



CenterPoint Energy elects new board member; declares \$.10 quarterly dividend

HOUSTON - May 7, 2003 - CenterPoint Energy, Inc. (NYSE:CNP) announced today that Derrill Cody has been elected to the company's board of directors effective May 7, 2003. Also re-elected to the board were Thomas F. Madison and David M. McClanahan.

The company's board of directors also declared a regular quarterly cash dividend of \$0.10 per share of common stock payable on June 10, 2003, to holders of record as of the close of business on May 19, 2003. This equates to an annual dividend of \$.40 per share of common stock.

Cody, 64, has not previously served as a director of CenterPoint Energy and is presently of counsel to the law firm of McKinney & Stringer, P.C. in Oklahoma City, Okla. He also serves as a director of Texas Eastern Products Pipeline Company, LLC, the general partner of TEPPCO Partners, L.P. Cody previously served as executive vice president of Texas Eastern Corporation and as chief executive officer of Texas Eastern Gas Pipeline Company from 1987 to 1990.

Cody joins the current CenterPoint Energy board members, John T. Cater, O. Holcombe Crosswell, Michael E. Shannon, Thomas F. Madison, David M. McClanahan and board Chairman Milton Carroll. Robert J. Cruikshank and T. Milton Honea retired today as directors.

CenterPoint Energy, Inc., headquartered in Houston, Texas, is a domestic energy delivery company that includes electric transmission and distribution, natural gas distribution and sales, interstate pipeline and gathering operations, and more than 14,000 megawatts of power generation in Texas. The company serves nearly five million customers primarily in Arkansas, Louisiana, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Oklahoma, and Texas. Assets total more than \$19 billion. CenterPoint Energy became the new holding company for the regulated operations of the former Reliant Energy, Incorporated in August 2002. With more than 11,000 employees, CenterPoint Energy and its predecessor companies have been in business for more than 130 years. For more information, visit the Web site at www.CenterPointEnergy.com.

For more information contact:

Media: Leticia Lowe, 713.207.7702

Investors: Marianne Paulsen, 713.207.6500