FORM 4

UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

OMB APPROVAL 3235-0287 Estimated average burden

0.5

hours per response:

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

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

| 1. Name ar | 2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol CENTERPOINT ENERGY INC [CNP] | | | | | | | | | | Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable) X Director 10% Owner | | | | | | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|-----------|---|--|-----|----------------------------------|---|--------------|---|---|---|---|--|--|--|---|--|--------|
| (Last) (First) (Middle) | | | | | 3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year) 03/13/2024 | | | | | | | | | | X Officer (give title Other (specify below) Former CEO | | | | | pecify |
| (Street) HOUSTON TX 77002 | | | | 2 | 4. | 4. If Amendment, Date of Original Filed (Month/Day/Year) | | | | | | | | | Individual or Joint/Group Filing (Check Applicable Line) X Form filed by One Reporting Person Form filed by More than One Reporting Person | | | | | |
| (City) (State) (Zip) | | | | | Rule 10b5-1(c) Transaction Indication | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | Check this box to indicate that a transaction was made pursuant to a contract, instruction or written plan that is intended to satisfy the affirmative defense conditions of Rule 10b5-1(c). See Instruction 10. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1. Title of Security (Instr. 3) 2. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Ye | | | | | | 2A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year) | | 9, | 3. Transaction Code (Instr. 8) | | 4. Securities Acquired (A) of Disposed Of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 s | | d (A) or :. 3, 4 and | 5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported | | 6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) | | 7. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4) | | |
| | | | | | | | | Ī | Code | v | An | nount | (A) or (D) | Price | Transaction (Instr. 3 and | | (Instr. 4) | | (Instr. | 4) |
| Common Stock 03/13/2 | | | | | :4 | | | | J ⁽¹⁾ | | 4 | 08,832 | D | \$0 | 773,083(2) | | D | | | |
| Common Stock 0: | | | | 03/13/202 | 03/13/2024 | | | | J (1) | | 4 | 08,832 | A | \$0 | 687,244 | | I By S | | By S | pouse |
| Common Stock | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 37,000 | | I Gi | | | esources | |
| | Table II - Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned (e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 3) | Derivative Conversion Date Security or Exercise (Month/Day/Year) Execution Date, if any | | | | Transaction of Code (Instr. Derivativ | | | Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year) | | | | 7. Titl Amou Secur Unde Deriv Secur 3 and | int of rities rlying ative rity (Instr. | 8. Price of Derivative Security (Instr. 5) | | | 10. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4) | | 11. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4) | |
| | | | | | Cod | V | (A) | (D) | Dat | e arcisah | | Expiration Date | Title | or Number of | | | | | | |

Explanation of Responses:

- 1. Reporting person transferred shares to spouse
- 2. Includes (i) 78,851 time-based restricted stock units ("RSUs") awarded under the Issuer's long-term incentive plan (the "Plan") and payable in February 2025 and (ii) 84,964 RSUs awarded under the Plan and payable in February 2026. The vesting and payment of each award is conditioned upon positive operating income in the last full calendar year of the restricted period.

Remarks:

Vincent A. Mercaldi, 03/14/2024 Attorney-in-Fact

** Signature of Reporting Person Date

Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially owned directly or indirectly.

- * If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, see Instruction 4 (b)(v).
- ** Intentional misstatements or omissions of facts constitute Federal Criminal Violations See 18 U.S.C. 1001 and 15 U.S.C. 78ff(a).

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, see Instruction 6 for procedure.

Persons who respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB Number.