriters will pay all of their own costs and expenses, including any advertising expenses connected with any offers they may make and the fees, disbursements and expenses of counsel for the Underwriters.

6. Conditions of Underwriters' Obligations.

The obligations of the Underwriters hereunder shall be subject to the accuracy, at and (except as otherwise stated herein) as of the date hereof, at and as of the Applicable Time, and at and as of the Closing Date, of the representations and warranties made herein by the Company, to compliance at and as of the Closing Date by the Company with its covenants and agreements herein contained and the other provisions hereof to be satisfied at or prior to the Closing Date, and to the following additional conditions:

(a) (i) No stop order suspending the effectiveness of the Registration Statement shall be in effect, and no proceeding for such purpose or pursuant to Section 8A of the 1933 Act against the Company or related to the offering shall be pending before or threatened by the Commission and no notice from the Commission pursuant to Rule 401(g)(2) of the 1933 Act shall have been received, (ii) the Prospectus shall have been filed with the Commission pursuant to Rule 424(b) within the applicable time period prescribed for filing by the rules and regulations under the 1933 Act and in accordance herewith and each Permitted Free Writing Prospectus shall have been filed by the Company with the Commission within the applicable time periods prescribed for such filings by, and otherwise in compliance with Rule 433 under the 1933 Act to the extent so required and (iii) the Underwriters shall have received on and as of the Closing Date, a certificate dated such date, signed by an executive officer (including, without limitation, the Treasurer) of the Company, to the foregoing effect (which certificate may be to the best of such officer's knowledge after reasonable investigation).

(b) Subsequent to the execution and delivery of this Agreement, there shall not have occurred (i) any change in the business, financial condition, prospects or results of operations of the Company and its subsidiaries taken as one enterprise which, in the reasonable judgment of the Representatives, is material and adverse and makes it impractical to proceed with completion of the offering or the sale of and payment for the Notes on the terms set forth herein; (ii) any downgrading in the rating of any debt securities of the Company by any “nationally recognized statistical rating organization” (as defined under the 1934 Act), or any public announcement that any such organization has newly placed under surveillance or review its rating of any debt securities of the Company (other than an announcement with positive implications of a possible upgrading, and no implication of a possible downgrading, of such rating); (iii) any material suspension or material limitation of trading in securities generally on the New York Stock Exchange (“NYSE”) or the NYSE Texas, or on the over-the-counter market or any suspension of trading of any securities of the Company on any exchange or in the over-the-counter market; (iv) any general moratorium on commercial banking activities declared by U.S. Federal or New York State authorities; (v) any major disruption of settlements of securities or clearance services in the United States or (vi) any act of terrorism in the United States, any attack on, outbreak or escalation of hostilities involving the United States, any declaration of war by Congress or any other national or international calamity or crisis if, in the judgment of the Representatives, the effect of any such attack, outbreak, escalation, act, declaration, calamity or crisis on the financial markets makes it impractical to proceed with completion of the offering or sale of and payment for the Notes on the terms set forth herein.

(c) Hunton Andrews Kurth LLP, counsel for the Underwriters, shall have furnished to you such opinion or opinions, dated the Closing Date, with respect to such matters as you may reasonably request, and such counsel shall have received such papers and information as they may reasonably request to enable them to pass upon such matters.

(d) Monica Karuturi, Esq., Executive Vice President and General Counsel of the Company, shall have furnished to you her written opinion, dated the Closing Date, in form and substance satisfactory to you, to the effect set forth on Exhibit A.

(e) Baker Botts L.L.P., counsel for the Company, shall have furnished to you their written opinion, dated the Closing Date, in form and substance satisfactory to you, to the effect set forth on Exhibit B.

(f) At the time of execution of this Agreement, Deloitte & Touche LLP shall have furnished to you a letter dated the date of such execution, substantially in the form heretofore supplied and deemed satisfactory to you with respect to the audited and unaudited consolidated financial statements and certain financial information of the Company included or incorporated by reference into the Registration Statement.

(g) At the Closing Date, Deloitte & Touche LLP shall have furnished you a letter, dated the Closing Date, to the effect that such accountants reaffirm, as of the Closing Date and as though made on the Closing Date, the statements made in the letter furnished by such accountants pursuant to paragraph (f) of this Section 6, except that the specified date referred to in such letter will be a date not more than three business days prior to the Closing Date.

(h) The Company shall have furnished or caused to be furnished to you at the Closing Date certificates of the President or any Vice President and a principal financial or accounting officer of the Company in which such officers, to the best of their knowledge after reasonable investigation, shall state that (i) the representations and warranties of the Company in this Agreement are true and correct, (ii) the Company has complied with all agreements and satisfied all conditions on its part to be performed or satisfied hereunder at or prior to the Closing Date, and (iii) subsequent to the date of the most recent financial statements in the Pricing Disclosure Package and the Prospectus, there has been no material adverse change in the business, financial condition, prospects or results of operations of the Company and its subsidiaries taken as a whole except as set forth in or contemplated by the Pricing Disclosure Package and the Prospectus and (iv) as to such other matters as you may reasonably request.

(i) No action shall have been taken and no statute, rule, regulation or order shall have been enacted, adopted or issued by any governmental agency or body which would as of the Closing Date, prevent the issuance or the sale of the Notes; and no injunction, restraining order or order of any other nature by any court of competent jurisdiction shall have been issued as of the Closing Date which would prevent the issuance or sale of the Notes.

(j) The Notes shall be eligible for clearance and settlement through DTC.

7. Indemnification and Contribution.

(a) The Company agrees to indemnify and hold harmless each Underwriter, its affiliates, the directors and officers of each Underwriter and each person, if any, who controls each Underwriter within the meaning of the 1933 Act or the 1934 Act, against any losses, claims, damages, liabilities or expenses (including the reasonable cost of investigating and defending against any claims therefor and counsel fees incurred in connection therewith as such expenses are incurred), joint or several, which may be based upon either the 1933 Act, or the 1934 Act, or any other statute or at common law, on the ground or alleged ground that the Registration Statement, any preliminary prospectus, the Basic Prospectus, the Preliminary Prospectus, any Permitted Free Writing Prospectus, the Prospectus or any other Issuer Free Writing Prospectus (or any such document, as from time to time amended, or deemed to be amended, supplemented or modified) includes or allegedly includes an untrue statement of material fact or omits or allegedly omits to state a material fact required to be stated therein or necessary in order to make the statements therein not misleading, unless such statement or omission was made in reliance upon, and in conformity with, written information furnished to the Company by, or through the Representatives on behalf of, any Underwriter specifically for use in the preparation thereof, it being understood and agreed that the only such information consists of the information described as such in subsection (b) below; provided that in no case is the Company to be liable with respect to any claims made against any Underwriter, or any such affiliate, director, officer or controlling person unless such Underwriter or such affiliate, director, officer or controlling person shall have notified the Company in writing within a reasonable time after the summons or other first legal process giving information of the nature of the claim shall have been served upon such Underwriter or such affiliate, director, officer or controlling person, but failure to notify the Company of any such claim (i) shall not relieve the Company from liability under this paragraph unless and to the extent the Company did not otherwise learn of such claim and such failure results in the forfeiture by the Company of substantial rights and defenses and (ii) shall not relieve the Company from any liability which it may have to such Underwriter or such affiliate, director, officer or controlling person otherwise than on account of the indemnity agreement contained in this paragraph.

The Company will be entitled to participate at its own expense in the defense, or, if it so elects, to assume the defense of any suit brought to enforce any such liability, but, if the Company elects to assume the defense, such defense shall be conducted by counsel chosen by it; provided, however, that such counsel shall be reasonably satisfactory to the Underwriters. In the event that the Company elects to assume the defense of any such suit and retains such counsel, the Underwriter or Underwriters or affiliate or affiliates, director or directors, officer or officers, controlling person or persons, defendant or defendants in the suit, may retain additional counsel but shall bear the fees and expenses of such counsel unless (i) the Company shall have specifically authorized the retaining of such counsel or (ii) the parties to such suit include the Underwriter or Underwriters or affiliate or affiliates, director or directors, officer or officers, or controlling person or persons and the Underwriter or Underwriters or affiliate or affiliates, director or directors, officer or officers or controlling person or persons and the Company have been advised by such counsel that one or more legal defenses may be available to it or them which may not be available to the Company, in which case the Company shall not be entitled to assume the defense of such suit on behalf of such Underwriter or Underwriters or affiliate or affiliates, director or directors, officer or officers or controlling person or persons, notwithstanding their obligation to bear the reasonable fees and expenses of such counsel, it being understood, however, that the Company shall not, in connection with any one such suit or proceeding or separate but substantially similar or related actions or proceedings in the same jurisdiction arising out of the same general allegations or circumstances, be liable for the reasonable fees and expenses of more than one separate firm of attorneys (and not more than one local counsel) at any time for all such Underwriter or Underwriters or affiliate or affiliates, director or directors, officer or officers or controlling person or persons, which firm shall be designated in writing by the Representatives. The Company shall not be liable to indemnify any person for any settlement of any such claim effected without the Company's prior written consent, which consent shall not be unreasonably withheld. The Company shall not, without the prior written consent of the Underwriter or Underwriters or affiliate or affiliates, director or directors, officer or officers or controlling person or persons, effect any settlement, compromise or consent to the entry of judgment in any pending or threatened action, suit or proceeding in respect of which any Underwriter or affiliate, director, officer or controlling person is or could have been a party and indemnity was or could have been sought hereunder by such Underwriter or affiliate, director, officer or controlling person, unless such settlement, compromise or consent (x) includes an unconditional release of such indemnified party from all liability on claims that are the subject matter of such action, suit or proceeding and (y) does not include a statement as to or an admission of fault, culpability or a failure to act by or on behalf of any Underwriter or affiliate, director, officer or controlling person. This indemnity agreement will be in addition to any liability which the Company might otherwise have.

(b) Each Underwriter agrees severally and not jointly to indemnify and hold harmless the Company, each of the Company's directors, each of the Company's officers who have signed the Registration Statement, and each person, if any, who controls the Company within the meaning of the 1933 Act or the 1934 Act, against any losses, claims, damages, liabilities or expenses (including the reasonable cost of investigating and defending against any claims therefor and counsel fees incurred in connection therewith as such expenses are incurred), joint or several, which may be based upon the 1933 Act, or any other statute or at common law, on the ground or alleged ground that the Registration Statement, any preliminary prospectus, the Basic Prospectus, the Preliminary Prospectus, any Permitted Free Writing Prospectus, the Prospectus or any other Issuer Free Writing Prospectus (or any such document, as from time to time amended, or deemed to be amended, supplemented or modified) includes or allegedly includes an untrue statement of a material fact or omits or allegedly omits to state a material fact required to be stated therein or necessary in order to make the statements therein not misleading, but only insofar as any such statement or omission was made in reliance upon, and in conformity with, written information furnished to the Company by, or through the Representatives on behalf of, such Underwriter specifically for use in the preparation thereof, it being understood and agreed that the only such information furnished by any Underwriter consists of the following information in the Preliminary Prospectus and the Prospectus: the information in the third paragraph, the third and fourth sentences of the fifth paragraph, the sixth paragraph and the seventh paragraph under the heading "Underwriting (Conflicts of Interest)"; provided that in no case is such Underwriter to be liable with respect to any claims made against the Company or any such director, officer or controlling person unless the Company or any such director, officer or controlling person shall have notified such Underwriter in writing within a reasonable time after the summons or other first legal process giving information of the nature of the claim shall have been served upon the Company or any such director, officer or controlling person, but failure to notify such Underwriter of any such claim (i) shall not relieve such Underwriter from liability under this paragraph unless and to the extent such Underwriter did not otherwise learn of such action and such failure results in the forfeiture by such Underwriter of substantial rights and defenses and (ii) shall not relieve such Underwriter from any liability which it may have to the Company or any such director, officer or controlling person otherwise than on account of the indemnity agreement contained in this paragraph. Such Underwriter will be entitled to participate at its own expense in the defense, or, if it so elects, to assume the defense of any suit brought to enforce any such liability, but, if such Underwriter elects to assume the defense, such defense shall be conducted by counsel chosen by it; provided, however, that such counsel shall be reasonably satisfactory to the Company. In the event that such Underwriter elects to assume the defense of any such suit and retain such counsel, the Company or such director, officer or controlling person, defendant or defendants in the suit, may retain additional counsel but shall bear the fees and expenses of such counsel unless (i) such Underwriter shall have specifically authorized the retaining of such counsel or (ii) the parties to such suit include the Company or any such director, officer or controlling person and such Underwriter and the Company or such director, officer or controlling person have been advised by such counsel that one or more legal defenses may be available to it or them which may not be available to such Underwriter, in which case such Underwriter shall not be entitled to assume the defense of such suit on behalf of the Company or such director, officer or controlling person, notwithstanding its obligation to bear the reasonable fees and expenses of such counsel, it being understood, however, that such Underwriter shall not, in connection with any one such suit or proceeding or separate but substantially similar or related actions or proceedings in the same jurisdiction arising out of the same general allegations or circumstances, be liable for the reasonable fees and expenses of more than one separate firm of attorneys (and not more than one local counsel) at any time for all of the Company or any such director, officer or controlling person, which firm shall be designated in writing by the Company. Such Underwriter shall not be liable to indemnify any person for any settlement of any such claim effected without such Underwriter's prior written consent, which consent shall not be unreasonably withheld. No Underwriter shall, without the prior written consent of the Company or any such director, officer or controlling person, effect any settlement, compromise or consent to the entry of judgment in any pending or threatened action, suit or proceeding in respect of which the Company or any such director, officer or controlling person is or could have been a party and indemnity was or could have been sought hereunder by the Company or director, officer or controlling person, unless such settlement, compromise or consent (x) includes an unconditional release of the Company or director, officer or controlling person from all liability on claims that are the subject matter of such action, suit or proceeding and (y) does not include a statement as to or an admission of fault, culpability or failure to act by or on behalf of the Company or any such director, officer or controlling person. This indemnity agreement will be in addition to any liability which such Underwriter might otherwise have.

(c) If the indemnification provided for in this Section 7 is unavailable or insufficient to hold harmless an indemnified party under subsection (a) or (b) above, then each indemnifying party shall contribute to the amount paid or payable by such indemnified party as a result of the losses, claims, damages or liabilities referred to in subsection (a) or (b) above (i) in such proportion as is appropriate to reflect the relative benefits received by the Company on the one hand and the Underwriters on the other from the offering of the Notes or (ii) if the allocation provided by clause (i) above is not permitted by applicable law, in such proportion as is appropriate to reflect not only the relative benefits referred to in clause (i) above but also the relative fault of the Company on the one hand and the Underwriters on the other in connection with the statements or omissions which resulted in such losses, claims, damages or liabilities as well as any other relevant equitable considerations. The relative benefits received by the Company on the one hand and the Underwriters on the other shall be deemed to be in the same proportion as the total net proceeds from the offering (before deducting expenses) received by the Company bear to the total discounts and commissions received by the Underwriters from the Company under this Agreement. The relative fault shall be determined by reference to, among other things, whether the untrue or alleged untrue statement of a material fact or the omission or alleged omission to state a material fact relates to information supplied by the Company or the Underwriters and the parties' relative intent, knowledge, access to information and opportunity to correct or prevent such untrue statement or omission. The amount paid by an indemnified party as a result of the losses, claims, damages or liabilities referred to in the first sentence of this subsection (c) shall be deemed to include any legal or other expenses reasonably incurred by such indemnified party in connection with investigating or defending any action or claim which is the subject of this subsection (c). Notwithstanding the provisions of this subsection (c), no Underwriter shall be required to contribute any amount in excess of the amount by which the total price at which the Notes purchased by it were resold exceeds the amount of any damages which such Underwriter has otherwise been required to pay by reason of such untrue or alleged untrue statement or omission or alleged omission. No person guilty of fraudulent misrepresentation (within the meaning of Section 11(f) of the 1933 Act) shall be entitled to contribution from any person who was not guilty of such fraudulent misrepresentation. The Underwriters' obligations in this subsection (c) to contribute are several in proportion to their respective purchase obligations and not joint.

8. Substitution of Underwriters.

If any Underwriter shall default in its obligation to purchase the Notes which it has agreed to purchase hereunder and the aggregate principal amount of such Notes which such defaulting Underwriter agreed but failed to purchase does not exceed 10% of the total principal amount of Notes, the non-defaulting Underwriters may make arrangements satisfactory to the Company for the purchase of the aggregate principal amount of such Notes by other persons, including any of the non-defaulting Underwriters, but if no such arrangements are made by the Closing Date, the non-defaulting Underwriters shall be obligated severally, in proportion to their respective commitments hereunder, to purchase the Notes that such defaulting Underwriter agreed but failed to purchase. If any Underwriter or Underwriters shall so default and the aggregate principal amount of Notes with respect to which such default or defaults occur exceeds 10% of the total principal amount of Notes and arrangements satisfactory to the non-defaulting Underwriters and the Company for the purchase of such Notes by other persons are not made within 36 hours after such default, this Agreement will terminate.

If the non-defaulting Underwriter or Underwriters or substituted underwriter or underwriters are required hereby or agree to take up all or part of the Notes of the defaulting Underwriter as provided in this Section 8, (i) the Company shall have the right to postpone the Closing Date for a period of not more than five full business days, in order that the Company may effect whatever changes may thereby be made necessary in the Registration Statement, Pricing Disclosure Package or Prospectus or in any other documents or arrangements, and the Company agrees to promptly file any amendments to the Registration Statement or supplements to the Prospectus which may thereby be made necessary, and (ii) the respective aggregate principal amount of Notes which the non-defaulting Underwriters or substituted purchaser or purchasers shall thereafter be obligated to purchase shall be taken as the basis of their underwriting obligation for all purposes of this Agreement. Nothing herein contained shall relieve any defaulting Underwriter of its liability to the Company or the non-defaulting Underwriters for damages occasioned by its default hereunder. Any termination of this Agreement pursuant to this Section 8 shall be without liability on the part of the non-defaulting Underwriters or the Company, other than as provided in Sections 7 and 10.

9. Survival of Indemnities, Representations, Warranties, etc.

The respective indemnities, agreements, representations, warranties and other statements of the Company and the several Underwriters, as set forth in this Agreement or made by or on behalf of them, respectively, pursuant to this Agreement, shall remain in full force and effect, regardless of any investigation (or any statement as to the results thereof) made by or on behalf of any Underwriter or any controlling person of any Underwriter, or the Company, or any officer or director or controlling person of the Company, and shall survive delivery of and payment for the Notes.

10. Termination.

If this Agreement shall be terminated pursuant to Section 8 or if for any reason the purchase of the Notes by the Underwriters is not consummated, the Company shall remain responsible for the expenses to be paid or reimbursed by it pursuant to Section 5 and the respective obligations of the Company and the Underwriters pursuant to Section 7 shall remain in effect. If the purchase of the Notes by the Underwriters is not consummated for any reason other than solely because of the termination of this Agreement pursuant to Section 8 or the occurrence of any event specified in clause (iii), (iv), (v) or (vi) of Section 6(b), the Company will reimburse the Underwriters for all out-of-pocket expenses (including fees and disbursements of counsel) reasonably incurred by them in connection with the offering of the Notes.

11. Notices.

In all dealings hereunder, the Representatives shall act on behalf of each of the Underwriters, and the parties hereto shall be entitled to act and rely upon any statement, request, notice or agreement on behalf of any Underwriter made or given by the Representatives.

All statements, requests, notices and agreements hereunder shall be in writing, and (i) if to the Underwriters shall be delivered or sent by mail, or facsimile transmission to the Underwriters in care of Mizuho Securities USA LLC, 1271 Avenue of the Americas, New York, New York 10020, Attention: Debt Capital Markets, E-mail: BA_DCM_Notices@mizuhogroup.com; PNC Capital Markets LLC, 300 Fifth Avenue, 10th Floor, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15222, Attention: Debt Capital Markets, Fixed Income Transaction Execution, E-mail: capitalmarketsnotices@pnc.com; Scotia Capital (USA) Inc., 250 Vesey Street, New York, New York 10281, Attention: Debt Capital Markets, U.S., E-mail: US.legal@scotiabank.com and TAG@scotiabank.com; TD Securities (USA) LLC, 1 Vanderbilt Avenue, 11th Floor, New York, New York 10017, E-mail: USTransactionadvisory@tdsecurities.com, Attn: DCM - Transaction Advisory, and; U.S. Bancorp Investments, Inc., 214 North Tryon Street, 26th Floor, Charlotte, North Carolina 28202, Attention: Investment Grade Syndicate, Fax No.: (877) 774-3462, (ii) if to the Company shall be delivered or sent by mail, email or facsimile transmission to the Company, 1111 Louisiana Street, Houston, Texas 77002, Attention: Monica Karuturi, Esq., E-mail: monica.karuturi@centerpointenergy.com, (Fax No.: (713) 207-0141). Any such statements, requests, notices or agreements shall take effect upon receipt thereof.

12. Successors.

This Agreement shall inure to the benefit of and be binding upon the several Underwriters and the Company and their respective successors and the directors, officers and controlling persons referred to in Section 7 of this Agreement. Nothing expressed or mentioned in this Agreement is intended or shall be construed to give any person other than the persons mentioned in the preceding sentence any legal or equitable right, remedy or claim under or in respect of this Agreement, or any provisions herein contained; this Agreement and all conditions and provisions hereof being intended to be, and being, for the sole and exclusive benefit of such persons and for the benefit of no other person; except that the representations, warranties, covenants, agreements and indemnities of the Company contained in this Agreement shall also be for the benefit of the person or persons, if any, who control any Underwriter within the meaning of the 1933 Act or the 1934 Act, and the representations, warranties, covenants, agreements and indemnities of the several Underwriters shall also be for the benefit of each director of the Company, each person who has signed the Registration Statement and the person or persons, if any, who control the Company within the meaning of the 1933 Act.

13. Relationship.

The Company acknowledges and agrees that (i) the purchase and sale of the Notes pursuant to this Agreement is an arm's-length commercial transaction between the Company, on the one hand, and the several Underwriters, on the other, (ii) in connection therewith and with the process leading to such transaction each Underwriter is acting solely as a principal and not the agent or fiduciary of the Company, (iii) no Underwriter has assumed an advisory or fiduciary responsibility in favor of the Company with respect to the offering contemplated hereby or the process leading thereto (irrespective of whether such Underwriter has advised or is currently advising the Company on other matters) or any other obligation to the Company except the obligations expressly set forth in this Agreement and (iv) the Company has consulted its own legal and financial advisors to the extent it deemed appropriate. The Company agrees that it will not claim that the Underwriters, or any of them, has rendered advisory services of any nature or respect, or owes a fiduciary or similar duty to the Company, in connection with such transaction or the process leading thereto.

14. Applicable Law.

This Agreement shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of New York.

The Company hereby submits to the non-exclusive jurisdiction of the Federal and state courts in the Borough of Manhattan in The City of New York in any suit or proceeding arising out of or relating to this Agreement or the transactions contemplated hereby.

15. Waiver of Jury Trial.

Each of the parties hereto hereby waives any right to trial by jury in any suit or proceeding arising out of or relating to this Agreement.

16. Patriot Act.

In accordance with the requirements of the USA Patriot Act (Title III of Pub. L. 107-56 (signed into law October 26, 2001)), the Underwriters are required to obtain, verify and record information that identifies their respective clients, including the Company, which information may include the names and addresses of their respective clients, as well as other information that will allow the Underwriters to properly identify their respective clients.

17. Counterparts.

This Agreement may be executed by any one or more of the parties hereto in any number of counterparts, each of which shall be deemed to be an original, but all such respective counterparts shall together constitute one and the same instrument. Delivery of an executed signature page of this Agreement by facsimile or any other rapid transmission device designed to produce a written record of the communication transmitted shall be as effective as delivery of a manually executed counterpart thereof.

The words "execution," "executed," "signed," "signature," and words of like import in this Agreement or in any other certificate, agreement or document related to this Agreement shall include images of manually executed signatures transmitted by facsimile, email or other electronic format (including, without limitation, "pdf," "tif" or "jpg") and other electronic signatures (including, without limitation, DocuSign and AdobeSign). The use of electronic signatures and electronic records (including, without limitation, any contract or other record created, generated, sent, communicated, received, or stored by electronic means) shall be of the same legal effect, validity and enforceability as a manually executed signature or use of a paper-based record-keeping system to the fullest extent permitted by applicable law, including the Federal Electronic Signatures in Global and National Commerce Act, the New York State Electronic Signatures and Records Act and any other applicable law, including, without limitation, any state law based on the Uniform Electronic Transactions Act or the Uniform Commercial Code.

18. Recognition of the U.S. Special Resolution Regimes.

(a) In the event that any Underwriter that is a Covered Entity becomes subject to a proceeding under a U.S. Special Resolution Regime, the transfer from such Underwriter of this Agreement, and any interest and obligation in or under this Agreement, will be effective to the same extent as the transfer would be effective under the U.S. Special Resolution Regime if this Agreement, and any such interest and obligation, were governed by the laws of the United States or a state of the United States.

(b) In the event that any Underwriter that is a Covered Entity or a BHC Act Affiliate of such Underwriter becomes subject to a proceeding under a U.S. Special Resolution Regime, Default Rights under this Agreement that may be exercised against such Underwriter are permitted to be exercised to no greater extent than such Default Rights could be exercised under the U.S. Special Resolution Regime if this Agreement were governed by the laws of the United States or a state of the United States.

(c) For purposes of this Section 18, (A) the term “BHC Act Affiliate” has the meaning assigned to the term “affiliate” in, and shall be interpreted in accordance with, 12 U.S.C. § 1841(k); (B) the term “Covered Entity” means any of the following: (1) a “covered entity” as that term is defined in, and interpreted in accordance with, 12 C.F.R. § 252.82(b); (2) a “covered bank” as that term is defined in, and interpreted in accordance with, 12 C.F.R. § 47.3(b); or (3) a “covered FSI” as that term is defined in, and interpreted in accordance with, 12 C.F.R. § 382.2(b); (C) the term “Default Rights” has the meaning assigned to that term in, and shall be interpreted in accordance with, 12 C.F.R. §§ 252.81, 47.2 or 382.1, as applicable; and (D) the term “U.S. Special Resolution Regime” means each of (1) the Federal Deposit Insurance Act and the regulations promulgated thereunder and (2) Title II of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act and the regulations promulgated thereunder.

If the foregoing is in accordance with your understanding, please sign and return to us the enclosed duplicate hereof and upon the acceptance hereof by you, on behalf of each of the Underwriters, this letter and such acceptance hereof shall constitute a binding agreement between each of the Underwriters and the Company. It is understood that your acceptance of this letter on behalf of each of the Underwriters is pursuant to the authority set forth in a form of Agreement among Underwriters, the form of which shall be submitted to the Company for examination upon request, but without warranty on your part as to the authority of the signers thereof.

Sincerely,

CENTERPOINT ENERGY, INC.

By: /s/ Christopher A. Foster

Name: Christopher A. Foster

Title: Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer

[Signature Page to Underwriting Agreement]

Accepted as of the date hereof:

MIZUHO SECURITIES USA LLC

By: /s/ W. Scott Trachsel

Name: W. Scott Trachsel

Title: Managing Director

PNC CAPITAL MARKETS LLC

By: /s/ Valerie Shadeck

Name: Valerie Shadeck

Title: Managing Director

SCOTIA CAPITAL (USA) INC.

By: /s/ Chris Nieves

Name: Chris Nieves

Title: Managing Director

TD SECURITIES (USA) LLC

By: /s/ Chandni Joshi

Name: Chandni Joshi

Title: Managing Director

U.S. BANCORP INVESTMENTS, INC.

By: /s/ Michael Priore

Name: Michael Priore

Title: Managing Director

For Themselves and as Representatives of the Underwriters Listed on Schedule I

[Signature Page to Underwriting Agreement]

SCHEDULE I

Underwriters	Principal Amount of Underwriters' Notes
Mizuho Securities USA LLC	\$ 108,500,000
PNC Capital Markets LLC	108,500,000
Scotia Capital (USA) Inc.	108,500,000
TD Securities (USA) LLC	108,500,000
U.S. Bancorp Investments, Inc.	108,500,000
Wells Fargo Securities, LLC	64,750,000
BMO Capital Markets Corp.	28,000,000
BNP Paribas Securities Corp.	28,000,000
Fifth Third Securities, Inc.	19,250,000
Academy Securities, Inc.	17,500,000
Total:	\$ 700,000,000

SCHEDULE II
PRICING TERM SHEET

(to Preliminary Prospectus Supplement, dated July 30, 2026)

This free writing prospectus relates only to the securities described below and should be read together with CenterPoint Energy, Inc.'s preliminary prospectus supplement dated July 30, 2026 (the "Preliminary Prospectus Supplement"), the accompanying prospectus dated May 15, 2026 and the documents incorporated and deemed to be incorporated by reference therein.

Issuer:	CenterPoint Energy, Inc. (the "Issuer")
Legal Format:	SEC Registered
Anticipated Ratings*:	Intentionally omitted in exhibit format
Security:	6.400% Fixed-to-Fixed Reset Rate Junior Subordinated Notes, Series E, due 2058 (the "Notes")
Principal Amount:	\$700,000,000
Maturity Date:	August 15, 2058
Interest Payment Dates:	February 15 and August 15 of each year, commencing February 15, 2027
Regular Record Dates:	February 1 and August 1 of each year, immediately preceding any February 15 and August 15 Interest Payment Date, as the case may be.
Ranking:	The Notes will be the Issuer's unsecured obligations and will rank junior and subordinate in right of payment to the prior payment in full of the Issuer's existing and future Senior Indebtedness (including (i) any indebtedness the Issuer may incur in the future under the Issuer's Second Amended and Restated Credit Agreement, dated December 6, 2022, by and among the Issuer, as borrower, JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A., as administrative agent, the lenders and other parties thereto (as amended, restated, supplemented or otherwise modified from time to time, the "Credit Agreement"), (ii) the Issuer's \$1.0 billion aggregate principal amount of 4.25% Convertible Senior Notes due 2026, (iii) the Issuer's \$17.1 million aggregate principal amount of 5.25% Senior Notes due 2026, (iv) the Issuer's \$73.5 million aggregate principal amount of 4.25% Senior Notes due 2028, (v) the Issuer's \$650 million aggregate principal amount of 2.875% Convertible Senior Notes due 2029, (vi) the Issuer's \$659.8 million aggregate principal amount of 5.40% Senior Notes due 2029, (vii) the Issuer's \$364 million aggregate principal amount of 2.95% Senior Notes due 2030, (viii) the Issuer's \$220 million aggregate principal amount of 2.65% Senior Notes due 2031, (ix) the Issuer's \$152.5 million aggregate principal amount of 3.70% Senior Notes due 2049 and (x) the Issuer's \$1.0 billion aggregate principal amount of 3.00% Convertible Senior Notes due 2028) as described in the Preliminary Prospectus Supplement. The Notes will rank equally in right of payment with (a) the Issuer's 2.0% Zero-Premium Exchangeable Subordinated Notes due 2029, (b) the Issuer's \$400 million aggregate principal amount of 7.000% Fixed-to-Fixed Reset Rate Junior Subordinated Notes, Series A, due 2055, (c) the Issuer's \$400 million aggregate principal amount of 6.850% Fixed-to-Fixed Reset Rate Junior Subordinated Notes, Series B, due 2055, (d) the Issuer's \$500 million aggregate principal amount of 6.700% Fixed-to-Fixed Reset Rate Junior Subordinated Notes, Series C, due 2055, (e) the Issuer's \$700 million aggregate principal amount of 5.950% Fixed-to-Fixed Reset Rate Junior Subordinated Notes, Series D, due 2056 and (f) any future unsecured indebtedness that the Issuer may incur from time to time if the terms of such indebtedness provide that it ranks equally with the Notes in right of payment. See "Description of Notes—Ranking" in the Preliminary Prospectus Supplement. For the definition of the term "Senior Indebtedness," see "Description of Notes—Subordination" in the Preliminary Prospectus Supplement.

First Reset Date:	August 15, 2033 (the “First Reset Date”)
Interest Rate:	The Notes will bear interest (i) from and including August 3, 2026 to, but excluding, the First Reset Date at a rate of 6.400% and (ii) from and including the First Reset Date during each Interest Reset Period (as defined in the Preliminary Prospectus Supplement) at a rate equal to the Five-Year Treasury Rate (as defined in the Preliminary Prospectus Supplement) as of the most recent Reset Interest Determination Date (as defined in the Preliminary Prospectus Supplement), plus a spread of 1.885%; provided that the interest rate during any Interest Reset Period will not reset below 6.400% per annum (which is the same interest rate as in effect from and including the original issue date to, but excluding, the First Reset Date).
Reset Period:	The period from and including the First Reset Date to but excluding the next following Reset Date and thereafter each period from and including a Reset Date to but excluding the next following Reset Date, or the maturity date, or the date of redemption, as the case may be.
Reset Date:	The First Reset Date and August 15 of every fifth year after 2033
Optional Interest Deferral:	Cumulative deferral for one or more deferral periods of up to 20 consecutive semi-annual interest payment periods (as defined in the Preliminary Prospectus Supplement).

Optional Redemption Terms:

Par Call:	In whole or in part on one or more occasions at a price equal to 100% of the principal amount being redeemed, plus accrued and unpaid interest to, but excluding, the redemption date (i) on any day in the period commencing on the date falling 90 days prior to the First Reset Date and ending on and including the First Reset Date and (ii) after the First Reset Date, on any Interest Payment Date.
Tax Event Call:	In whole, but not in part, at 100% of the principal amount of the Notes, plus accrued and unpaid interest to, but excluding, the redemption date, at any time within 120 days after the occurrence of a tax event with respect to the Notes.
Tax Credit Event Call:	In whole, but not in part, at 101% of the principal amount of the Notes, plus accrued and unpaid interest to, but excluding, the redemption date, if certain tax credit-related events occur (provided that the notice of such redemption may only be sent by the later of (a) December 31, 2026 and (b) six months from the date of issuance).
Rating Agency Event Call:	In whole, but not in part, at 102% of the principal amount of the Notes, plus accrued and unpaid interest to, but excluding, the redemption date, at any time within 120 days after the occurrence of a rating agency event with respect to the Notes.
CUSIP/ISIN:	15189T BV8 / US15189TBV89
Par Amount:	\$1,000
Denominations:	\$2,000 and integral multiples of \$1,000 in excess thereof
Trade Date:	July 30, 2026
Expected Settlement Date**:	August 3, 2026 (T+2)
Joint Book-Running Managers:	Mizuho Securities USA LLC PNC Capital Markets LLC Scotia Capital (USA) Inc. TD Securities (USA) LLC U.S. Bancorp Investments, Inc. BMO Capital Markets Corp. BNP Paribas Securities Corp. Wells Fargo Securities, LLC
Co-Managers:	Academy Securities, Inc. Fifth Third Securities, Inc.

The terms “Interest Reset Period,” “Five-Year Treasury Rate,” “Reset Interest Determination Date,” “Reset Date,” “Senior Indebtedness,” “interest payment periods,” “tax event” and “rating agency event” have the meanings given in the Preliminary Prospectus Supplement. Other capitalized terms used and not defined herein have the meanings assigned in the Preliminary Prospectus Supplement.

***Note:** A securities rating is not a recommendation to buy, sell or hold securities and may be subject to revision or withdrawal at any time.

****** The Issuer expects that delivery of the Notes offered hereby will be made against payment therefor on or about August 3, 2026, which will be the second business day following the date of pricing of the Notes (this settlement cycle being referred to as “T+2”). Under Rule 15c6-1 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, trades in the secondary market generally are required to settle in one business day, unless the parties to such trade expressly agree otherwise. Accordingly, purchasers who wish to trade the Notes on the initial pricing date of the Notes will be required, by virtue of the fact that the Notes initially will settle in T+2, to specify alternative settlement arrangements at the time of any such trade to prevent a failed settlement and should consult their own advisors.

The Issuer has filed a registration statement (including a prospectus) with the SEC for the offering to which this communication relates. Before you invest, you should read the prospectus in that registration statement and other documents the Issuer has filed with the SEC for more complete information about the Issuer and this offering. You may get these documents for free by visiting EDGAR on the SEC Web site at www.sec.gov. Alternatively, the Issuer, any underwriter or any dealer participating in the offering will arrange to send you the prospectus if you request it by calling Mizuho Securities USA LLC toll-free at (866) 271-7403, PNC Capital Markets LLC toll-free at (855) 881-0697, Scotia Capital (USA) Inc. toll-free at (800) 372-3930, TD Securities (USA) LLC toll-free at (855) 495-9846 or U.S. Bancorp Investments, Inc. toll-free at (877) 558-2607.

SCHEDULE III
PRICING DISCLOSURE PACKAGE

- 1) Preliminary Prospectus dated July 30, 2026
 - 2) Pricing Term Sheet attached as Schedule II hereto
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SCHEDULE IV

PERMITTED FREE WRITING PROSPECTUSES

- 1) Pricing Term Sheet attached as Schedule II hereto
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**FORM OF OPINION OF MONICA KARUTURI, ESQ.,
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT AND GENERAL COUNSEL OF THE COMPANY**

FORM OF OPINION OF BAKER BOTTS L.L.P.,
COUNSEL FOR THE COMPANY

SUPPLEMENTAL INDENTURE NO. 4

BETWEEN

CENTERPOINT ENERGY, INC.

AND

THE BANK OF NEW YORK MELLON TRUST COMPANY, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION,

TRUSTEE

DATED AS OF AUGUST 3, 2026

6.400% FIXED-TO-FIXED RESET RATE JUNIOR SUBORDINATED NOTES,

SERIES E, DUE 2058

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Exhibit

Exhibit A	Form of Series E Note and the Trustee's Certificate of Authentication
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SUPPLEMENTAL INDENTURE NO. 4

THIS **SUPPLEMENTAL INDENTURE NO. 4**, dated as of August 3, 2026 (this “Supplemental Indenture”), is between CENTERPOINT ENERGY, INC., a corporation duly organized and existing under the laws of the State of Texas, having its principal office at 1111 Louisiana Street, Houston, Texas 77002 (the “Company”), and The Bank of New York Mellon Trust Company, National Association, as trustee of the Securities established by this Supplemental Indenture, having a Corporate Trust Office at 601 Travis Street, 16th Floor, Houston, Texas 77002 (herein called the “Trustee”).

WHEREAS, the Company has heretofore entered into a Junior Subordinated Indenture (the “Base Indenture”), dated as of August 14, 2024 between the Company and the Trustee;

WHEREAS, the Base Indenture is incorporated herein by this reference and the Base Indenture, as supplemented and amended by this Supplemental Indenture and any other amendments or supplements thereto, is herein called the “Indenture”;

WHEREAS, under the Base Indenture, an unlimited amount of Securities in one or more series may at any time be established in accordance with the provisions of the Base Indenture and the terms of such series may be described by a supplemental indenture executed by the Company and the Trustee;

WHEREAS, the Company proposes to create under the Base Indenture a new series of Securities and to appoint the Trustee as Trustee under the Base Indenture with respect to such Securities;

WHEREAS, the Company has requested that the Trustee execute and deliver this Supplemental Indenture and all requirements necessary to make this Supplemental Indenture a valid instrument in accordance with its terms, and to make the Notes, when executed by the Company and authenticated and delivered by the Trustee, the valid obligations of the Company, have been performed, and the execution and delivery of this Supplemental Indenture has been duly authorized in all respects;

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the purchase and acceptance of the Notes by the Holders, and for the purpose of setting forth, as provided in the Base Indenture, the form and substance of the Notes and the terms, provisions and conditions thereof, the Company covenants and agrees with the Trustee as follows:

ARTICLE I DEFINITIONS

Section 1.01 Definition of Terms. For all purposes of this Supplemental Indenture, except as otherwise expressly provided or unless the context otherwise requires:

- (a) the capitalized terms not otherwise defined herein shall have the meanings set forth in the Base Indenture or, if not defined in the Base Indenture;
- (b) the terms defined in this Article I have the meanings assigned to them in this Article I and include the plural as well as the singular;
- (c) all other terms used herein which are defined in the Trust Indenture Act of 1939, as amended, whether directly or by reference therein, have the meanings assigned to them therein;
- (d) a reference to a Section or Article is to a Section or Article of this Supplemental Indenture unless otherwise stated;
- (e) a reference to a Section or Article in the Base Indenture that has been replaced or amended in this Supplemental Indenture shall be construed for purposes of the Notes to refer to such Section or Article as replaced or amended in this Supplemental Indenture;
- (f) the words “herein,” “hereof” and “hereunder” and other words of similar import refer to this Supplemental Indenture as a whole and not to any particular Article, Section or other subdivision;
- (g) headings are for convenience of reference only and do not affect interpretation;

“Business Day” means any day other than a Saturday, a Sunday or a day on which the Federal Reserve Bank of New York is authorized or required by law or executive order to close or be closed.

“Calculation Agent” shall have the meaning set forth in Section 2.04.

“Capital Stock” means (i) in the case of a corporation or a company, corporate stock or shares; (ii) in the case of an association or business entity, any and all shares, interests, participations, rights or other equivalents (however designated) of corporate stock; (iii) in the case of a partnership or limited liability company, partnership or membership interests (whether general or limited); and (iv) any other interest or participation that confers on a Person the right to receive a share of the profits and losses of, or distributions of assets of, the issuing Person.

“Code” means the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended.

“Compound Interest” shall have the meaning specified in Section 2.04.

“Default” means any event that is, or after notice or passage of time, or both, would be, an Event of Default.

“DTC” shall have the meaning set forth in Section 2.06.

“Event of Default” shall have the meaning set forth in Section 3.01.

“First Reset Date” shall have the meaning set forth in Section 2.04.

“Five-Year Treasury Rate” means, as of any Reset Interest Determination Date, the average of the yields on actively traded United States Treasury securities adjusted to constant maturity, for five-year maturities, for the most recent five Business Days appearing under the caption “Treasury Constant Maturities” in the most recent H.15. If the Five-Year Treasury Rate cannot be determined pursuant to the method described above, the Calculation Agent, after consulting such sources as it deems comparable to any of the foregoing calculations, or any such source as it deems reasonable from which to estimate the Five-Year Treasury Rate, will determine the Five-Year Treasury Rate in its sole discretion, provided that if the Calculation Agent determines there is an industry-accepted successor Five-Year Treasury Rate, then the Calculation Agent will use such successor rate. If the Calculation Agent has determined a substitute or successor base rate in accordance with the foregoing, the Calculation Agent in its sole discretion may determine the business day convention, the definition of “Business Day” and the Reset Interest Determination Date to be used and any other relevant methodology for calculating such substitute or successor base rate, including any adjustment factor needed to make such substitute or successor base rate comparable to the Five-Year Treasury Rate, in a manner that is consistent with industry-accepted practices for such substitute or successor base rate.

“Guarantee” means any obligation, contingent or otherwise, of any Person directly or indirectly guaranteeing any Indebtedness or other obligation of any other Person and, without limiting the generality of the foregoing, any obligation, direct or indirect, contingent or otherwise, of such Person (i) to purchase or pay (or advance or supply funds for the purchase or payment of) such Indebtedness or other obligation of such other Person (whether arising by virtue of partnership arrangements, or by agreement to keep well, to purchase assets, goods, securities or services, to take-or-pay, or to maintain financial statement conditions or otherwise) or (ii) entered into for purposes of assuring in any other manner the obligee of such Indebtedness of other obligation of the payment thereof or to protect such obligee against loss in respect thereof (in whole or in part); provided that the term “Guarantee” shall not include endorsements for collection or deposit in the ordinary course of business. The term “Guarantee” used as a verb has a corresponding meaning.

“H.15” means the daily statistical release designated as such, or any successor publication as determined by the Calculation Agent in its sole discretion, published by the Federal Reserve Board, and “most recent H.15” means the H.15 published closest in time but prior to the close of business on the applicable Reset Interest Determination Date.

“Holder” means the Person in whose name at the time a particular Note is registered on the books of the Trustee kept for that purpose.

“Indebtedness” means, with respect to any Person at any date of determination (without duplication), (i) all indebtedness of such Person for borrowed money, (ii) all obligations of such Person evidenced by bonds, debentures, notes or other similar instruments, including obligations incurred in connection with the acquisition of property, assets or businesses, (iii) all obligations of such Person in respect of letters of credit or bankers’ acceptances or other similar instruments (or reimbursement obligations thereto) issued on the account of such Person, (iv) all obligations of such Person to pay the deferred purchase price of property or services, except Trade Payables, (v) all obligations of such Person as lessee under capitalized leases, (vi) all Indebtedness of others secured by a Lien on any asset of such Person, whether or not such Indebtedness is assumed by such Person; provided that, for purposes of determining the amount of any Indebtedness of the type described in this clause (vi), if recourse with respect to such Indebtedness is limited to such asset, the amount of such Indebtedness shall be limited to the lesser of the fair market value of such asset or the amount of such Indebtedness, (vii) all Indebtedness of others Guaranteed by such Person to the extent such Indebtedness is Guaranteed by such Person, and (viii) to the extent not otherwise included in this definition, all obligations of such Person for claims in respect of derivative products, including interest rate, foreign exchange rate and commodity prices, forward contracts, options, swaps, collars and similar arrangements.

“Interest Payment” means, with respect to any Interest Payment Date, the interest payment on the Notes due on such Interest Payment Date.

“Interest Payment Date” shall have the meaning set forth in Section 2.04.

“Interest Payment Period” means the semi-annual period from, and including, an Interest Payment Date to, but excluding, the next succeeding Interest Payment Date, except for the first Interest Payment Date, which shall be the period from, and including, August 3, 2026 to, but excluding, February 15, 2027.

“Interest Period” means, with respect to any Interest Payment Date, the period from and including the immediately preceding Interest Payment Date (or if none, August 3, 2026) to, but excluding, such Interest Payment Date.

“Interest Reset Period” means the period from and including August 15, 2033 to, but excluding, the next following Reset Date and thereafter each period from and including each Reset Date to, but excluding, the next following Reset Date or the Maturity Date or date of redemption, as the case may be.

“Lien” means, with respect to any property, any mortgage, lien, pledge, charge, security interest or encumbrance of any kind in respect of such property. For purposes of this Indenture, the Company shall be deemed to own subject to a Lien any property which it has acquired or hold subject to the interest of a vendor or lessor under any conditional sale agreement, capital lease or other title retention agreement relating to such property.

“Maturity Date” shall have the meaning specified in Section 2.02.

“Notes” shall have the meaning specified in Section 2.01.

“Optional Deferral Period” has the meaning set forth in Section 4.01.

“Original Issue Date” means the date on which the Notes are originally issued.

“Person” means any individual, corporation, partnership, joint venture, trust, unincorporated organization or government or any agency or political subdivision thereof.

“Rating Agency Event” means, as of any date, a change, clarification or amendment in the methodology in assigning equity credit to securities such as the Notes published by any nationally recognized statistical rating organization within the meaning of Section 3(a)(62) of the Exchange Act (or any successor provision thereto) that then publishes a rating for the Company (together with any successor thereto, a “Rating Agency”), (i) as such methodology was in effect on July 30, 2026, in the case of any Rating Agency that published a rating for the Company on July 30, 2026, or (ii) as such methodology was in effect on the date such Rating Agency first published a rating for the Company, in the case of any Rating Agency that first publishes a rating for the Company on July 30, 2026 (in the case of either clause (i) or (ii), the “Current Methodology”), that results in (a) any shortening of the length of time for which a particular level of equity credit pertaining to the Notes by such Rating Agency would have been in effect had the Current Methodology not been changed, clarified or amended or (b) a lower equity credit (including up to a lesser amount) being assigned by such Rating Agency to the Notes as of the date of such change, clarification or amendment than the equity credit that would have been assigned to the Notes by such Rating Agency had the Current Methodology not been changed, clarified or amended.

“Rating Agency Event Redemption Date” shall have the meaning specified in Section 2.06.

“Regular Record Date” shall have the meaning set forth in Section 2.04.

“Reset Date” means August 15, 2033 and each date falling on the five-year anniversary of the preceding Reset Date.

“Reset Interest Determination Date” means, in respect of any Interest Reset Period, the day falling two Business Days prior to the beginning of the applicable Interest Reset Period.

“Senior Indebtedness” means the principal of (and premium, if any) and interest on and all other amounts due in connection with all Indebtedness of the Company whether created, incurred or assumed before, on or after the date of this Supplemental Indenture; provided that such Senior Indebtedness shall not include (i) Indebtedness of us to any of the Company’s Subsidiaries, (ii) the Company’s Trade Payables, (iii) the Company’s Indebtedness that, when incurred and without respect to any election under Section 1111(b) of Title 11 of the Code, was without recourse to the Company, and (iv) any other Indebtedness of the Company which by the terms of the instrument creating or evidencing the same is specifically designated as being subordinated to or *pari passu* with the Notes.

“Successor Company” shall have the meaning specified in Section 10.01.

“Tax Credit Event” means, with respect to the Notes, that, in the Company’s reasonable determination, there exists a material risk, due to the Notes (considered together with other debt) having been issued, as part of an original issuance, to one or more “specified foreign entities,” as defined in Section 7701(a)(51)(B) of the Code, that the Company or any of its affiliates would be unable to utilize or otherwise be ineligible to claim any tax credits otherwise allowed under Section 38 of the Code.

“Tax Credit Event Redemption Date” shall have the meaning specified in Section 2.06.

“Tax Event” means receipt by the Company of a written opinion of a nationally recognized accounting firm or counsel experienced in such matters to the effect that, as a result of:

(a) any amendment to, clarification of, or change, including any announced prospective change, in the laws or treaties of the United States or any of its political subdivisions or taxing authorities, or any regulations under those laws or treaties;

(b) an administrative action, which means any judicial decision or any official administrative pronouncement, ruling, regulatory procedure, notice or announcement, including any notice or announcement of intent to issue or adopt any administrative pronouncement, ruling, regulatory procedure or regulation;

(c) any amendment to, clarification of, or change in the official position or the interpretation of any administrative action or judicial decision or any interpretation or pronouncement that provides for a position with respect to an administrative action or judicial decision that differs from the previously generally accepted position, in each case by any legislative body, court, governmental authority or regulatory body, regardless of the time or manner in which that amendment, clarification or change is introduced or made known; or

(d) a threatened challenge asserted in writing in connection with a tax audit of the Company or any of its subsidiaries, or a publicly-known threatened challenge asserted in writing against any other taxpayer that has raised capital through the issuance of securities that are substantially similar to the Notes,

which amendment, clarification or change is effective or the administrative action is taken or judicial decision, interpretation or pronouncement is issued or threatened challenge is asserted or becomes publicly known after July 30, 2026, there is more than an insubstantial risk that interest payable by the Company on the Notes is not deductible, or within 90 days would not be deductible, in whole or in part, by the Company for United States federal income tax purposes.

“Tax Event Redemption Date” shall have the meaning specified in Section 2.06.

“Trade Payables” means, with respect to any Person, any accounts payable or any other indebtedness or monetary obligation to trade creditors created, assumed or Guaranteed by such Person or any of its subsidiaries arising in the ordinary course of business in connection with the acquisition of goods or services.

The terms “Company,” “Trustee,” “Base Indenture,” and “Indenture” shall have the respective meanings set forth in the recitals to this Supplemental Indenture.

ARTICLE II
GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE NOTES

Section 2.01 Designation and Principal Amount. There are hereby authorized a new series of Securities, to be designated the “6.400% Fixed-to-Fixed Reset Rate Junior Subordinated Notes, Series E, due 2058,” (the “Notes”) in the initial aggregate principal amount of \$700,000,000, which amount shall be set forth in any written order of the Company for the authentication and delivery of Notes pursuant to Section 3.01 of the Base Indenture and Section 6.01 hereof. The Company may, without the consent of the Holders, create and issue an unlimited amount of additional Notes ranking equally with the Notes in all respects and having the same terms (except for the price to public, the issue date and the initial interest accrual date and the first interest payment date, as applicable) as the Notes, so that such additional Notes shall be consolidated and form a single series with, and shall have the same terms as to status, redemption or otherwise as, the Notes authenticated and delivered on the date hereof. Such additional Notes will have the same CUSIP number as the Notes being authenticated on the date hereof, provided that such additional Notes must be part of the same issue as the Notes being authenticated on the date hereof for U.S. federal income tax purposes or, if they are not part of the same issue for such purposes, such additional Notes must be issued with a separate CUSIP number. No additional Notes may be issued if an Event of Default has occurred and is continuing with respect to the Notes.

Section 2.02 Stated Maturity. The “Maturity Date” of the Notes is August 15, 2058. For the avoidance of doubt, with respect to the Notes, the Maturity Date, refers only to the date on which principal is due and payable as set forth in this Section 2.02.

Section 2.03 Form and Payment; Minimum Transfer Restriction.

(a) Except as provided in Section 2.04, the Notes shall be issued in fully registered definitive form without coupons. Principal of the Notes will be payable (subject to the last clause of this Section 2.03(a)), the transfer of such Notes will be registrable, and such Notes will be exchangeable for Notes of a like aggregate principal amount bearing identical terms and provisions, at the Corporate Trust Office; provided, however, that, except as otherwise provided in the form of Note attached hereto as Exhibit A, payment of interest will be made by check mailed to the address of the Person entitled thereto as such address shall appear in the Security Register or, if such Person so requests and designates an account in writing to the Trustee at least five Business Days prior to the relevant Interest Payment Date, by wire transfer to such account, and provided, further, that the Company, in its discretion may remove the Paying Agent and may appoint one or more additional Paying Agents (including the Company or any of its affiliates).

(b) The Notes shall be issuable in minimum denominations of \$2,000 and integral multiples of \$1,000 in excess thereof;

Section 2.04 Interest.

(a) The Notes bear interest (i) from and including the date of the original issuance to, but excluding, August 15, 2033 (the “First Reset Date”) at an annual rate of 6.400% and (ii) from and including August 15, 2033 during each Interest Reset Period at an annual rate equal to the Five-Year Treasury Rate as of the most recent Reset Interest Determination Date, plus a spread of 1.885%; provided that the interest rate during any Interest Reset Period will not reset below 6.400% per annum (which is the same interest rate as in effect from and including the original issue date to, but excluding, the First Reset Date). Interest will accrue from August 3, 2026 and will, subject to the Company’s right to defer Interest Payments (as described in Article IV), be payable semi-annually in arrears on February 15 and August 15 of each year (each, an “Interest Payment Date”), beginning on February 15, 2027. If Interest Payments are deferred or otherwise not paid, they will accrue and compound until paid at the same rate at which the Notes bear interest to the extent permitted by law. As permitted by the terms of the Notes, if Interest Payments are deferred or otherwise not paid up to a redemption date that does not fall on an Interest Payment Date, they will accrue and compound until paid at the same rate at which the Notes bear interest to the extent permitted by law. The amount of interest payable for any interest accrual period will be computed on the basis of a 360-day year consisting of twelve 30-day months. The amount of interest payable for any period shorter than a full semi-annual period for which interest is computed will be computed on the basis of the number of days in the period using 30-day calendar months. All references to “interest” on the Notes and, insofar as it relates to the Notes, this Indenture, shall be deemed to include any deferred interest pursuant to Article IV and interest on deferred interest (“Compound Interest”) that may accrue at the interest rate then-applicable to the Notes, to the extent permitted by law.

(b) Unless all of the Outstanding Notes have been redeemed, the Company will appoint a calculation agent (the “Calculation Agent”) with respect to the Notes prior to the applicable Reset Interest Determination Date. The Company or any of its affiliates may assume the duties of the Calculation Agent. The applicable interest rate for each Interest Reset Period will be determined by the Calculation Agent as of the applicable Reset Interest Determination Date. If the Company or one of its affiliates is not the Calculation Agent, the Calculation Agent will notify the Company of the interest rate for the relevant Interest Reset Period promptly upon such determination. The Company will notify the Trustee of such interest rate, promptly upon making or being notified of such determination. The Calculation Agent’s determination of any interest rate and its calculation of the amount of interest for any Interest Reset Period will be conclusive and binding absent manifest error, will be made in the Calculation Agent’s sole discretion and, notwithstanding anything to the contrary in the documentation relating to the Notes, will become effective without consent from any other person or entity. Such determination of any interest rate and calculation of the amount of interest will be on file at the Company’s principal offices and will be made available to any holder of the Notes upon request. In no event shall the Trustee be the Calculation Agent (unless upon receiving reasonable advance notice it agrees to the appointment as Calculation Agent in writing), nor shall it have any liability for any determination made by or on behalf of such Calculation Agent.

(c) If an Interest Payment Date, a redemption date or the Maturity Date of the Notes falls on a day that is not a Business Day, the required payment will be made on the next succeeding Business Day with the same force and effect as if made on such scheduled payment date, and no interest on such payment will accrue in respect of the delay.

(d) So long as all of the Notes remain in book-entry only form, the record date for each Interest Payment Date will be the close of business on February 1 or August 1 (whether or not such day is a Business Day) (each, a “Regular Record Date”) immediately preceding the applicable February 15 or August 15 Interest Payment Date. If any of the Notes do not remain in book-entry only form, the record date for each Interest Payment Date will be the fifteenth calendar day immediately preceding the applicable Interest Payment Date whether or not a Business Day.

Section 2.05 No Sinking Fund or Repayment at Option of the Holder. The Notes shall not be subject to any sinking fund or analogous provision and shall not be repayable at the option of a Holder thereof prior to the Maturity Date.

Section 2.06 Optional Redemption.

(a) The Company may redeem the Notes, at its option, in whole or in part upon not less than 10 nor more than 60 days' notice to the registered Holders of the Notes called for redemption, at a redemption price equal to 100% of the principal amount of the Notes being redeemed plus accrued and unpaid interest to, but excluding, the date fixed for redemption (i) on any day in the period commencing on the date falling 90 days prior to the First Reset Date and ending on and including the First Reset Date and (ii) after the First Reset Date, on any Interest Payment Date.

(b) In addition, the Company may redeem the Notes, at its option, in whole but not in part, upon not less than 10 nor more than 60 days' notice to the registered Holders of the Notes called for redemption, following the occurrence of a Tax Event, at a redemption price equal to the sum of 100% of the principal amount of the Notes being redeemed plus accrued and unpaid interest to, but excluding, the date fixed for redemption (the "Tax Event Redemption Date"). In such case, the Company will deliver a notice of redemption specifying the Tax Event Redemption Date, which shall be no later than 120 days following the occurrence of a Tax Event with respect to the Notes.

(c) In addition, the Company may redeem the Notes, at its option, in whole but not in part, upon not less than 10 nor more than 60 days' notice to the registered Holders of the Notes called for redemption, following the occurrence of a Tax Credit Event, at a redemption price equal to the sum of 101% of the principal amount of the Notes being redeemed plus accrued and unpaid interest to, but excluding, the date fixed for redemption (the "Tax Credit Event Redemption Date"). A notice of redemption of the Notes upon the occurrence of a Tax Credit Event (i) may only be sent by the later of (x) the end of the calendar year in which the Notes were issued and (y) six months from the date of the issuance of the Notes and (ii) shall be accompanied by an Officers' Certificate stating that a Tax Credit Event has occurred.

(d) In addition, the Company may redeem the Notes, at its option, in whole but not in part, upon not less than 10 nor more than 60 days' notice to the registered Holders of the Notes called for redemption, for the Notes following the occurrence of a Rating Agency Event, at a redemption price equal to 102% of the principal amount of the Notes being redeemed plus any accrued and unpaid interest to, but excluding, the date fixed for redemption (the "Rating Agency Event Redemption Date"). In such case, the Company will deliver a notice of redemption specifying the Rating Agency Event Redemption Date, which shall be no later than 120 days following the occurrence of a Rating Agency Event with respect to the Notes.

(e) If notice of redemption is given, the Notes so to be redeemed will, on the redemption date (subject, in the case of a conditional redemption, to the satisfaction of all conditions precedent), become due and payable at the applicable redemption price together with any accrued and unpaid interest, and from and after such date (unless the Company has defaulted in the payment of the redemption price and accrued interest) such Notes shall cease to bear interest. If any Notes called for redemption shall not be paid upon surrender thereof for redemption, the principal shall, until paid, bear interest from the redemption date at the rate then applicable to the Notes.

(f) If at the time notice of redemption is given, the redemption moneys are not on deposit with the Trustee, then the redemption shall be subject to their receipt on or before the applicable redemption date and such notice shall be of no effect unless such moneys are so received.

(g) If, at the time a notice of redemption is given, (i) the Company has not effected satisfaction and discharge or defeasance of the Notes as described in Article IX and (ii) such notice of redemption is not being given in connection with or in order to effect satisfaction and discharge or defeasance of the Notes, then, if the notice of redemption so provides and at the Company's option, the redemption may be subject to the condition that the Trustee shall have received, on or before the applicable redemption date, monies in an amount sufficient to pay the redemption price and accrued and unpaid interest on the Notes called for redemption to, but excluding, the redemption date. If monies in such amount are not received by the Trustee on or before such redemption date, such notice of redemption shall be automatically canceled and of no force or effect, such proposed redemption shall be automatically canceled, and the Company shall not be required to redeem the Notes called for redemption on such redemption date. In the event that a redemption is canceled, the Company will, not later than the Business Day immediately following the proposed redemption date, deliver, or cause to be delivered, notice of such cancellation to the registered Holders of the Notes called for redemption (which notice will also indicate that the Notes or portions thereof surrendered for redemption shall be returned to the applicable Holders), and the Company will direct the Trustee to, and the Trustee will, promptly return the Notes or portions thereof that have been surrendered for redemption to the applicable Holders. Unless the Company defaults in payment of the redemption price or the proposed redemption is canceled in accordance with the provisions set forth in this Section 2.06(g), on and after the redemption date interest will cease to accrue on the Notes or portions thereof called for redemption.

(h) If less than all of the Notes are redeemed at any time, the Trustee will select the Notes or any portions thereof in integral multiples of \$1,000 to be redeemed, by lot and, when the Notes are in the form of global securities, in accordance with the applicable procedures of The Depository Trust Company ("DTC").

(i) Subject to the foregoing and to applicable law (including, without limitation, United States federal securities laws), the Company or its affiliates may, at any time and from time to time, purchase Outstanding Notes by tender, in the open market or by private agreement.

Section 2.07 No Additional Amounts. The Company will not pay any additional amounts to any Holder in respect of any tax, assessment or governmental charge.

ARTICLE III
DEFAULTS AND REMEDIES

Article V of the Base Indenture is replaced in its entirety as follows:

Section 3.01 Events of Default. An “Event of Default” occurs with respect to the Notes if:

(a) the Company does not pay any interest on the Notes when they become due and payable and such default continues for 30 days (regardless of whether such payment is prohibited by the subordination provisions under Article VII), except as a result of a deferral of Interest Payments in accordance with Article IV;

(b) the Company does not pay any principal of or premium, if any, on the Notes when they become due and payable (regardless of whether such payment is prohibited by the subordination provisions under Article VII);

(c) the Company remains in breach of any other covenant under this Indenture or the Notes for 60 days after there has been given to the Company a written notice of default (which notice must be sent by either the Trustee or registered Holders of at least 33% of the aggregate principal amount of the then-Outstanding Notes) specifying such default or breach and requiring remedy of the default or breach;

(d) the Company shall commence a voluntary case or other proceeding seeking liquidation, reorganization or other relief with respect to the Company or its debts under any bankruptcy, insolvency or other similar law now or hereafter in effect or seeking the appointment of a trustee, receiver, liquidator, custodian or other similar official of the Company or any substantial part of its property, or shall consent to any such relief or to the appointment of or taking possession by any such official in an involuntary case or other proceeding commenced against it, or shall make a general assignment for the benefit of creditors, or shall fail generally to pay its debts as they become due; or

(e) an involuntary case or other proceeding shall be commenced against the Company seeking liquidation, reorganization or other relief with respect to the Company or its debts under any bankruptcy, insolvency or other similar law now or hereafter in effect or seeking the appointment of a trustee, receiver, liquidator, custodian or other similar official of the Company or any substantial part of its property, and such involuntary case or other proceeding shall remain undismissed and unstayed for a period of 30 consecutive days.

Section 3.02 Acceleration; Rescission and Annulment. If one or more Events of Default shall have occurred and be continuing with respect to the Notes, then, and in each and every such case (other than an Event of Default specified in Section 3.01(c)), either the Trustee or the registered Holders of at least 33% of the aggregate principal amount of the then-Outstanding Notes may declare the principal amount of all of the Notes, together with accrued and unpaid interest thereon, to be due and payable immediately, and upon any such declaration the same shall become and shall automatically be immediately due and payable, anything contained in this Indenture or in the Notes to the contrary notwithstanding. If an Event of Default specified in Section 3.01(c) occurs and is continuing, neither the Trustee nor the registered Holders of the Notes shall be entitled to declare the principal of the Notes, or accrued or unpaid interest thereon, to be due or payable immediately; provided that the Trustee and the Holders may exercise the other rights and remedies available under this Indenture and under applicable law upon the occurrence of an Event of Default specified in Section 3.01(c).

The immediately preceding paragraph, however, is subject to the conditions that if, at any time after the principal of the Notes shall have been so declared due and payable, and before any judgment or decree for the payment of the monies due shall have been obtained or entered as hereinafter provided, and if (1) rescission would not conflict with any judgment or decree of a court of competent jurisdiction and (2) any and all existing Events of Default under this Indenture, other than the nonpayment of the principal of and accrued and unpaid interest, if any, on the Notes that shall have become due solely by such acceleration, shall have been cured or waived pursuant to Section 3.08, then and in every such case (except as provided in the immediately succeeding sentence) the Holders of a majority in aggregate principal amount of the Notes then-Outstanding, by written notice to the Company and to the Trustee, may waive all Defaults or Events of Default with respect to the Notes and rescind and annul such declaration and its consequences and such Default shall cease to exist, and any Event of Default arising therefrom shall be deemed to have been cured for every purpose of this Indenture; but no such waiver or rescission and annulment shall extend to or shall affect any subsequent Default or Event of Default, or shall impair any right consequent thereon. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary herein, no such waiver or rescission and annulment shall extend to or shall affect any Default or Event of Default resulting from (i) the nonpayment of the principal (including the redemption price, if applicable) of, or accrued and unpaid interest on, any Notes or (ii) a default in respect of a covenant or provision hereof which under Article IX of the Base Indenture cannot be modified or amended without the consent of the Holder of the Notes affected.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Indenture and any provision of the Notes, the Company's valid utilization of an Optional Deferral Period pursuant to Article IV shall not constitute a default in the payment of interest giving rise to an Event of Default.

Section 3.03 Payments of Notes on Default; Suit Therefor. If an Event of Default described in Section 3.01(a) or Section 3.01(b) shall have occurred and be continuing, the Company shall, upon demand of the Trustee, pay to the Trustee, for the benefit of the Holders of the Notes, the whole amount then due and payable on the Notes for principal and interest, if any, with interest on any overdue principal and interest, if any, at the rate borne by the Notes at such time and, in addition thereto, such further amount as shall be sufficient to cover any amounts due to the Trustee under Section 6.07 of the Base Indenture. If the Company shall fail to pay such amounts forthwith upon such demand, the Trustee, in its own name and as trustee of an express trust, may institute a judicial proceeding for the collection of the sums so due and unpaid, may prosecute such proceeding to judgment or final decree and may enforce the same against the Company or any other obligor upon the Notes and collect the moneys adjudged or decreed to be payable in the manner provided by law out of the property of the Company or any other obligor upon the Notes, wherever situated.

In the event there shall be pending proceedings for the bankruptcy or for the reorganization of the Company or any other obligor on the Notes under Title 11 of the United States Bankruptcy Code, or any other applicable law, or in case a receiver, assignee or trustee in bankruptcy or reorganization, liquidator, sequestrator or similar official shall have been appointed for or taken possession of the Company or such other obligor, the property of the Company or such other obligor, or in the event of any other judicial proceedings relative to the Company or such other obligor upon the Notes, or to the creditors or property of the Company or such other obligor, the Trustee, irrespective of whether the principal of the Notes shall then be due and payable as therein expressed or by declaration or otherwise and irrespective of whether the Trustee shall have made any demand pursuant to the provisions of this Section 3.03, shall be entitled and empowered, by intervention in such proceedings or otherwise, to file and prove a claim or claims for the whole amount of principal and accrued and unpaid interest, if any, in respect of the Notes, and, in case of any judicial proceedings, to file such proofs of claim and other papers or documents and to take such other actions as it may deem necessary or advisable in order to have the claims of the Trustee (including any claim for the reasonable compensation, expenses, disbursements and advances of the Trustee, its agents and counsel) and of the Holders of Notes allowed in such judicial proceedings relative to the Company or any other obligor on such Notes, its or their creditors, or its or their property, and to collect and receive any monies or other property payable or deliverable on any such claims, and to distribute the same after the deduction of any amounts due to the Trustee under Section 6.07 of the Base Indenture; and any receiver, assignee or trustee in bankruptcy or reorganization, liquidator, custodian or similar official is hereby authorized by each of the Holders of Notes to make such payments to the Trustee, as administrative expenses, and, in the event that the Trustee shall consent to the making of such payments directly to the Holders of Notes, to pay to the Trustee any amount due it for reasonable compensation, expenses, advances and disbursements, including agents and counsel fees and expenses, and including any other amounts due to the Trustee under Section 6.07 of the Base Indenture, incurred by it up to the date of such distribution. To the extent that such payment of reasonable compensation, expenses, advances and disbursements out of the estate in any such proceedings shall be denied for any reason, payment of the same shall be secured by a lien on, and shall be paid out of, any and all distributions, dividends, monies, securities and other property that the Holders of the Notes may be entitled to receive in such proceedings, whether in liquidation or under any plan of reorganization or arrangement or otherwise.

Nothing herein contained shall be deemed to authorize the Trustee to authorize or consent to or accept or adopt on behalf of any Holder any plan of reorganization, arrangement, adjustment or composition affecting such Holder or the rights of any Holder thereof, or to authorize the Trustee to vote in respect of the claim of any Holder in any such proceeding.

All rights of action and of asserting claims under this Indenture, or under any of the Notes, may be enforced by the Trustee without the possession of any of the Notes, or the production thereof at any trial or other proceeding relative thereto, and any such suit or proceeding instituted by the Trustee shall be brought in its own name as trustee of an express trust, and any recovery of judgment shall, after provision for the payment of the reasonable compensation, expenses, disbursements and advances of the Trustee, its agents and counsel, be for the ratable benefit of the Holders of the Notes.

In any proceedings brought by the Trustee (and in any proceedings involving the interpretation of any provision of this Indenture to which the Trustee shall be a party) the Trustee shall be held to represent all the Holders of the Notes, and it shall not be necessary to make any Holders of the Notes parties to any such proceedings.

In case the Trustee shall have proceeded to enforce any right under this Indenture and such proceedings shall have been discontinued or abandoned because of any waiver pursuant to Section 3.08 or any rescission and annulment pursuant to Section 3.08 or for any other reason or shall have been determined adversely to the Trustee, then and in every such case the Company, the Holders and the Trustee shall, subject to any determination in such proceeding, be restored respectively to their several positions and rights hereunder, and all rights, remedies and powers of the Company, the Holders and the Trustee shall continue as though no such proceeding had been instituted.

Section 3.04 Application of Monies Collected by Trustee. Any monies or property collected by the Trustee pursuant to this Section 3.04 with respect to the Notes shall be applied in the following order, at the date or dates fixed by the Trustee for the distribution of such monies or property, upon presentation of the several Notes, and, with respect to any certificated Notes, stamping thereon the payment, if only partially paid, and upon surrender thereof, if fully paid:

First, to the payment of all amounts due the Trustee in all of its capacities under this Indenture;

Second, in case the principal of the Outstanding Notes shall not have become due and be unpaid, to the payment of interest on such Notes in default in the order of the date due of the payments of such interest with interest (to the extent that such interest has been collected by the Trustee) upon such overdue payments at the rate of interest borne by the Notes at such time, such payments to be made ratably to the Persons entitled thereto;

Third, in case the principal of the Outstanding Notes shall have become due, by declaration or otherwise, and be unpaid, to the payment of the whole amount (including, if applicable, the payment of the redemption price) then owing and unpaid upon such Notes for principal and interest, if any, with interest on the overdue principal and, to the extent that such interest has been collected by the Trustee, upon overdue installments of interest at the rate of interest borne by such Notes at such time, and in case such monies shall be insufficient to pay in full the whole amounts so due and unpaid upon such Notes, then to the payment of such principal (including, if applicable, the redemption price) and interest without preference or priority of principal over interest, or of interest over principal or of any installment of interest over any other installment of interest, ratably to the aggregate of such principal (including, if applicable, the redemption price) and accrued and unpaid interest; and

Fourth, to the payment of the remainder, if any, to the Company.

Section 3.05 Proceedings by Holders. Except to enforce the right to receive payment of principal (including, if applicable, the redemption price) or interest when due, no Holder of the Notes shall have any right by virtue of or by availing of any provision of this Indenture or the Notes to institute any suit, action or proceeding in equity or at law upon or under or with respect to this Indenture, or for the appointment of a receiver, trustee, liquidator, custodian or other similar official, or for any other remedy hereunder, unless:

(a) such Holder previously shall have given to the Trustee written notice of an Event of Default for the Notes and of the continuance thereof;

(b) Holders of at least 33% in aggregate principal amount of the Notes then-Outstanding shall have made written request upon the Trustee to institute such action, suit or proceeding in its own name as Trustee hereunder;

(c) such Holders shall have offered to the Trustee such security or indemnity reasonably satisfactory to it against any loss, claim, liability or expense (including reasonable attorney's fees and expenses) to be incurred therein or thereby;

(d) the Trustee for 60 days after its receipt of such notice, request and offer of such security or indemnity, shall have neglected or refused to institute any such action, suit or proceeding; and

(e) no direction that, in the opinion of the Trustee, is inconsistent with such written request shall have been given to the Trustee by the Holders of a majority of the aggregate principal amount of the Notes then-Outstanding within such 60-day period pursuant to Section 3.08,

it being understood and intended, and being expressly covenanted by the taker and Holder of every Note with every other taker and Holder of Notes and the Trustee that no one or more Holders of Notes shall have any right in any manner whatever by virtue of or by availing of any provision of this Indenture to affect, disturb or prejudice the rights of any other Holder, or to obtain or seek to obtain priority over or preference to any other such Holder (it being understood that the Trustee does not have an affirmative duty to ascertain whether or not such actions or forbearances affect, disturb or prejudice the rights of any other Holder or obtain or seek to obtain priority over or preference to any other Holder), or to enforce any right under this Indenture, except in the manner herein provided and for the equal, ratable and common benefit of all Holders of Notes (except as otherwise provided herein). For the protection and enforcement of this Section 3.05, each and every Holder of Notes and the Trustee shall be entitled to such relief as can be given either at law or in equity.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Indenture and any provision of the Notes, and subject to the Company's right to defer the payment of interest on the Notes as provided in Article IV, each Holder shall have the right to receive payment of (x) the principal (including the redemption price, if applicable) of, and (y) accrued and unpaid interest, if any, on, the Notes, on or after the respective due dates expressed or provided for in the Notes or in this Indenture, or to institute suit for the enforcement of any such payment.

Section 3.06 Proceedings by Trustee. In case of an Event of Default, the Trustee may in its discretion proceed to protect and enforce the rights vested in it by this Indenture by such appropriate judicial proceedings as are necessary to protect and enforce any of such rights, either by suit in equity or by action at law or by proceeding in bankruptcy or otherwise, whether for the specific enforcement of any covenant or agreement contained in this Indenture or in aid of the exercise of any power granted in this Indenture, or to enforce any other legal or equitable right vested in the Trustee by this Indenture or by law.

Section 3.07 Remedies Cumulative and Continuing. Except as provided in Section 3.06 of the Base Indenture, all powers and remedies given by this Article III to the Trustee or to the Holders shall, to the extent permitted by law, be deemed cumulative and not exclusive of any thereof or of any other powers and remedies available to the Trustee or the Holders of Notes, by judicial proceedings or otherwise, to enforce the performance or observance of the covenants and agreements contained in this Indenture, and no delay or omission of the Trustee or of any Holder of any of such Notes to exercise any right or power accruing upon any Default or Event of Default shall impair any such right or power, or shall be construed to be a waiver of any such Default or Event of Default or any acquiescence therein; and, subject to the provisions of Section 3.05, every power and remedy given by this Article III or by law to the Trustee or to the Holders may be exercised from time to time, and as often as shall be deemed expedient, by the Trustee or by the Holders.

Section 3.08 Direction of Proceedings and Waiver of Defaults by Majority of Holders. The Holders of a majority of the aggregate principal amount of the Notes at the time Outstanding shall have the right to direct the time, method and place of conducting any proceeding for any remedy available to the Trustee or exercising any trust or power conferred on the Trustee with respect to such Notes; provided, however, that (a) such direction shall not be in conflict with any rule of law or with this Indenture, and (b) the Trustee may take any other action deemed proper by the Trustee and that is not inconsistent with such direction. The Trustee may refuse to follow any direction that it determines is unduly prejudicial to the rights of any other Holder (it being understood that the Trustee does not have an affirmative duty to ascertain whether or not any such direction is unduly prejudicial to the rights of another Holder) or that would involve the Trustee in personal liability. The Holders of a majority in aggregate principal amount of the Notes at the time Outstanding may on behalf of the Holders of all of the Notes waive any past Event of Default hereunder and its consequences except any continuing defaults relating to (i) a default in the payment of accrued and unpaid interest, if any, on, or the principal (including any redemption price) of, the Notes when due that has not been cured pursuant to the provisions of this Section 3.08, or (ii) a default in respect of a covenant or provision hereof which under Article IX of the Base Indenture cannot be modified or amended without the consent of the Holder of the Notes affected. Upon any such waiver the Company, the Trustee and the Holders of the Notes shall be restored to their former positions and rights hereunder; but no such waiver shall extend to any subsequent or other Default or Event of Default or impair any right consequent thereon. Whenever any Event of Default hereunder shall have been waived as permitted by this Section 3.08, said Default or Event of Default shall for all purposes of the Notes and this Indenture be deemed to have been cured and to be not continuing; but no such waiver shall extend to any subsequent or other Default or Event of Default or impair any right consequent thereon.

Section 3.09 Notice of Defaults. If a Default occurs and is continuing and a Responsible Officer of the Trustee receives written notice of such Default, the Trustee shall deliver to each Holder notice of the Default within 90 days after a Responsible Officer of the Trustee receives such notice or obtains actual knowledge thereof, unless such Defaults shall have been cured or waived before the giving of such notice; provided that, except in the case of a Default in the payment of the principal of (including the redemption price, if applicable), or accrued and unpaid interest on, any of the Notes, the Trustee shall be protected in withholding such notice if and so long as it determines that the withholding of such notice is in the interests of the Holders.

Section 3.10 Undertaking to Pay Costs. All parties to this Indenture agree, and each Holder of the Notes by its acceptance thereof shall be deemed to have agreed, that any court may, in its discretion, require, in any suit for the enforcement of any right or remedy under this Indenture, or in any suit against the Trustee for any action taken or omitted by it as Trustee, the filing by any party litigant in such suit of an undertaking to pay the costs of such suit and that such court may in its discretion assess reasonable costs, including reasonable attorneys' fees and expenses, against any party litigant in such suit, having due regard to the merits and good faith of the claims or defenses made by such party litigant; provided that the provisions of this Section 3.10 (to the extent permitted by law) shall not apply to any suit instituted by the Trustee, to any suit instituted by any Holder, or group of Holders, holding in the aggregate more than 10% in principal amount of Notes at the time Outstanding, or to any suit instituted by any Holder for the enforcement of the payment of the principal of or accrued and unpaid interest, if any, on the Notes (including, but not limited to, the redemption price, if applicable) on or after the due date expressed or provided for in such Note.

ARTICLE IV OPTION TO DEFER INTEREST PAYMENTS

Section 4.01 Option to Defer Interest Payments.

(a) The Company may, at its option, elect at one or more times to defer payment of interest on the Notes, from time to time, for one or more consecutive Interest Periods (each, an "Optional Deferral Period") of up to 20 consecutive Interest Payment Periods (each period commencing on the date that the first such Interest Payment would otherwise have been made on the Notes); provided that the Company may not elect to defer payment of interest on the Notes if an Event of Default with respect to the Notes has occurred and is continuing; provided, further, that the deferral of Interest Payments cannot extend beyond the Maturity Date or end on a day other than the day immediately preceding an Interest Payment Date.

(b) The Company may pay at any time all or any portion of the interest accrued to that point during an Optional Deferral Period. At the end of the Optional Deferral Period or on any redemption date, the Company will be obligated to pay all accrued and unpaid interest. The Company may not pay current interest on the Notes until it has paid all accrued interest on the Notes from the previous Optional Deferral Period.

(c) Once all accrued and unpaid interest on the Notes has been paid, the Company again can defer Interest Payments on the Notes as described above, provided that an Optional Deferral Period cannot extend beyond the Maturity Date of the Notes.

(d) Before the end of any Optional Deferral Period that is shorter than 20 consecutive Interest Payment Periods, the Company may elect, at its option, to extend such Optional Deferral Period, so long as the entire Optional Deferral Period does not exceed 20 consecutive Interest Payment Periods or extend beyond the Maturity Date. The Company may also elect, at its option, to shorten the length of any Optional Deferral Period. No Optional Deferral Period (including as extended or shortened) may end on a day other than the day immediately preceding an Interest Payment Date. At the end of any Optional Deferral Period, if all amounts then due on the Notes, including all accrued and unpaid interest thereon (including, without limitation and to the extent permitted by applicable law, any deferred interest and any Compound Interest), are paid, the Company may elect to begin a new Optional Deferral Period; provided, however, that, without limitation of the foregoing, the Company may not begin a new Optional Deferral Period unless the Company has paid all accrued and unpaid interest on the Notes (including, without limitation and to the extent permitted by applicable law, any deferred interest and any Compound Interest) from any previous Optional Deferral Period.

(e) If the Company defers interest for a period of 20 consecutive Interest Payment Periods from the commencement of an Optional Deferral Period, the Company will be required to pay all accrued and unpaid interest at the conclusion of the 20 consecutive Interest Payment Periods. If the Company fails to pay in full all accrued and unpaid interest at the conclusion of the 20 consecutive Interest Payment Periods, and such failure continues for 30 days, an Event of Default that gives rise to acceleration of principal and interest on the Notes will occur under this Indenture.

(f) During an Optional Deferral Period, interest will continue to accrue on the Notes, and deferred Interest Payments will accrue additional interest on a semi-annual basis at a rate equal to the interest rate then-applicable to the Notes (including, to the extent permitted by applicable law, any Compound Interest). No interest will be due and payable on the Notes until the end of the Optional Deferral Period except upon a redemption of the Notes during the Optional Deferral Period. The Interest Payment Date falling immediately after the last day of an Optional Deferral Period shall not be deemed to fall on a day during such Optional Deferral Period.

(g) No interest will be due or payable on the Notes during any Optional Deferral Period, except upon a redemption pursuant to Section 2.06 of the Notes on any redemption date during such optional deferral period (in which case all accrued and unpaid interest (including, to the extent permitted by applicable law, any Compound Interest) on the Notes to be redeemed to, but excluding, such redemption date will be due and payable on such redemption date), or unless the principal of and interest on the Notes shall have been declared due and payable as the result of an Event of Default with respect to the Notes (in which case all accrued and unpaid interest, including, to the extent permitted by applicable law, any Compound Interest, on the Notes shall become due and payable).

(h) During an Optional Deferral Period, the Company will not, and will cause its majority-owned subsidiaries, as applicable, not to:

(i) declare or pay any dividends or distributions on any shares of the Company's Capital Stock;

(ii) redeem, purchase, acquire or make a liquidation payment with respect to any shares of the Company's Capital Stock;

(iii) make any payment of principal of, or interest (to the extent such interest is deferrable) or premium, if any, on, or repay, repurchase or redeem any of the Company's Indebtedness ranking on a parity with, or ranking junior to, the Notes in right of payment (including debt securities of other series); or

(iv) make any payments with respect to any guarantees by the Company of any Indebtedness if such Guarantees rank on a parity with or junior to the Notes in right of payment.

(i) However, the foregoing provisions of Section 4.01(h) shall not prevent or restrict the Company from making:

(i) purchases, redemptions or other acquisitions of the Company's Capital Stock in connection with any employment contract, benefit plan or other similar arrangement with or for the benefit of employees, officers, directors, agents or consultants or a stock purchase, dividend reinvestment or similar plan, or the satisfaction of its obligations pursuant to any contract or security outstanding on the date that the payment of interest is deferred requiring it to purchase, redeem or acquire the Company's Capital Stock;

(ii) any payment, repayment, redemption, purchase, acquisition or declaration of a dividend described in clause (h)(i) above as a result of a reclassification of the Company's Capital Stock, or the exchange or conversion of all or a portion of one class or series of the Company's Capital Stock for another class or series of the Company's Capital Stock;

(iii) the purchase of fractional interests in shares of the Company's Capital Stock pursuant to the conversion or exchange provisions of the Company's Capital Stock or the security being converted or exchanged, or in connection with the settlement of stock purchase contracts outstanding on the date that the payment of interest is deferred;

(iv) declaration or making of dividends, payments or distributions payable in the Company's Capital Stock (or rights to acquire the Company's Capital Stock), or purchases, redemptions or acquisitions of the Company's Capital Stock in connection with the issuance or exchange of the Company's Capital Stock (or of securities convertible into or exchangeable for shares of the Company's Capital Stock) and distributions in connection with the settlement of stock purchase contracts outstanding on the date that the payment of interest is deferred;

(v) redemptions, exchanges, acquisitions or repurchases of, or with respect to, (A) any rights outstanding under any employment contract, incentive plan, benefit plan or similar arrangement of the Company or any of its subsidiaries or (B) in connection with a dividend reinvestment or stock purchase plan, in each case outstanding on the date that the payment of interest is deferred or the declaration or payment thereunder of a dividend or distribution of or with respect to rights in the future;

(vi) implementation of a shareholders rights plan, or issuance of rights, stock or other property under such plan, or redemption, repurchase of otherwise acquisition of any such rights pursuant thereto; or

(vii) settling conversions of any convertible notes that rank equally with the Notes.

(j) In the event that the Company elects to defer any Interest Payment, the Company shall notify the Trustee and the Holders in writing of such election at least one Business Day prior to the Regular Record Date for the Interest Payment Date on which the Company intends to begin an Optional Deferral Period; provided, however, that the Company's failure to pay the interest owed on a particular Interest Payment Date shall also constitute the commencement of an Optional Deferral Period, unless such interest is paid within five Business Days after such Interest Payment Date, whether or not the Company provides a notice of deferral.

(k) In the event that the Company elects to defer any Interest Payment, the Company will give DTC, the Holders of the Notes and the Trustee written notice of its election of, or any shortening or extension of, an Optional Deferral Period at least 15 Business Days prior to the earlier of (1) each next succeeding Interest Payment Date or (2) the date upon which the Company is required to give notice to any applicable self-regulatory organization or to Holders of the Notes of the next succeeding Interest Payment Date or the regular record date therefor. The record date for the payment of deferred interest and, to the extent permitted by applicable law, any compound interest payable on the Interest Payment Date immediately following the last day of an optional deferral period will be the regular record date with respect to such Interest Payment Date.

ARTICLE V FORM OF NOTE

Section 5.01 Form of Note. The Notes and the Trustee's Certificate of Authentication to be endorsed thereon are to be substantially in the form attached hereto as Exhibit A.

ARTICLE VI ORIGINAL ISSUE OF NOTES

Section 6.01 Original Issue of Notes. The Notes in the initial aggregate principal amount of up to \$700,000,000 may be executed by the Company and delivered to the Trustee for authentication by it, and the Trustee shall thereupon authenticate and deliver said Notes to or upon the written order of the Company, signed by any Officer of the Company, without any further corporate action by the Company.

ARTICLE VII SUBORDINATION

Article XVI of the Base Indenture is replaced in its entirety as follows:

Section 7.01 Subordination.

(a) The Notes will be subordinated in right of payment to the prior payment in full of all Senior Indebtedness. Accordingly, upon:

(i) any payment by, or distribution of the assets of, the Company upon its dissolution, winding-up, liquidation or reorganization, whether voluntary or involuntary or in bankruptcy, insolvency, receivership or other proceedings;

(ii) a failure to pay any interest, principal or other monetary amounts due on any Senior Indebtedness when due and continuance of that default beyond any applicable grace periods; or

(iii) acceleration of the maturity of any Senior Indebtedness as a result of a default;

holders of all Senior Indebtedness will be entitled to receive: (A) in the case of clause (i) above, payment of all amounts due or to become due on all Senior Indebtedness; or (B) in the case of clauses (ii) and clause (iii) above, payment of all amounts due on all Senior Indebtedness, before Holders of the Notes are entitled to receive any payment. So long as any events in clauses (i), (ii) or (iii) above has occurred and is continuing, any amounts payable or assets distributable on the Notes will instead be paid or distributed, as the case may be, directly to holders of Senior Indebtedness to the extent necessary to pay, in the case of clause (i) above, all amounts due or to become due upon all such Senior Indebtedness, or, in the case of clauses (ii) and (iii) above, all amounts due on all such Senior Indebtedness, and, if any such payment or distribution is received by the Trustee or Holders of any of the Notes before all Senior Indebtedness due and to become due, as applicable, is paid, such payment or distribution must be paid over to holders of the unpaid Senior Indebtedness.

Section 7.02 Notice to Trustee of Facts Prohibiting Payments. Notwithstanding any of the provisions of this Article VII or any other provision of this Indenture, the Trustee shall not at any time be charged with knowledge of the existence of any facts that would prohibit the making of any payment of funds to or by the Trustee unless and until a Responsible Officer of the Trustee assigned to its corporate trust division shall have received at the Corporate Trust Office written notice thereof from the Company or from one or more holders of Senior Indebtedness or from any trustee therefor who shall have been certified by the Company or otherwise established to the reasonable satisfaction of the Trustee to be such a holder or trustee; and, prior to the receipt of such written notice, the Trustee, subject to the provisions of Section 6.01 of the Base Indenture, shall be entitled in all respects to assume that no such facts exist; provided that if prior to the fifth Business Day preceding the date upon which by the terms hereof any such funds may become payable, or if prior to the third Business Day preceding the date of the execution of instruments pursuant to Article IX acknowledging satisfaction and discharge of this Indenture, the Trustee shall not have received with respect to such funds the notice provided for in this Section 7.02, then, anything herein contained to the contrary notwithstanding, the Trustee shall have full power and authority to receive such moneys and/or apply the same to the purpose for which they were received and shall not be affected by any notice to the contrary that may be received by it on or after such date; provided that no such application shall affect the obligations under this Article VII of the Persons receiving such moneys from the Trustee.

Section 7.03 Application by Trustee of Moneys Deposited With It. Anything in this Indenture to the contrary notwithstanding, any deposit of a sum by the Company with the Trustee or any agent (whether or not in trust) for any payment of the principal of (and premium, if any) or interest on the Notes shall, except as provided in Section 7.02, be subject to the provisions of Section 7.01.

Section 7.04 Subrogation. Subject to paying the Senior Indebtedness due and to become due in the case of clause (i) of Section 7.01(a) or Senior Indebtedness due in the case of clauses (ii) and (iii) of Section 7.01(a), the Holders of the Notes shall be subrogated to the rights of the holders of such Senior Indebtedness to receive payments or distributions of assets of the Company applicable to such Senior Indebtedness until the Notes shall be paid in full, and none of the payments or distributions to the holders of such Senior Indebtedness to which the Holders of the Notes or the Trustee would be entitled except for the provisions of this Article VII or of payments over, pursuant to the provisions of this Article VII, to the holders of such Senior Indebtedness by the Holders of such Notes or the Trustee shall, as among the Company, its creditors other than the holders of such Senior Indebtedness, and the Holders of such Notes, be deemed to be a payment by the Company to or on account of such Senior Indebtedness; it being understood that the provisions of this Article VII are and are intended solely for the purpose of defining the relative rights of the Holders of the Notes, on one hand, and the holders of such Senior Indebtedness, on the other hand.

Section 7.05 Subordination Rights Not Impaired by Acts or Omissions of Company or Holders of Senior Indebtedness. No right of any present or future holders of any Senior Indebtedness to enforce subordination as herein provided shall at any time in any way be prejudiced or impaired by any act or failure to act on the part of the Company or by any act or failure to act, in good faith, by any such holder, or by any noncompliance by the Company with the terms, provisions and covenants of this Indenture, regardless of any knowledge thereof with which any such holder may have or be otherwise charged. The holders of Senior Indebtedness may, at any time or from time to time and in their absolute discretion, change the manner, place or terms of payment, change or extend the time of payment of, or renew or alter, any such Senior Indebtedness, or amend or supplement any instrument pursuant to which any such Senior Indebtedness is issued or by which it may be secured, or release any security therefor, or exercise or refrain from exercising any other of their rights under the Senior Indebtedness including, without limitation, the waiver of default thereunder, all without notice to or assent from the Holders or the Trustee and without affecting the obligations of the Company, the Trustee or the Holders under this Article VII.

Section 7.06 Right of Trustee to Hold Senior Indebtedness. The Trustee shall be entitled to all of the rights set forth in this Article VII in respect of any Senior Indebtedness at any time held by it in its individual capacity to the same extent as any other holder of such Senior Indebtedness, and nothing in this Indenture shall be construed to deprive the Trustee of any of its rights as such holder.

Section 7.07 Not to Prevent Defaults (Including Events of Default). The failure to make any payment pursuant to the terms of the Notes by reason of any provision in this Article VII shall not be construed as preventing the occurrence of a Default (including an Event of Default, if any).

Section 7.08 Trustee's Rights to Compensation, Reimbursement of Expenses and Indemnification. The Trustee's rights to compensation, reimbursement of expenses and indemnification under Section 6.07 of the Base Indenture are not subordinated to the payment of Senior Indebtedness.

Section 7.09 Article Applicable to Paying Agents. The term "Trustee" as used in this Article VII shall (unless the context shall otherwise require) be construed as extending to and including each Paying Agent, Authenticating Agent and Security Registrar appointed by the Company or the Trustee, as the case may be, and acting hereunder within its meaning as fully for all intents and purposes as if such Paying Agent or Security Registrar were named in this Article VII in addition to the Trustee; provided that Section 7.02 and Section 7.06 shall not apply to the Company or any Affiliate of the Company if the Company or such Affiliate acts as Paying Agent or Security Registrar.

Section 7.10 Trustee Not Fiduciary for Holders of Senior Indebtedness. The Trustee shall not be deemed to owe any fiduciary duty to the holders of Senior Indebtedness and shall not be liable to any such holders if the Trustee shall in good faith mistakenly pay over or distribute to Holders of Notes or to the Company or to any other person cash, property or securities to which any holders of Senior Indebtedness shall be entitled by virtue of this Article VII or otherwise. With respect to the holders of Senior Indebtedness, the Trustee undertakes to perform or to observe only such of its covenants or obligations as are specifically set forth in this Article VII and no implied covenants or obligations with respect to holders of Senior Indebtedness shall be read into this Indenture against the Trustee.

ARTICLE VIII SUPPLEMENTAL INDENTURE

Article IX of the Base Indenture is replaced in its entirety as follows:

Section 8.01 Supplemental Indentures without Consent of Holders. Without the consent of any Holders, the Company and the Trustee, at the Company's expense, may from time to time and at any time enter into an indenture or indentures supplemental hereto for one or more of the following purposes:

- (a) to cure any ambiguity, omission, defect or inconsistency;
- (b) to provide for the assumption by a Successor Company of the obligations of the Company under this Indenture pursuant to Article X;
- (c) to add guarantees with respect to the Notes;
- (d) to secure the Notes;
- (e) to add to the covenants or Events of Default of the Company for the benefit of the Holders or surrender any right or power conferred upon the Company;
- (f) to make any change that does not adversely affect the rights of any Holder as determined by the Company in good faith;
- (g) to conform the provisions of this Indenture or the Notes to the "Description of Notes" section of the Company's prospectus supplement, dated July 30, 2026, as evidenced in an Officer's Certificate;
- (h) to comply with the rules of any applicable Depository, including DTC, so long as such amendment does not adversely affect the rights of any Holder in any material respect;
- (i) to appoint a successor Trustee with respect to the Notes; or
- (j) to provide for the acceptance of appointment by a successor Trustee, Security Registrar or Paying Agent to facilitate the administration of the trusts under this Indenture by more than one trustee.

Upon the written request of the Company, the Trustee is hereby authorized to join with the Company in the execution of any such supplemental indenture and to make any further appropriate agreements and stipulations that may be therein contained, but the Trustee shall not be obligated to, but may in its discretion, enter into any supplemental indenture that affects the Trustee's own rights, duties or immunities under this Indenture or otherwise.

Any supplemental indenture authorized by the provisions of this Section 8.01 may be executed by the Company and the Trustee without the consent of the Holders of any of the Notes at the time outstanding, notwithstanding any of the provisions of Section 8.02.

Section 8.02 Supplemental Indenture with Consent of Holders. With the consent of the Holders of at least a majority of the aggregate principal amount of the Notes then Outstanding (including, without limitation, consents obtained in connection with a repurchase of, or tender or exchange offer for, the Notes), the Company and the Trustee, at the Company's expense, may from time to time and at any time enter into an indenture or indentures supplemental hereto for the purpose of adding any provisions to or changing in any manner or eliminating any of the provisions of this Indenture, the Notes or any supplemental indenture or of modifying in any manner the rights of the Holders; provided, however, that, without the consent of each Holder of an Outstanding Note affected, no such supplemental indenture shall:

(a) reduce the principal amount of Notes whose Holders must consent to an amendment;

(b) reduce the rate of or extend the stated time for payment of interest on the Notes beyond the maximum time period of any permitted deferral of interest pursuant to Article IV or to increase the maximum time period for any such interest deferral or to increase the maximum number of times the Company may defer such Interest Payment;

(c) reduce the principal of or extend the Maturity Date of the Notes;

(d) reduce the redemption price of the Notes or amend or modify in any manner adverse to the Holders the Company's obligation to make such payments, whether through an amendment or waiver of provisions in the covenants, definitions or otherwise;

(e) make the Notes payable in a currency, or at a place of payment, other than that stated in the Note;

(f) change the subordination provisions of the Notes set forth in Article VII in a manner adverse to Holders; or

(g) make any change in this Article VIII that requires each Holder's consent or in the waiver provisions in Section 3.02 or Section 3.08.

Upon the written request of the Company, and upon the filing with the Trustee of evidence of the consent of Holders as aforesaid and subject to Section 8.05, the Trustee shall join with the Company in the execution of such supplemental indenture unless such supplemental indenture affects the Trustee's own rights, duties or immunities under this Indenture or otherwise, in which case the Trustee may in its discretion, but shall not be obligated to, enter into such supplemental indenture.

Holders do not need under this Section 8.02 to approve the particular form of any proposed supplemental indenture. It shall be sufficient if such Holders approve the substance thereof. After any such supplemental indenture becomes effective, the Company shall deliver to the Holders a notice (with a copy to the Trustee) briefly describing such supplemental indenture. However, the failure to give such notice to all the Holders (with a copy to the Trustee), or any defect in the notice, will not impair or affect the validity of the supplemental indenture.

Section 8.03 Conformity with Trust Indenture. Every supplemental indenture executed pursuant to this Article VIII shall conform to the requirements of the Trust Indenture Act.

Section 8.04 Effect of Supplemental Indentures. Upon the execution of any supplemental indenture pursuant to the provisions of this Article VIII, this Indenture shall be and be deemed to be modified and amended in accordance therewith and the respective rights, limitation of rights, obligations, duties, indemnities, privileges and immunities under this Indenture of the Trustee, the Company and the Holders shall thereafter be determined, exercised and enforced hereunder subject in all respects to such modifications and amendments and all the terms and conditions of any such supplemental indenture shall be and be deemed to be part of the terms and conditions of this Indenture for any and all purposes.

Section 8.05 Notation on Notes. Notes authenticated and delivered after the execution of any supplemental indenture pursuant to the provisions of this Article VIII may, at the Company's expense, bear a notation in form approved by the Trustee as to any matter provided for in such supplemental indenture. If the Company or the Trustee shall so determine, new Notes so modified as to conform, in the opinion of the Trustee and the Company, to any modification of this Indenture contained in any such supplemental indenture may, at the Company's expense, be prepared and executed by the Company, authenticated by the Trustee (or an Authenticating Agent duly appointed by the Trustee pursuant to Section 6.14 of the Base Indenture) upon receipt of an Officer's Certificate, an Opinion of Counsel and a Company Order and delivered in exchange for the Notes then outstanding, upon surrender of such Notes then outstanding.

Section 8.06 Evidence of Compliance of Supplemental Indenture to Be Furnished. In addition to the documents required by Section 1.02 of the Base Indenture, the Trustee shall receive an Officer's Certificate and an Opinion of Counsel as conclusive evidence that any supplemental indenture executed pursuant hereto complies with the requirements of this Article VIII and is permitted or authorized by this Indenture; provided that such Opinion of Counsel shall include a customary legal opinion stating that such supplemental indenture is the valid and binding obligation of the Company, subject to customary exceptions and qualifications. The Trustee shall have no responsibility for determining whether any amendment or supplemental indenture will or may have an adverse effect on any Holder.

ARTICLE IX
SATISFACTION AND DISCHARGE

Article IV of the Base Indenture is replaced in its entirety as follows:

Section 9.01 Satisfaction and Discharge. (a) This Indenture and the Notes shall cease to be of further effect when (i) all Notes theretofore authenticated and delivered (other than (x) Notes which have been destroyed, lost or stolen and which have been replaced or paid as provided in Section 3.06 of the Base Indenture and (y) Notes for whose payment money has heretofore been deposited in trust or segregated and held in trust by the Company and thereafter repaid to the Company or discharged from such trust, as provided in Section 10.03 of the Base Indenture) have been delivered to the Trustee for cancellation; or (ii) the Company has irrevocably deposited with the Trustee or delivered to Holders, as applicable, after the Notes have become due and payable, whether on the Maturity Date, any redemption date or otherwise, cash sufficient, without consideration of reinvestment, to pay all of the Outstanding Notes and all other sums due and payable under this Indenture or the Notes by the Company; and (b) the Trustee upon request of the Company contained in an Officer's Certificate and at the expense of the Company, shall execute such instruments reasonably requested by the Company acknowledging satisfaction and discharge of this Indenture and the Notes, when the Company has delivered to the Trustee an Officer's Certificate and an Opinion of Counsel, each stating that all conditions precedent herein provided for relating to the satisfaction and discharge of this Indenture and the Notes have been complied with. Notwithstanding the satisfaction and discharge of this Indenture, the obligations of the Company to the Trustee under Section 6.07 of the Base Indenture shall survive.

ARTICLE X
CONSOLIDATION, MERGER, SALE, CONVEYANCE AND LEASE

Article VIII of the Base Indenture is replaced in its entirety as follows:

Section 10.01 Company May Consolidate, Etc. on Certain Terms. Subject to the provisions of Section 10.02, the Company shall not consolidate with, merge with or into, or sell, convey, transfer or lease all or substantially all of the consolidated properties and assets of the Company and its Subsidiaries, taken as a whole, to another Person (other than any such sale, conveyance, transfer or lease to one or more of the Company's direct or indirect wholly owned Subsidiaries) unless:

(a) the resulting, surviving or transferee Person (the "Successor Company"), if not the Company, shall be a corporation organized and existing under the laws of the United States of America, any State thereof or the District of Columbia, and the Successor Company (if not the Company) shall expressly assume, by supplemental indenture all of the obligations of the Company under the Notes and this Indenture; and

(b) immediately after giving effect to such transaction, no Default or Event of Default shall have occurred and be continuing under this Indenture.

For purposes of this Section 10.01, the sale, conveyance, transfer or lease of all or substantially all of the properties and assets of one or more Subsidiaries of the Company to another Person, which properties and assets, if held by the Company instead of such Subsidiaries, would constitute all or substantially all of the consolidated properties and assets of the Company and its Subsidiaries, taken as a whole, shall be deemed to be the sale, conveyance, transfer or lease of all or substantially all of the consolidated properties and assets of the Company and its Subsidiaries, taken as a whole, to another Person.

Section 10.02 Successor Company to Be Substituted. In case of any such consolidation, merger, sale, conveyance, transfer or lease and upon the assumption by the Successor Company, by supplemental indenture, executed and delivered to the Trustee and satisfactory in form to the Trustee, of the due and punctual payment of the principal of and accrued and unpaid interest on all of the Notes and the due and punctual performance of all of the covenants and conditions of this Indenture to be performed by the Company, such Successor Company (if not the Company) shall succeed to and, except in the case of a lease of all or substantially all of the consolidated properties and assets of the Company and its Subsidiaries, taken as a whole, shall be substituted for the Company, with the same effect as if it had been named herein as the party of the first part, and may thereafter exercise every right and power of the Company under this Indenture. Such Successor Company thereupon may cause to be signed, and may issue either in its own name or in the name of the Company any or all of the Notes issuable hereunder which theretofore shall not have been signed by the Company and delivered to the Trustee; and, upon the order of such Successor Company instead of the Company and subject to all the terms, conditions and limitations in this Indenture prescribed, the Trustee shall authenticate and shall deliver, or cause to be authenticated and delivered, any Notes that previously shall have been signed and delivered by the Officers of the Company to the Trustee for authentication, and any Notes that such Successor Company thereafter shall cause to be signed and delivered to the Trustee for that purpose. All the Notes so issued shall in all respects have the same legal rank and benefit under this Indenture as the Notes theretofore or thereafter issued in accordance with the terms of this Indenture as though all of such Notes had been issued at the date of the execution hereof. In the event of any such consolidation, merger, sale, conveyance or transfer (but not in the case of a lease), upon compliance with this Article X the Person named as the "Company" in the first paragraph of this Indenture (or any successor that shall thereafter have become such in the manner prescribed in this Article X) may be dissolved, wound up and liquidated at any time thereafter and, except in the case of a lease, such Person shall be released from its liabilities as obligor and maker of the Notes and from its obligations under this Indenture and the Notes. In case of any such consolidation, merger, sale, conveyance, transfer or lease, such changes in phraseology and form (but not in substance) may be made in the Notes thereafter to be issued as may be appropriate.

Section 10.03 Officer's Certificate and Opinion of Counsel to Be Given to Trustee. No such consolidation, merger, sale, conveyance, transfer or lease shall be effective unless the Trustee shall receive an Officer's Certificate and an Opinion of Counsel each stating and as conclusive evidence that any such consolidation, merger, sale, conveyance, transfer or lease and any such assumption and, if a supplemental indenture is required in connection with such transaction, such supplemental indenture, complies with the provisions of this Article X.

**ARTICLE XI
OTHER AMENDMENTS**

Section 11.01 Amendment to Section 1.05 of the Base Indenture.

Section 1.05 of the Base Indenture is replaced in its entirety as follows:

“Any request, demand, authorization, direction, notice, consent, waiver or Act of Holders or other document provided or permitted by this Indenture to be made upon, given or furnished to, or filed with

(a) the Trustee by any Holder or by the Company shall be sufficient for every purpose hereunder if made, given, furnished or filed in writing to or with the Trustee at its Corporate Trust Office, Attention: Institutional Trust Services,

(b) the Company by the Trustee or by any Holder shall be sufficient for every purpose hereunder (unless otherwise herein expressly provided) if in writing and mailed, first-class postage prepaid, to the Company addressed to the attention of the Treasurer of the Company at the address of the Company’s principal office specified in the first paragraph of this instrument or at any other address previously furnished in writing to the Trustee by the Company

The Trustee shall have the right to accept and act upon instructions (“Instructions”) given pursuant to this Indenture and delivered using Electronic Means (as defined below); provided, however, that the Company shall provide to the Trustee an incumbency certificate listing officers with the authority to provide such Instructions (“Authorized Officers”) and containing specimen signatures of such Authorized Officers, which incumbency certificate shall be amended by the Company whenever a person is to be added or deleted from the listing. If the Company elects to give the Trustee Instructions using Electronic Means and the Trustee in its discretion elects to act upon such Instructions, the Trustee’s understanding of such Instructions shall be deemed controlling. The Company understands and agrees that the Trustee cannot determine the identity of the actual sender of such Instructions and that the Trustee shall conclusively presume that directions that purport to have been sent by an Authorized Officer listed on the incumbency certificate provided to the Trustee have been sent by such Authorized Officer. The Company shall be responsible for ensuring that only Authorized Officers transmit such Instructions to the Trustee and that the Company and all Authorized Officers are solely responsible to safeguard the use and confidentiality of applicable user and authorization codes, passwords and/or authentication keys upon receipt by the Company. The Trustee shall not be liable for any losses, costs or expenses arising directly or indirectly from the Trustee’s reliance upon and compliance with such Instructions notwithstanding such directions conflict or are inconsistent with a subsequent written instruction. The Company agrees: (i) to assume all risks arising out of the use of Electronic Means to submit Instructions to the Trustee, including without limitation the risk of the Trustee acting on unauthorized Instructions, and the risk of interception and misuse by third parties; (ii) that it is fully informed of the protections and risks associated with the various methods of transmitting Instructions to the Trustee and that there may be more secure methods of transmitting Instructions than the method(s) selected by the Company; (iii) that the security procedures (if any) to be followed in connection with its transmission of Instructions provide to it a commercially reasonable degree of protection in light of its particular needs and circumstances; and (iv) to notify the Trustee immediately upon learning of any compromise or unauthorized use of the security procedures. “Electronic Means” shall mean the following communications methods: e-mail, secure electronic transmission containing applicable authorization codes, passwords and/or authentication keys issued by the Trustee, or another method or system specified by the Trustee as available for use in connection with its services hereunder.”

Section 11.02 Amendment to Section 1.12 of the Base Indenture.

Section 1.12 of the Base Indenture is replaced in its entirety as follows:

“THIS INDENTURE AND THE SECURITIES SHALL BE GOVERNED BY AND CONSTRUED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK WITHOUT REGARD TO CONFLICTS OF LAWS PRINCIPLES THEREOF.

The Company irrevocably consents and submits, for itself and in respect of any of its assets or property, to the non-exclusive jurisdiction of any court of the State of New York or any United States federal court sitting, in each case, in the Borough of Manhattan, the City of New York, New York, United States of America, and any appellate court from any thereof in any suit, action or proceeding that may be brought in connection with this Indenture or the securities, and waives any immunity from the jurisdiction of such courts.

The Company irrevocably waives, to the fullest extent permitted by law, any objection to any such suit, action or proceeding that may be brought in such courts whether on the grounds of venue, residence or domicile or on the ground that any such suit, action or proceeding has been brought in an inconvenient forum.”

Section 11.03 Amendment to Section 6.01 of the Base Indenture.

Section 6.01 of the Base Indenture is amended and restated in its entirety as follows:

“The duties and responsibilities of the Trustee shall be as provided by the Trust Indenture Act.

The Company, each Holder by its acceptance of the Notes and the Trustee hereby irrevocably waive, to the fullest extent permitted by applicable law, any and all right to trial by jury in any legal proceeding arising out of or relating to this Indenture, the Notes or the transactions contemplated hereby.”

Section 11.04 Amendment to Section 6.02 of the Base Indenture.

Section 6.02 of the Base Indenture is amended and restated in its entirety as follows:

“If a default occurs hereunder with respect to Securities of any series, the Trustee shall give the Holders of Securities of such series notice of such default as and to the extent provided by the Trust Indenture Act; provided, however, that in the case of any default of the character specified in Section 3.01(c) with respect to Securities of such series, no such notice to Holders shall be given until at least 30 days after the occurrence thereof. For the purpose of this Section 6.02, the term “default” means any event which is, or after notice or lapse of time or both would become, an Event of Default with respect to Securities of such series.

The Trustee is not required to take notice or deemed to have notice of any Event of Default with respect to the Securities, unless a Responsible Officer shall have received written notice of such Event of Default from the Company, any Subsidiary or the Holder of any Security.

If an Event of Default has occurred and is continuing and actually known to a Responsible Officer of the Trustee, the Trustee, as applicable, will exercise such of the rights and powers vested in it by this Indenture and use the same degree of care in its exercise, as a prudent person would exercise or use under the circumstances in the conduct of such person's own affairs."

Section 11.05 Amendment to Section 6.03 of the Base Indenture.

Section 6.03 of the Base Indenture is amended and restated in its entirety as follows:

(a) "the Trustee may rely and shall be protected in acting or refraining from acting upon any resolution, certificate, statement, instrument, opinion, report, notice, request, direction, consent, order, bond, debenture, note, other evidence of indebtedness or other paper or document believed by it to be genuine and to have been signed or presented by the proper party or parties;

(b) any request or direction of the Company mentioned herein shall be sufficiently evidenced by a Company Request or Company Order, and any resolution of the Board of Directors shall be sufficiently evidenced by a Board Resolution;

(c) whenever in the administration of this Indenture the Trustee shall deem it desirable that a matter be proved or established prior to taking, suffering or omitting any action hereunder, the Trustee (unless other evidence be herein specifically prescribed) may rely upon an Officers' Certificate;

(d) the Trustee may consult with counsel, and the written advice of such counsel or any Opinion of Counsel shall be full and complete authorization and protection in respect of any action taken, suffered or omitted by it hereunder in good faith and in reliance thereon;

(e) the Trustee shall be under no obligation to exercise any of the rights or powers vested in it by this Indenture at the request or direction of any of the Holders pursuant to this Indenture, unless such Holders shall have offered to the Trustee reasonable security or indemnity against the costs, expenses and liabilities which might be incurred by it in compliance with such request or direction;

(f) the Trustee shall not be bound to make any investigation into the facts or matters stated in any resolution, certificate, statement, instrument, opinion, report, notice, request, direction, consent, order, bond, debenture, note, other evidence of indebtedness or other paper or document, but the Trustee, in its discretion, may make such further inquiry or investigation into such facts or matters as it may see fit, and, if the Trustee shall determine to make such further inquiry or investigation, it shall be entitled to examine the books, records and premises of the Company, personally or by agent or attorney;

(g) the Trustee may execute any of the trusts or powers hereunder or perform any duties hereunder either directly or by or through agents or attorneys and the Trustee shall not be responsible for any misconduct or negligence on the part of any agent or attorney appointed with due care by it hereunder;

(h) the Trustee is not required to give any bond or surety with respect to the performance of its duties or the exercise of its powers under this Indenture;

(i) in the event the Trustee receives inconsistent or conflicting requests and indemnity from two or more groups of Holders of Securities, each representing less than a majority in aggregate principal amount of the Securities Outstanding, the Trustee, in its sole discretion, may determine what action, if any, shall be taken;

(j) the Trustee's immunities and protections from liability and its right to indemnification in connection with the performance of its duties under this Indenture shall extend to the Trustee's officers, directors, agents and employees. Such immunities and protections and right to indemnification, together with the Trustee's right to compensation, shall survive the Trustee's resignation or removal and final payment of the Securities;

(k) except for information provided by the Trustee concerning the Trustee, the Trustee shall have no responsibility for any information in any prospectus supplement or other disclosure material distributed with respect to the Securities, and the Trustee shall have no responsibility for compliance with any state or federal securities laws in connection with the Securities;

(l) delivery of reports or other information by the Trustee shall not constitute actual or constructive knowledge or notice upon the Trustee;

(m) the Trustee will not be liable for any error of judgment made in good faith by a Responsible Officer unless it is proved that the Trustee was negligent in ascertaining the pertinent facts;

(n) the Trustee will not be liable with respect to any action taken or omitted in good faith in accordance with directions received by the required Holders;

(o) The delivery of any reports, information and documents to the Trustee (including pursuant to Section 7.04) is for informational purposes only and the Trustee's receipt of the foregoing shall not constitute constructive notice of any information contained therein or determinable from information contained therein, including the Company's compliance with any of their covenants hereunder (as to which the Trustee is entitled to rely exclusively on Officers' Certificates or Opinions of Counsel, as applicable);

(p) In no event shall the Trustee be responsible or liable for special, indirect, punitive or consequential loss or damage of any kind whatsoever (including, but not limited to, loss of profit) irrespective of whether the Trustee has been advised of the likelihood of such loss or damage and regardless of the form of action. The Trustee shall not be responsible for any loss or damage resulting from any action or non-action based on its good faith reliance upon such opinion or advice or for any errors in judgment made in good faith;

(q) In no event shall the Trustee be responsible or liable for any failure or delay in the performance of their obligations hereunder arising out of or caused by, directly or indirectly, forces beyond its control, including, without limitation, strikes, work stoppages, accidents, acts of war or terrorism, civil or military disturbances, nuclear or natural catastrophes or acts of God, and interruptions, loss or malfunctions of utilities, governmental action, wire, communications or computer (software and hardware) services; and

(r) In order to comply with applicable tax laws, rules and regulations (inclusive of directives, guidelines and interpretations promulgated by competent authorities) in effect from time to time (“Applicable Tax Law”) related to this Indenture, the Company agrees (i) to provide to the Trustee information about holders or other applicable parties and/or transactions (including any modification to the terms of such transactions) that is within the possession of the Company and reasonably requested by the Trustee so the Trustee can determine whether it has tax related obligations under Applicable Tax Law and (ii) that the Trustee shall be entitled to make any withholding or deduction from payments under this Indenture to the extent necessary to comply with Applicable Tax Law for which the Trustee shall not have any liability.”

ARTICLE XII TAX TREATMENT

Section 12.01 Tax Treatment. The Company agrees, and by acquiring an interest in a Note each Holder and beneficial owner of a Note agrees, to treat the Notes as indebtedness for U.S. federal, state and local tax purposes.

ARTICLE XIII THE TRUSTEE

Section 13.01 Appointment of Trustee. Pursuant to the Base Indenture and pursuant to this Supplemental Indenture, the Company hereby appoints the Trustee as Trustee under the Base Indenture with respect to the Notes, and by execution hereof the Trustee accepts such appointment. Pursuant to the Base Indenture, all the rights, powers, trusts and duties of the Trustee under the Base Indenture shall be vested in the Trustee with respect to the Notes and there shall continue to be vested in the Trustee all of its rights, powers, trusts and duties as Trustee under the Base Indenture with respect to all of the series of Securities as to which it has served and continues to serve as Trustee.

Section 13.02 Eligibility of Trustee. The Trustee hereby represents that it is qualified and eligible under Section 6.09 of the Base Indenture and the provisions of the Trust Indenture Act to accept its appointment as Trustee with respect to the Notes under the Base Indenture and hereby accepts the appointment as such Trustee.

Section 13.03 Security Registrar and Paying Agent. Pursuant to the Base Indenture, the Company hereby appoints The Bank of New York Mellon Trust Company, National Association as registrar and “Paying Agent” with respect to the Notes.

Section 13.04 Concerning the Trustee. The Trustee does not assume any duties, responsibilities or liabilities by reason of this Supplemental Indenture other than as set forth in the Base Indenture or as expressly set forth herein and, in carrying out its responsibilities hereunder, shall have all of the rights, powers, privileges, protections, duties and immunities which it possesses under the Base Indenture.

Section 13.05 Patriot Act Requirements of Trustee. The parties hereto acknowledge that in order to help the United States government fight the funding of terrorism and money laundering activities, pursuant to Federal regulations that became effective on October 1, 2003 (Section 326 of the USA PATRIOT Act) all financial institutions are required to obtain, verify, record and update information that identifies each person establishing a relationship or opening an account. The parties to this Supplemental Indenture agree that they will provide to the Trustee such information as it may request, from time to time, in order for the Trustee to satisfy the requirements of the USA PATRIOT Act, including but not limited to the name, address, tax identification number and other information that will allow it to identify the individual or entity who is establishing the relationship or opening the account and may also ask for formation documents such as articles of incorporation or other identifying documents to be provided.

Section 13.06 Notice upon Trustee. Any notice, direction, request, demand, consent or waiver by the Company or any Holder to or upon the Trustee, Security Registrar or Paying Agent for the Notes shall be deemed to have been sufficiently given, made or filed, for all purposes, if given, made or filed in writing at the Corporate Trust Office.

ARTICLE XIV MISCELLANEOUS

Section 14.01 Ratification of Indenture; Supplemental Indenture Controls. The Base Indenture, as supplemented and (solely for purposes of the Notes) amended by this Supplemental Indenture, is in all respects ratified and confirmed, and this Supplemental Indenture shall be deemed part of the Base Indenture in the manner and to the extent herein and therein provided. The provisions of this Supplemental Indenture shall supersede the provisions of the Base Indenture to the extent the Base Indenture is inconsistent herewith with respect to the Notes only.

Section 14.02 Recitals. The recitals herein contained are made by the Company only and not by the Trustee, and the Trustee does not assume any responsibility for the correctness thereof. The Trustee makes no representation as to the validity or sufficiency of this Supplemental Indenture. All of the provisions contained in the Base Indenture in respect of the rights, powers, privileges, protections, duties and immunities of the Trustee shall be applicable in respect of the Notes and of this Supplemental Indenture as fully and with like effect as if set forth herein in full.

Section 14.03 Separability. In case any one or more of the provisions contained in this Supplemental Indenture or in the Notes shall for any reason be held to be invalid, illegal or unenforceable in any respect, such invalidity, illegality or unenforceability shall not affect any other provisions of this Supplemental Indenture or of the Notes, but this Supplemental Indenture and the Notes shall be construed as if such invalid or illegal or unenforceable provision had never been contained herein or therein.

Section 14.04 Counterparts. This Supplemental Indenture may be executed in any number of counterparts, each of which shall be deemed to be an original, but all such counterparts shall together constitute but one and the same instrument. This Supplemental Indenture and any ancillary documents may be signed by manual, facsimile or electronic signature, provided any electronic signature is a true representation of the signer's actual signature.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have caused this Supplemental Indenture to be duly executed as of the date first above written.

CENTERPOINT ENERGY, INC.

By: _____
Name: Christopher A. Foster
Title: Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer

Attest:

Name: Vincent A. Mercaldi
Title: Secretary

**THE BANK OF NEW YORK MELLON TRUST COMPANY,
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION**, as Trustee

By: _____
Name: _____
Title: _____

Signature Page
Supplemental Indenture

[FORM OF 6.400% FIXED-TO-FIXED RESET RATE JUNIOR SUBORDINATED NOTES, SERIES E, DUE 2058]

THIS NOTE IS A GLOBAL NOTE WITHIN THE MEANING OF THE INDENTURE HEREINAFTER REFERRED TO AND IS REGISTERED IN THE NAME OF A DEPOSITARY OR A NOMINEE OF A DEPOSITARY. THIS NOTE IS EXCHANGEABLE FOR NOTES REGISTERED IN THE NAME OF A PERSON OTHER THAN THE DEPOSITARY OR ITS NOMINEE ONLY IN THE LIMITED CIRCUMSTANCES DESCRIBED IN THE INDENTURE, AND NO TRANSFER OF THIS NOTE (OTHER THAN A TRANSFER OF THIS NOTE AS A WHOLE BY THE DEPOSITARY TO A NOMINEE OF THE DEPOSITARY OR BY A NOMINEE OF THE DEPOSITARY TO THE DEPOSITARY OR ANOTHER NOMINEE OF THE DEPOSITARY) MAY BE REGISTERED EXCEPT IN SUCH LIMITED CIRCUMSTANCES.

UNLESS THIS CERTIFICATE IS PRESENTED BY AN AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE OF THE DEPOSITARY TRUST COMPANY TO THE ISSUER OR ITS AGENT FOR REGISTRATION OF TRANSFER, EXCHANGE OR PAYMENT, AND ANY NOTE ISSUED IS REGISTERED IN THE NAME OF CEDE & CO. OR SUCH OTHER NAME AS REQUESTED BY AN AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE OF THE DEPOSITARY TRUST COMPANY AND ANY PAYMENT HEREON IS MADE TO CEDE & CO., ANY TRANSFER, PLEDGE OR OTHER USE HEREOF FOR VALUE OR OTHERWISE BY A PERSON IS WRONGFUL SINCE THE REGISTERED OWNER HEREOF, CEDE & CO., HAS AN INTEREST HEREIN.

THE NOTES EVIDENCED HEREBY WILL BE ISSUED, AND MAY BE TRANSFERRED, ONLY IN DENOMINATIONS OF \$2,000 AND ANY GREATER INTEGRAL MULTIPLE OF \$1,000, EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN THE SUPPLEMENTAL INDENTURE. ANY ATTEMPTED TRANSFER, SALE OR OTHER DISPOSITION OF NOTES IN A DENOMINATION OF NOTES IN A DENOMINATION OF LESS THAN \$1,000 SHALL BE DEEMED TO BE VOID AND OF NO LEGAL EFFECT WHATSOEVER EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN THE SUPPLEMENTAL INDENTURE. ANY SUCH TRANSFEREE SHALL BE DEEMED NOT TO BE THE HOLDER OF SUCH NOTES FOR ANY PURPOSE, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO THE RECEIPT OF PAYMENTS IN RESPECT OF SUCH NOTES, AND SUCH TRANSFEREE SHALL BE DEEMED TO HAVE NO INTEREST WHATSOEVER IN SUCH NOTES.

CENTERPOINT ENERGY, INC.
\$[]
6.400% FIXED-TO-FIXED RESET RATE JUNIOR SUBORDINATED NOTES
SERIES E, DUE 2058
Dated: August 3, 2026

NUMBER R-[] CUSIP NO: 15189T BV8

Registered Holder: CEDE & CO. ISIN NO: US15189TBV89

CENTERPOINT ENERGY, INC., a corporation duly organized and existing under the laws of the state of Texas (herein referred to as the “Company,” which term includes any successor person under the Indenture hereinafter referred to), for value received, hereby promises to pay to the Registered Holder named above, the principal sum specified in the Schedule of Increases or Decreases in this Note annexed hereto on August 15, 2058 (the “Maturity Date”), and to pay (subject to deferral as set forth herein) interest thereon (i) from and including the date of the original issuance to, but excluding, August 15, 2033 (the “First Reset Date”) at an annual rate of 6.400% and (ii) from and including August 15, 2033 during each Interest Reset Period at an annual rate equal to the Five-Year Treasury Rate as of the most recent Reset Interest Determination Date, plus a spread of 1.885%; *provided* that the interest rate during any Interest Reset Period will not reset below 6.400% per annum (which is the same interest rate as in effect from and including the original issue date to, but excluding, the First Reset Date). Subject to the Company’s right to defer interest payments as set forth in the Supplemental Indenture (as defined on the reverse hereof), interest is payable semi-annually in arrears on February 15 and August 15 of each year beginning on February 15, 2027 (the “Interest Payment Dates”), until the principal thereof is paid or made available for payment. If interest payments are deferred or otherwise not paid, they will accrue and compound until paid at the same rate at which the Notes (as defined on the reverse hereof) bear interest to the extent permitted by law. As permitted by the terms of the Notes, if interest payments are deferred or otherwise not paid up to a redemption date that does not fall on an Interest Payment Date, they will accrue and compound until paid at the same rate at which the Notes bear interest to the extent permitted by law.

The amount of interest payable for any period will be computed on the basis of a 360-day year of twelve 30-day months, and with respect to any period less than a full calendar month, on the basis of the actual number of days elapsed during the period. The interest so payable on an Interest Payment Date will be paid to the Person in whose name this Note is registered, at the close of business on the Regular Record Date next preceding such Interest Payment Date; provided that interest payable at Maturity Date will be paid to the Person to whom principal is payable. Any such interest that is not so punctually paid or duly provided for, and that is not deferred as described below, will forthwith cease to be payable to the Holder on such Regular Record Date and may either be paid (i) to the Person in whose name this Note (or any Note issued upon registration of transfer or exchange thereof) is registered at the close of business on the record date for the payment of such defaulted interest established in accordance with Section 3.07 of the Base Indenture or (ii) at any time in any other lawful manner not inconsistent with the requirements of the securities exchange, if any, on which the Note may be listed, and upon such notice as may be required by such exchange. The “Regular Record Date” with respect to any Interest Payment Date for the Notes, will be the close of business on February 1 or August 1 (whether or not such day is a Business Day) immediately preceding the applicable February 15 or August 15 Interest Payment Date.

If an Interest Payment Date or the Maturity Date or the date (if any) on which the Company is required to purchase the Notes falls on a day that is not a Business Day, the applicable payment will be made on the next succeeding Business Day, and no interest shall accrue or be paid in respect of such delay.

This Note may be presented for payment of principal and interest at the office of the Paying Agent, in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; provided, however, that at the option of the Company, interest on this Note may be paid by check mailed to the address of the Person entitled thereto, as the address shall appear on the Security Register, or by a wire transfer to an account designated by the Person entitled thereto. Payment of the principal and interest on this Note shall be made in such coin or currency of the United States of America as at the time of payment is legal tender for payment of public and private debts.

“Calculation Agent” means the Company, an affiliate of the Company selected by the Company, or any other firm appointed by the Company, in each case, in the Company’s sole discretion, acting as calculation agent in respect of the Notes.

“Code” means the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended.

“Five-Year Treasury Rate” means, as of any Reset Interest Determination Date, the average of the yields on actively traded U.S. Treasury securities adjusted to constant maturity, for five-year maturities, for the most recent five Business Days appearing under the caption “Treasury Constant Maturities” in the Most Recent H.15. If the Five-Year Treasury Rate cannot be determined pursuant to the preceding sentence, the Calculation Agent, after consulting such sources as it deems comparable to any of the foregoing calculations, or any such source as it deems reasonable from which to estimate the Five-Year Treasury Rate, will determine the Five- Year Treasury Rate in its sole discretion, provided that if the Calculation Agent determines there is an industry-accepted successor Five-Year Treasury Rate, then the Calculation Agent will use such successor rate. If the Calculation Agent has determined a substitute or successor base rate in accordance with the foregoing, the Calculation Agent in its sole discretion may determine the business day convention, the definition of “Business Day” and the Reset Interest Determination Date to be used and any other relevant methodology for calculating such substitute or successor base rate, including any adjustment factor needed to make such substitute or successor base rate comparable to the Five-Year Treasury Rate, in a manner that is consistent with industry-accepted practices for such substitute or successor base rate.

“H.15” means the daily statistical release designated as such, or any successor publication as determined by the Calculation Agent in its sole discretion, published by the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System.

“Interest Payment Period” means the semi-annual period from, and including, an Interest Payment Date to, but excluding, the next succeeding Interest Payment Date, except for the first Interest Payment Date, which shall be the period from, and including, August 3, 2026 to, but excluding, February 15, 2027.

“Interest Reset Period” means the period from and including August 15, 2033 to, but excluding, the next following Reset Date and thereafter each period from and including each Reset Date to, but excluding, the next following Reset Date or the Maturity Date or date of redemption, as the case may be.

“Most Recent H.15” means the H.15 published closest in time but prior to the close of business on the applicable Reset Interest Determination Date.

“Reset Date” means August 15, 2033 and each date falling on the five-year anniversary of the preceding Reset Date.

“Reset Interest Determination Date” means, in respect of any Interest Reset Period, the day falling two Business Days prior to the beginning of the applicable Interest Reset Period.

So long as no Event of Default with respect to the Notes has occurred and is continuing, the Company shall have the right on one or more occasions, to defer payment of all or part of the current and accrued interest otherwise due on this Security by extending the interest payment period for up to twenty (20) consecutive Interest Payment Periods (each period, commencing on the date that the first such interest payment would otherwise have been made, an “Optional Deferral Period”). The Company may not elect to defer payment of interest if an Event of Default (as set forth in the Supplemental Indenture) with respect to the Notes has occurred and is continuing; provided that the deferral of interest payments may not extend beyond the Maturity Date or end on a day other than the day immediately preceding an Interest Payment Date. As provided in the Indenture, interest will continue to accrue on the Notes, and deferred interest payments will accrue additional interest on a semi-annual basis at a rate equal to the interest rate then-applicable to the Notes, including, to the extent permitted by law, interest on the deferred interest (“Compound Interest”). No interest shall be due and payable during an Optional Deferral Period, except at the end of such Optional Deferral Period or upon a redemption of this Note during such Optional Deferral Period.

So long as no Event of Default shall have occurred and be continuing, prior to the termination of any Optional Deferral Period, the Company may further defer the payment of interest by extending such Optional Deferral Period; provided that such Optional Deferral Period together with all such previous and further deferrals of interest payments shall not exceed twenty (20) consecutive Interest Payment Periods at any one time or extend beyond the Maturity Date. Upon the termination of any Optional Deferral Period, which shall be an Interest Payment Date, the Company shall pay all interest accrued and unpaid on this Note, including any Compound Interest, to the Person in whose name this Note is registered on the Regular Record Date for such Interest Payment Date, provided that interest accrued and unpaid on this Security, including any Compound Interest, payable at the Maturity Date or on any redemption date will be paid to the Person to whom principal is payable. Once the Company pays all interest accrued and unpaid on this Note, including any Compound Interest, it shall be entitled again to defer interest payments on this Note as described above.

The Company may redeem the Notes in whole or in part, at its option, by a notice of redemption delivered by or on behalf of the Company pursuant to the Indenture, at a redemption price equal to 100% of the principal amount of the Notes being redeemed plus accrued and unpaid interest to, but excluding, the redemption date (i) on any day in the period commencing on the date falling 90 days prior to the First Reset Date and ending on and including the First Reset Date and (ii) after the First Reset Date, on any Interest Payment Date.

In addition, the Company may redeem the Notes, in whole but not in part, at its option, by a notice of redemption delivered by or on behalf of the Company pursuant to the Indenture, following the occurrence of a Tax Event (as defined below), at a redemption price equal to the sum of 100% of the principal amount of the Notes being redeemed plus accrued and unpaid interest (including any Compound Interest) to, but excluding, such Tax Event Redemption Date.

“Tax Event” means receipt by the Company of a written opinion of a nationally recognized accounting firm or counsel experienced in such matters to the effect that, as a result of:

(a) any amendment to, clarification of, or change, including any announced prospective change, in the laws or treaties of the United States or any of its political subdivisions or taxing authorities, or any regulations under those laws or treaties;

(b) an administrative action, which means any judicial decision or any official administrative pronouncement, ruling, regulatory procedure, notice or announcement including any notice or announcement of intent to issue or adopt any administrative pronouncement, ruling, regulatory procedure or regulation;

(c) any amendment to, clarification of, or change in the official position or the interpretation of any administrative action or judicial decision or any interpretation or pronouncement that provides for a position with respect to an administrative action or judicial decision that differs from the previously generally accepted position, in each case by any legislative body, court, governmental authority or regulatory body, regardless of the time or manner in which that amendment, clarification or change is introduced or made known; or

(d) a threatened challenge asserted in writing in connection with a tax audit of the Company or any of its subsidiaries, or a publicly-known threatened challenge asserted in writing against any other taxpayer that has raised capital through the issuance of securities that are substantially similar to the Notes,

which amendment, clarification or change is effective or administrative action is taken or judicial decision, interpretation or pronouncement is issued or threatened challenge is asserted or becomes publicly known after July 30, 2026, there is more than an insubstantial risk that interest payable by the Company on the Notes is not deductible, or within 90 days would not be deductible, in whole or in part, by the Company for United States federal income tax purposes.

In addition, the Company may redeem the Notes, in whole but not in part, at its option, by a notice of redemption delivered by or on behalf of the Company pursuant to the Indenture, following the occurrence of a Tax Credit Event (as defined below), at a redemption price equal to the sum of 101% of the principal amount of the Notes being redeemed plus accrued and unpaid interest (including any Compound Interest) to, but excluding, such Tax Credit Event Redemption Date. “Tax Credit Event” means, with respect to the Notes, that, in the Company’s reasonable determination, there exists a material risk, due to the Notes (considered together with other debt) having been issued, as part of an original issuance, to one or more “specified foreign entities,” as defined in Section 7701(a)(51)(B) of the Code, that the Company or any of its affiliates would be unable to utilize or otherwise be ineligible to claim any tax credits otherwise allowed under Section 38 of the Code.

In addition, the Company may redeem the Notes, in whole but not in part, at its option, by a notice of redemption delivered by or on behalf of the Company pursuant to the Indenture, following the occurrence of a Rating Agency Event (as defined below), at a redemption price equal to 102% of the principal amount of the Notes being redeemed plus accrued and unpaid interest (including any Compound Interest) to, but excluding, such Rating Agency Event Redemption Date. “Rating Agency Event” means, as of any date, a change, clarification or amendment in the methodology in assigning equity credit to securities such as the Notes published by any nationally recognized statistical rating organization within the meaning of Section 3(a)(62) of the Exchange Act (or any successor provision thereto) that then publishes a rating for the Company (together with any successor thereto, a “Rating Agency”), (i) as such methodology was in effect on July 30, 2026, in the case of any Rating Agency that published a rating for the Company on July 30, 2026, or (ii) as such methodology was in effect on the date such Rating Agency first published a rating for the Company, in the case of any Rating Agency that first publishes a rating for the Company on July 30, 2026 (in the case of either clause (i) or (ii), the “Current Methodology”), that results in (a) any shortening of the length of time for which a particular level of equity credit pertaining to the Notes by such Rating Agency would have been in effect had the Current Methodology not been changed, clarified or amended or (b) a lower equity credit (including up to a lesser amount) being assigned by such Rating Agency to the Notes as of the date of such change, clarification or amendment than the equity credit that would have been assigned to the Notes by such Rating Agency had the Current Methodology not been changed, clarified or amended.

The indebtedness of the Company evidenced by this Note, including the principal hereof and interest hereon, is, to the extent and in the manner set forth in the Indenture, subordinate and junior in right of payment to the Company’s obligations to Holders of Senior Indebtedness of the Company and each Holder of this Note, by acceptance hereof, agrees to and shall be bound by such provisions of the Indenture and all other provisions of the Indenture.

Reference is hereby made to the further provisions of this Note set forth on the reverse hereof, which further provisions shall for all purposes have the same effect as if set forth at this place.

In the event of any inconsistency between the provisions of this Note and the provisions of the Indenture, the provisions of the Indenture shall govern and control.

This Note shall not be entitled to any benefit under the Indenture, or be valid or become obligatory for any purpose until the certificate of authentication hereon shall have been manually or electronically signed by an authorized signatory of the Trustee under the Indenture.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, CENTERPOINT ENERGY, INC. has caused this instrument to be duly executed.

Dated: August 3, 2026

CENTERPOINT ENERGY, INC.

By: _____
Name: Christopher A. Foster
Title: Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer

Attest:

Name: Vincent A. Mercaldi
Title: Secretary

TRUSTEE'S CERTIFICATE OF AUTHENTICATION

This is one of the Securities, of the series designated herein, referred to in the within-mentioned Indenture.

THE BANK OF NEW YORK MELLON TRUST COMPANY, NATIONAL
ASSOCIATION As Trustee

Dated: August 3, 2026

By: _____
Authorized Signatory

REVERSE OF NOTE

This Security is one of a duly authorized issue of securities of the Company (herein called the “Securities”), issued and to be issued pursuant to the Junior Subordinated Indenture (the “Base Indenture”), dated as of August 14, 2024, between the Company and The Bank of New York Mellon Trust Company, National Association, as supplemented and amended by the Supplemental Indenture No. 4 dated as of August 3, 2026 by and between the Company and the Trustee (the “Supplemental Indenture”, and together with the Base Indenture and any amendments or supplements thereto, as the same may be hereafter supplemented or amended from time to time, the “Indenture”). Reference is hereby made to the Indenture for a statement of the respective rights, limitations of rights, duties and immunities thereunder of the Company, the Trustee and the Holders (the word “Holder” or “Holders” meaning the registered holder or registered holders) of the Notes. This Security is one of the series designated on the face hereof (the “Notes”), which is initially limited in aggregate principal amount to \$700,000,000; *provided, however*, that the authorized aggregate principal amount of the Securities may be increased above such amount by a Board Resolution to such effect.

Capitalized terms used herein but not defined herein shall have the respective meanings assigned thereto in the Indenture.

The Notes are not subject to the operation of any sinking fund and, except as set forth in the Supplemental Indenture, are not repayable at the option of a Holder thereof prior to the Maturity Date.

In the case an Event of Default, as defined in the Indenture, shall have occurred and be continuing, the principal of all of the Notes may be declared, and upon such declaration shall become, due and payable, in the manner, with the effect and subject to the conditions provided in the Indenture.

The Company will not pay any additional amounts to any Holder in respect of any tax, assessment or governmental charge.

The Indenture permits, with certain exceptions as therein provided, the amendment thereof and the modification of the rights and obligations of the Company and the rights of the Holders of the Notes by the Company and the Trustee with the consent of the Holders of not less than a majority in principal amount of the Notes outstanding. The Indenture also contains provisions permitting the Holders of specified percentages in principal amount of the Notes at the time outstanding, on behalf of the Holders of all outstanding Notes, to waive compliance by the Company with certain provisions of the Indenture, and contains provisions permitting the Holders of specified percentages in principal amount in certain instances of the outstanding Notes, to waive on behalf of all of the Holders of Notes, certain past defaults under the Indenture and their consequences. Any such consent or waiver by the Holder of this Note shall be conclusive and binding upon such Holder and upon all future Holders of this Note and of any Note issued upon the registration of transfer hereof or in exchange herefor or in lieu hereof, whether or not notation of such consent or waiver is made upon this Note.

As provided in and subject to the provisions of the Indenture, no Holder of Notes shall have any right by virtue of or by availing of any provision of the Indenture to institute any suit, action or proceeding in equity or at law upon or under or with respect to the Indenture or for the appointment of a trustee, receiver, liquidator, custodian or other similar official, or for any other remedy hereunder, unless such holder previously shall have given to the Trustee written notice of an Event of Default and of the continuance thereof, as provided in the Indenture, and unless also the Holders of at least 33% in aggregate principal amount of Notes then-outstanding shall have made written request upon the Trustee to institute such action, suit or proceeding in its own name as Trustee under the Indenture and such Holders shall have offered to the Trustee such security or indemnity reasonably satisfactory to it against any loss, claim, liability or expense (including reasonable attorney's fees and expenses), the Trustee for 60 days after its receipt of such notice, request and offer of such security or indemnity, shall have neglected or refused to institute any such action, suit or proceeding and no direction inconsistent with such written request shall have been given to the Trustee pursuant to Section 5.12 of the Base Indenture; it being understood and intended, and being expressly covenanted by the taker and Holder of every Note with every other taker and Holder and the Trustee, that no one or more Holders of Notes shall have any right in any manner whatever by virtue of or by availing of any provision of this Indenture to affect, disturb or prejudice the rights of the Holders of any other of such Securities, or to obtain or seek to obtain priority over or preference to any other such Holder, or to enforce any right under the Indenture, except in the manner therein provided and for the equal, ratable and common benefit of all Holders of Securities. For the protection and enforcement of the provisions of Section 3.05 of the Supplemental Indenture, each and every Holder and the Trustee shall be entitled to such relief as can be given either at law or in equity.

Nothing contained in the Indenture is intended to or shall impair, as between the Company and the Holders of the Notes, the obligation of the Company, which is absolute and unconditional, to pay to such Holders the principal of and interest on such Notes when, where and as the same shall become due and payable, all in accordance with the terms of the Notes, or is intended to or shall affect the relative rights of such Holders and creditors of the Company other than the holders of the Senior Indebtedness of the Company, nor shall anything herein or therein prevent the Trustee or the Holder of any Security from exercising all remedies otherwise permitted by applicable law upon default under the Indenture, subject to the rights, if any, under Article VII of the Supplemental Indenture of the holders of Senior Indebtedness of the Company in respect of cash, property, or securities of the Company received upon the exercise of any such remedy.

As provided in the Indenture and subject to certain limitations therein set forth, the transfer of this Note may be registered on the Security Register upon surrender of this Note for registration of transfer at the offices maintained by the Company or its agent for such purpose, duly endorsed by the Holder hereof or his attorney duly authorized in writing, or accompanied by a written instrument of transfer in form satisfactory to the Company and the Security Registrar duly executed by the Holder hereof or his attorney duly authorized in writing, but without payment of any charge other than a sum sufficient to reimburse the Company for any tax or other governmental charge incident thereto. Upon any such registration of transfer, a new Note or Notes of authorized denomination or denominations for the same aggregate principal amount will be issued to the transferee in exchange herefor.

No service charge shall be made for any registration of transfer or exchange, but the Company may require payment of a sum sufficient to cover any tax or other governmental charge that may be imposed in connection therewith.

The Company agrees, and by acceptance of this Note or a beneficial interest in this Note, each Holder hereof and any Person acquiring a beneficial interest herein agrees, to treat this Note as indebtedness for United States federal, state and local tax purposes.

Prior to due presentment for registration of transfer of this Note, the Company, the Trustee, and any agent of the Company or the Trustee may deem and treat the person in whose name this Note shall be registered upon the Security Register of this series as the absolute owner of this Note (whether or not this Note shall be overdue and notwithstanding any notation of ownership or other writing hereon) for the purpose of receiving payment of or on account of the principal hereof and, subject to the provisions on the face hereof, interest due hereon and for all other purposes; and neither the Company nor the Trustee nor any such agent shall be affected by any notice to the contrary.

No recourse shall be had for the payment of the principal of or interest on this Note, or for any claim based hereon or otherwise in respect hereof, or based on or in respect of the Indenture, against any stockholder, officer, director or employee, as such, past, present or future, of the Company or of any successor person, either directly or through the Company, whether by virtue of any constitution, statute or rule of law, or by the enforcement of any assessment or penalty or otherwise, all such liability being, by the acceptance hereof and as a part of the consideration for the issue hereof, expressly waived and released.

This Note shall be deemed to be a contract made under the laws of the State of New York and for all purposes shall be governed by, and construed in accordance with, the laws of said State.

ASSIGNMENT

FOR VALUE RECEIVED, the undersigned hereby sell(s) and transfer(s) unto

(please insert Social Security or other identifying number of assignee)

PLEASE PRINT OR TYPEWRITE NAME AND ADDRESS, INCLUDING POSTAL ZIP CODE OF ASSIGNEE the within Note and all rights thereunder, hereby irrevocably constituting and appointing

agent to transfer said Note on the books of the Company, with full power of substitution in the premises.

Dated:

NOTICE: The signature to this assignment must correspond with the name as written upon the face of the within instrument in every particular without alteration or enlargement, or any change whatever

SCHEDULE OF INCREASES OR DECREASES IN THIS NOTE

The initial principal amount of this Note is:

\$

Changes to Principal Amount of Global Note

**Principal Amount by
which this Note is to be
Decreased or Increased
and the Reason for the
Decrease or Increase**

**Remaining Principal
Amount of this Note**

**Signature of Authorized
Officer of Trustee**

Date

BAKER BOTTS LLP

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SAN FRANCISCO
SINGAPORE
WASHINGTON

July 31, 2026

CenterPoint Energy, Inc.
1111 Louisiana Street
Houston, Texas 77002

Ladies and Gentlemen:

We have acted as counsel to CenterPoint Energy, Inc., a Texas corporation (the “Company”), in connection with the proposed offering and sale of \$700,000,000 aggregate principal amount of the Company’s 6.400% Fixed-to-Fixed Reset Rate Junior Subordinated Notes, Series E, due 2058 (the “Notes”), pursuant to (a) the Registration Statement on Form S-3 (Registration Nos. 333-295924, 333-295924-01 and 333-295924-02) (the “Registration Statement”), which was filed by the Company, CenterPoint Energy Houston Electric, LLC and CenterPoint Energy Resources Corp. with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (the “Commission”) under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the “Act”), on May 15, 2026, and (b) the related prospectus of the Company dated May 15, 2026, as supplemented by the prospectus supplement of the Company relating to the sale of the Notes dated July 30, 2026 (as so supplemented, the “Prospectus”), as filed by the Company with the Commission pursuant to Rule 424(b) under the Act. At your request, this opinion letter is being furnished to you for filing as Exhibit 5.1 to the Company’s Current Report on Form 8-K to be filed with the Commission on the date hereof (the “Form 8-K”).

The Notes are to be issued pursuant to the Junior Subordinated Indenture, dated as of August 14, 2024 (the “Base Indenture”), between the Company and The Bank of New York Mellon Trust Company, National Association, as trustee (the “Trustee”), as supplemented by the Supplemental Indenture No. 4 thereto, to be dated as of August 3, 2026 (the “Supplemental Indenture” and, together with the Base Indenture, the “Indenture”), between the Company and the Trustee.

In our capacity as your counsel in connection with the matter referred to above and as a basis for the opinion hereinafter expressed, we have examined originals, or copies certified or otherwise identified, of: (i) the Amended and Restated Certificate of Formation of the Company and the Fifth Amended and Restated Bylaws of the Company, each as amended to date; (ii) the Underwriting Agreement, dated July 30, 2026 (the “Underwriting Agreement”), by and among the Company and the Underwriters named in Schedule I thereto (the “Underwriters”), relating to the issuance and sale of the Notes; (iii) the Registration Statement and the Prospectus; (iv) the Base Indenture and the form of Supplemental Indenture No. 4, as filed as an exhibit to the Form 8-K; and (v) corporate records of the Company, including certain resolutions of the board of directors of the Company, as furnished to us by you, certificates of governmental and public officials and of representatives of the Company, statutes and other instruments and documents as we have deemed necessary or advisable for purposes of the opinion hereinafter expressed. In giving the opinion set forth below, we have relied, to the extent we deemed appropriate without independent investigation or verification, upon certificates, statements or other representations of officers or other authorized representatives of the Company and of governmental and public officials with respect to the accuracy of the factual matters contained in or covered by such certificates, statements or representations. In giving the opinion set forth below, we have assumed, with your consent and without independent investigation or verification, the legal capacity and competency of all natural persons, that all signatures on all documents examined by us are genuine, all documents submitted to us as originals are authentic and complete, all documents submitted to us as certified or photostatic copies are true, correct and complete copies of the originals thereof and all information submitted to us is accurate and complete.

On the basis of the foregoing, and subject to the assumptions, limitations and qualifications set forth herein, we are of the opinion that the Notes will, when duly executed, issued and delivered by the Company in accordance with the terms of the Indenture, authenticated and delivered by the Trustee in accordance with the terms of the Indenture and duly purchased and paid for by the Underwriters in accordance with the terms of the Underwriting Agreement, constitute legal, valid and binding obligations of the Company, enforceable against the Company in accordance with their terms, except as that enforcement is subject to any applicable bankruptcy, insolvency, reorganization, moratorium, fraudulent transfer or conveyance or other laws relating to or affecting creditors' rights generally, general principles of equity (regardless of whether that enforceability is considered in a proceeding in equity or at law) and any implied covenants of good faith and fair dealing.

The opinion set forth above in this opinion letter is limited in all respects to matters of the laws of the State of Texas, applicable federal law of the United States and the contract law of the State of New York as in effect on the date hereof. We hereby consent to the filing of this opinion letter as Exhibit 5.1 to the Form 8-K. We also consent to the references to our Firm under the heading "Legal Matters" in the Prospectus. In giving this consent, we do not hereby admit that we are in the category of persons whose consent is required under Section 7 of the Act or the rules and regulations of the Commission thereunder.

Very truly yours,

/s/ BAKER BOTTS L.L.P.

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WASHINGTON

July 31, 2026

CenterPoint Energy, Inc.
1111 Louisiana Street
Houston, Texas 77002

Ladies and Gentlemen:

In connection with the issuance by CenterPoint Energy, Inc., a Texas corporation (the “Company”), of \$700,000,000 aggregate principal amount of the Company’s 6.400% Fixed-to-Fixed Reset Rate Junior Subordinated Notes, Series E, due 2058 (the “Notes”), pursuant to (a) the Registration Statement on Form S-3 (Registration Nos. 333-295924, 333-295924-01 and 333-295924-02) (the “Registration Statement”), which was filed by the Company, CenterPoint Energy Houston Electric, LLC and CenterPoint Energy Resources Corp. with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (the “Commission”) under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the “Act”), on May 15, 2026, and (b) the related prospectus of the Company dated May 15, 2026, as supplemented by the prospectus supplement of the Company relating to the sale of the Notes dated July 30, 2026 (as so supplemented, the “Prospectus”), as filed by the Company with the Commission pursuant to Rule 424(b) under the Act, certain legal matters with respect to the Notes are being passed upon for you by us. At your request, this opinion letter is being furnished to you for filing as Exhibit 8.1 to the Company’s Current Report on Form 8-K to be filed with the Commission on the date hereof (the “Form 8-K”). We prepared the discussion (the “Discussion”) set forth under the caption “Material U.S. Federal Income Tax Consequences” in the Prospectus.

The Notes are to be issued pursuant to the Junior Subordinated Indenture, dated as of August 14, 2024 (the “Base Indenture”), between the Company and The Bank of New York Mellon Trust Company, National Association, as trustee (the “Trustee”), as supplemented by the Supplemental Indenture No. 4 thereto, to be dated as of August 3, 2026 (the “Supplemental Indenture” and, together with the Base Indenture, the “Indenture”), between the Company and the Trustee.

The opinion set forth below is based on various facts and assumptions and is conditioned upon certain representations made to us by the Company as to factual matters through a certificate of an officer of the Company (the “Officer’s Certificate”). In addition, the opinion set forth below is based upon the factual representations of the Company concerning its business, properties and governing documents as set forth in the Registration Statement, the Prospectus, the Indenture and the Company’s responses to our examinations and inquiries.

In our capacity as special tax counsel to the Company, we have made such legal and factual examinations and inquiries, including an examination of originals or copies certified or otherwise identified to our satisfaction of such documents, corporate records and other instruments, as we have deemed necessary or appropriate for purposes of the opinion set forth below. In our examination, we have assumed the authenticity of all documents submitted to us as originals, the genuineness of all signatures thereon, the legal capacity of natural persons executing such documents and the conformity to authentic original documents of all documents submitted to us as copies. For purposes of our opinion, we have not made an independent investigation or audit of the facts set forth in the above-referenced documents or representations. In addition, in rendering the opinion set forth below we have assumed the truth and accuracy of all representations and statements made to us which are qualified as to knowledge or belief, without regard to such qualification.

We hereby confirm that all statements of legal conclusions contained in the Discussion constitute the opinion of Baker Botts L.L.P. with respect to the matters set forth therein as of the date hereof, subject to the assumptions, qualifications and limitations set forth therein. This opinion is based on various statutory provisions, regulations promulgated thereunder and interpretations thereof by the Internal Revenue Service and the courts having jurisdiction over such matters, all of which are subject to change either prospectively or retroactively. Also, any variation or difference in the facts from those set forth in the representations described above, including in the Registration Statement, the Prospectus, the Indenture and the Officer's Certificate, may affect the conclusions stated herein.

No opinion is expressed as to any matter not discussed in the Discussion. We are opining herein only as to the federal income tax matters described above, and we express no opinion with respect to the applicability to, or the effect on, any transaction of other federal laws, foreign laws, the laws of any state or any other jurisdiction or as to any matters of municipal law or the laws of any other local agencies within any state. This opinion letter speaks as of the date hereof, and we disclaim any obligation to update it.

This opinion letter is furnished to you and is for your use in connection with the transactions set forth in the Prospectus. This opinion letter may not be relied upon by you for any other purpose or furnished to, assigned to, quoted to or relied upon by any other person, firm or other entity, for any purpose, without our prior written consent, except that this opinion letter may be relied upon by persons entitled to rely on it pursuant to applicable provisions of federal securities law.

We hereby consent to the filing of this opinion of counsel as Exhibit 8.1 to the Form 8-K. We also consent to the reference to our Firm and this opinion letter in the Discussion and under the heading "Legal Matters" in the Prospectus. In giving this consent, we do not hereby admit that we are in the category of persons whose consent is required under Section 7 of the Act or the rules and regulations of the Commission thereunder.

The opinion expressed herein is given as of the date hereof and we undertake no obligations to supplement this opinion letter if any applicable law changes after such date or if we become aware of any facts that might change the opinion expressed herein after such date or for any other reason.

Very truly yours,

/s/ BAKER BOTTS L.L.P.
