

UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

FORM 10-Q

(Mark One)

R QUARTERLY REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

FOR THE QUARTERLY PERIOD ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2009

OR

£ TRANSITION REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

FOR THE TRANSITION PERIOD FROM _____ TO _____

Commission file number 1-3187

CENTERPOINT ENERGY HOUSTON ELECTRIC, LLC

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Texas

(State or other jurisdiction of incorporation or organization)

22-3865106

(I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)

1111 Louisiana

Houston, Texas 77002

(Address and zip code of principal executive offices)

(713) 207-1111

(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

CenterPoint Energy Houston Electric, LLC meets the conditions set forth in General Instruction H(1)(a) and (b) of Form 10-Q and is therefore filing this Form 10-Q with the reduced disclosure format.

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant: (1) has filed all reports required to be filed by Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to file such reports), and (2) has been subject to such filing requirements for the past 90 days. Yes R No £

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant has submitted electronically and posted on its corporate Web site, if any, every Interactive Data File required to be submitted and posted pursuant to Rule 405 of Regulation S-T (§232.405 of this chapter) during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to submit and post such files). Yes £ No £

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, a non-accelerated filer, or a smaller reporting company. See definitions of "large accelerated filer", "accelerated filer" and "smaller reporting company" in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act. (Check one):

Large accelerated filer

Accelerated filer

Non-accelerated filer
(Do not check if a smaller reporting company)

Smaller reporting company

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a shell company (as defined in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act). Yes £ No R

As of October 19, 2009, all 1,000 common shares of CenterPoint Energy Houston Electric, LLC were held by Utility Holding, LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of CenterPoint Energy, Inc.

**CENTERPOINT ENERGY HOUSTON ELECTRIC, LLC
QUARTERLY REPORT ON FORM 10-Q
FOR THE QUARTER ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2009**

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CAUTIONARY STATEMENT REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING INFORMATION

From time to time we make statements concerning our expectations, beliefs, plans, objectives, goals, strategies, future events or performance and underlying assumptions and other statements that are not historical facts. These statements are “forward-looking statements” within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. Actual results may differ materially from those expressed or implied by these statements. You can generally identify our forward-looking statements by the words “anticipate,” “believe,” “continue,” “could,” “estimate,” “expect,” “forecast,” “goal,” “intend,” “may,” “objective,” “plan,” “potential,” “predict,” “projection,” “should,” “will” or other similar words.

We have based our forward-looking statements on our management’s beliefs and assumptions based on information available to our management at the time the statements are made. We caution you that assumptions, beliefs, expectations, intentions and projections about future events may and often do vary materially from actual results. Therefore, we cannot assure you that actual results will not differ materially from those expressed or implied by our forward-looking statements.

The following are some of the factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from those expressed or implied in forward-looking statements:

- the resolution of the true-up proceedings, including, in particular, the results of appeals to the Texas Supreme Court regarding rulings obtained to date;
- state and federal legislative and regulatory actions or developments, including deregulation, re-regulation, environmental regulations, including regulations related to global climate change and health care reform, and changes in or application of laws or regulations applicable to the various aspects of our business;
- timely and appropriate regulatory actions allowing securitization or other recovery of costs associated with any future hurricanes or natural disasters;
- timely and appropriate rate actions and increases, allowing recovery of costs and a reasonable return on investment;
- industrial, commercial and residential growth in our service territory and changes in market demand and demographic patterns;
- weather variations and other natural phenomena;
- changes in interest rates or rates of inflation;
- commercial bank and financial market conditions, our access to capital, the cost of such capital, and the results of our financing and refinancing efforts, including availability of funds in the debt capital markets;
- actions by rating agencies;
- non-payment for our services due to financial distress of our customers;
- the ability of RRI Energy, Inc. (RRI) (formerly known as Reliant Energy, Inc. and Reliant Resources, Inc.) and its subsidiaries to satisfy their obligations in respect of RRI’s indemnity obligations to us;
- the ability of NRG Retail, LLC, the successor to RRI’s retail electric provider and our largest customer, to satisfy its obligations to us and our subsidiaries;
- the outcome of litigation brought by or against us;
- our ability to control costs;
- the investment performance of CenterPoint Energy, Inc.’s employee benefit plans;
- our potential business strategies, including acquisitions or dispositions of assets or businesses, which we

cannot assure will be completed or will have the anticipated benefits to us;

- acquisition and merger activities involving our parent or our competitors; and
- other factors we discuss in "Risk Factors" in Item 1A of Part II of this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q and other reports we file from time to time with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

You should not place undue reliance on forward-looking statements. Each forward-looking statement speaks only as of the date of the particular statement.

PART I. FINANCIAL INFORMATION

ITEM 1. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

CENTERPOINT ENERGY HOUSTON ELECTRIC, LLC AND SUBSIDIARIES
(AN INDIRECT WHOLLY OWNED SUBSIDIARY OF CENTERPOINT ENERGY, INC.)
CONDENSED STATEMENTS OF CONSOLIDATED INCOME
(Millions of Dollars)
(Unaudited)

	Three Months Ended September 30,		Nine Months Ended September 30,	
	2008	2009	2008	2009
Revenues	\$ 552	\$ 608	\$ 1,471	\$ 1,541
Expenses:				
Operation and maintenance	169	196	507	568
Depreciation and amortization	133	142	354	365
Taxes other than income taxes	48	52	153	158
Total	<u>350</u>	<u>390</u>	<u>1,014</u>	<u>1,091</u>
Operating Income	<u>202</u>	<u>218</u>	<u>457</u>	<u>450</u>
Other Income (Expense):				
Interest and other finance charges	(27)	(39)	(80)	(118)
Interest on transition bonds	(34)	(32)	(102)	(98)
Other, net	11	14	34	41
Total	<u>(50)</u>	<u>(57)</u>	<u>(148)</u>	<u>(175)</u>
Income Before Income Taxes	152	161	309	275
Income tax expense	(54)	(43)	(113)	(88)
Net Income	<u>\$ 98</u>	<u>\$ 118</u>	<u>\$ 196</u>	<u>\$ 187</u>

See Notes to the Interim Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements

CENTERPOINT ENERGY HOUSTON ELECTRIC, LLC AND SUBSIDIARIES
(AN INDIRECT WHOLLY OWNED SUBSIDIARY OF CENTERPOINT ENERGY, INC.)
CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS
(Millions of Dollars)
(Unaudited)

ASSETS	December 31, 2008	September 30, 2009
Current Assets:		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 166	\$ 60
Accounts and notes receivable, net	227	284
Accounts and notes receivable – affiliated companies	30	228
Accrued unbilled revenues	60	62
Inventory	74	70
Taxes receivable	8	—
Deferred tax asset, net	1	1
Other	82	74
Total current assets	<u>648</u>	<u>779</u>
Property, Plant and Equipment:		
Property, plant and equipment	7,256	7,274
Less accumulated depreciation and amortization	2,652	2,709
Property, plant and equipment, net	<u>4,604</u>	<u>4,565</u>
Other Assets:		
Regulatory assets	2,832	2,891
Notes receivable — affiliated companies	750	750
Other	48	33
Total other assets	<u>3,630</u>	<u>3,674</u>
Total Assets	<u>\$ 8,882</u>	<u>\$ 9,018</u>

See Notes to the Interim Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements

CENTERPOINT ENERGY HOUSTON ELECTRIC, LLC AND SUBSIDIARIES
(AN INDIRECT WHOLLY OWNED SUBSIDIARY OF CENTERPOINT ENERGY, INC.)
CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS — (Continued)
(Millions of Dollars)
(Unaudited)

LIABILITIES AND MEMBER'S EQUITY

	December 31,	September 30,
	2008	2009
Current Liabilities:		
Current portion of transition bond long-term debt	\$ 208	\$ 221
Accounts payable	150	62
Accounts and notes payable — affiliated companies	36	25
Taxes accrued	87	84
Interest accrued	100	32
Other	89	97
Total current liabilities	<u>670</u>	<u>521</u>
Other Liabilities:		
Accumulated deferred income taxes, net	1,506	1,485
Unamortized investment tax credits	21	16
Benefit obligations	187	187
Regulatory liabilities	313	383
Notes payable — affiliated companies	151	151
Other	170	196
Total other liabilities	<u>2,348</u>	<u>2,418</u>
Long-term Debt:		
Transition bonds	2,381	2,160
Other	1,843	2,092
Total long-term debt	<u>4,224</u>	<u>4,252</u>
Commitments and Contingencies (Note 8)		
Member's Equity:		
Common stock	—	—
Paid-in capital	1,230	1,230
Retained earnings	410	597
Total member's equity	<u>1,640</u>	<u>1,827</u>
Total Liabilities and Member's Equity	<u>\$ 8,882</u>	<u>\$ 9,018</u>

See Notes to the Interim Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements

CENTERPOINT ENERGY HOUSTON ELECTRIC, LLC AND SUBSIDIARIES
(AN INDIRECT WHOLLY OWNED SUBSIDIARY OF CENTERPOINT ENERGY, INC.)
CONDENSED STATEMENTS OF CONSOLIDATED CASH FLOWS
(Millions of Dollars)
(Unaudited)

	Nine Months Ended September 30,	
	2008	2009
Cash Flows from Operating Activities:		
Net income	\$ 196	\$ 187
Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash provided by operating activities:		
Depreciation and amortization	354	365
Amortization of deferred financing costs	9	18
Deferred income taxes	373	15
Changes in other assets and liabilities:		
Accounts and notes receivable, net	(30)	(39)
Accounts receivable/payable, affiliates	18	14
Inventory	(10)	4
Accounts payable	(2)	(70)
Taxes receivable	(370)	8
Interest and taxes accrued	(42)	(71)
Net regulatory assets and liabilities	(55)	(35)
Other current assets	14	5
Other current liabilities	27	8
Other assets	(3)	—
Other liabilities	(4)	(15)
Other, net	(10)	—
Net cash provided by operating activities	<u>465</u>	<u>394</u>
Cash Flows from Investing Activities:		
Capital expenditures	(257)	(332)
Increase in notes receivable from affiliates, net	—	(215)
Decrease (increase) in restricted cash of transition bond companies	(8)	3
Other, net	(2)	15
Net cash used in investing activities	<u>(267)</u>	<u>(529)</u>
Cash Flows from Financing Activities:		
Long-term revolving credit facility, net	121	(251)
Proceeds from long-term debt	488	500
Payments of long-term debt	(159)	(208)
Debt issuance costs	(6)	(4)
Decrease in short-term notes with affiliates, net	(47)	(8)
Dividend to parent	(640)	—
Net cash provided by (used in) financing activities	<u>(243)</u>	<u>29</u>
Net Decrease in Cash and Cash Equivalents	(45)	(106)
Cash and Cash Equivalents at Beginning of Period	128	166
Cash and Cash Equivalents at End of Period	<u>\$ 83</u>	<u>\$ 60</u>
Supplemental Disclosure of Cash Flow Information:		
Cash Payments:		
Interest, net of capitalized interest	\$ 214	\$ 283
Income taxes (refunds), net	98	57
Non-cash transactions:		
Accounts payable related to capital expenditures	163	24

See Notes to the Interim Condensed Consolidated Financial Statements

CENTERPOINT ENERGY HOUSTON ELECTRIC, LLC AND SUBSIDIARIES

NOTES TO UNAUDITED CONDENSED CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(1) Background and Basis of Presentation

General. Included in this Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q (Form 10-Q) of CenterPoint Energy Houston Electric, LLC are the condensed consolidated interim financial statements and notes (Interim Condensed Financial Statements) of CenterPoint Energy Houston Electric, LLC and its subsidiaries (collectively, CenterPoint Houston). The Interim Condensed Financial Statements are unaudited, omit certain financial statement disclosures and should be read with the Annual Report on Form 10-K of CenterPoint Houston for the year ended December 31, 2008 (CenterPoint Houston Form 10-K).

Background. CenterPoint Houston engages in the electric transmission and distribution business in a 5,000-square mile area of the Texas Gulf Coast that includes Houston. CenterPoint Houston is an indirect wholly owned subsidiary of CenterPoint Energy, Inc. (CenterPoint Energy), a public utility holding company. At September 30, 2009, CenterPoint Houston had four subsidiaries, CenterPoint Energy Transition Bond Company, LLC, CenterPoint Energy Transition Bond Company II, LLC and CenterPoint Energy Transition Bond Company III, LLC (collectively, the transition bond companies) and CenterPoint Energy Restoration Bond Company, LLC. Each is a special purpose Delaware limited liability company formed for the principal purpose of purchasing and owning transition property, issuing transition or system restoration bonds and performing activities incidental thereto. For further discussion of the transition and system restoration bond companies, see Note 4.

Basis of Presentation. The preparation of financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities, disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

CenterPoint Houston's Interim Condensed Financial Statements reflect all normal recurring adjustments that are, in the opinion of management, necessary to present fairly the financial position, results of operations and cash flows for the respective periods. Amounts reported in CenterPoint Houston's Condensed Statements of Consolidated Income are not necessarily indicative of amounts expected for a full-year period due to the effects of, among other things, (a) seasonal fluctuations in demand for energy, (b) timing of maintenance and other expenditures and (c) acquisitions and dispositions of businesses, assets and other interests.

(2) New Accounting Pronouncements

In December 2008, the Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) issued new accounting guidance on employers' disclosures about postretirement benefit plan assets which expands the disclosures about employers' plan assets to include more detailed disclosures about the employers' investment strategies, major categories of plan assets, concentrations of risk within plan assets and valuation techniques used to measure the fair value of plan assets. This new accounting guidance is effective for fiscal years ending after December 15, 2009. CenterPoint Houston expects that the adoption of this new guidance will not have a material impact on its financial position, results of operations or cash flows.

In April 2009, the FASB issued new accounting guidance on interim disclosures about fair value of financial instruments which expands the fair value disclosures required for all financial instruments to interim periods. This new guidance also requires entities to disclose in interim periods the methods and significant assumptions used to estimate the fair value of financial instruments. This new accounting guidance is effective for interim reporting periods ending after June 15, 2009. CenterPoint Houston's adoption of this new guidance did not have a material impact on its financial position, results of operations or cash flows. See Note 10 for the required disclosures.

In May 2009, the FASB issued new accounting guidance on subsequent events that establishes general standards of accounting for and disclosure of events that occur after the balance sheet date but before financial statements are issued or are available to be issued. This new accounting guidance is effective for interim or annual periods ending

after June 15, 2009. CenterPoint Houston's adoption of this new guidance did not have a material impact on its financial position, results of operations or cash flows. See Note 11 for the subsequent event related disclosures.

In June 2009, the FASB issued new accounting guidance on consolidation of variable interest entities (VIEs) that changes how a reporting entity determines a primary beneficiary that would consolidate the VIE from a quantitative risk and rewards approach to a qualitative approach based on which variable interest holder has the power to direct the economic performance related activities of the VIE as well as the obligation to absorb losses or right to receive benefits that could potentially be significant to the VIE. This new guidance requires the primary beneficiary assessment to be performed on an ongoing basis and also requires enhanced disclosures that will provide more transparency about a company's involvement in a VIE. This new guidance is effective for a reporting entity's first annual reporting period that begins after November 15, 2009. CenterPoint Houston expects that the adoption of this new guidance will not have a material impact on its financial position, results of operations or cash flows.

In June 2009, the FASB issued new accounting guidance on the FASB Accounting Standards Codification (Codification) and the hierarchy of generally accepted accounting principles. This new accounting guidance establishes the Codification as the source of authoritative U.S. generally accepted accounting principles recognized by the FASB to be applied by nongovernmental entities. Rules and interpretive releases of the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) under authority of federal securities laws are also sources of authoritative GAAP for SEC registrants. This new accounting guidance is effective for financial statements issued for interim and annual periods ending after September 15, 2009. CenterPoint Houston's adoption of this new guidance did not have any impact on its financial position, results of operations or cash flows.

Management believes the impact of other recently issued standards, which are not yet effective, will not have a material impact on CenterPoint Houston's consolidated financial position, results of operations or cash flows upon adoption.

(3) Employee Benefit Plans

CenterPoint Houston's employees participate in CenterPoint Energy's postretirement benefit plan. CenterPoint Houston's net periodic cost includes the following components relating to postretirement benefits:

	Three Months Ended September 30,		Nine Months Ended September 30,	
	2008	2009	2008	2009
	(in millions)			
Service cost	\$ 1	\$ —	\$ 1	\$ —
Interest cost	4	5	13	14
Expected return on plan assets	(2)	(2)	(8)	(6)
Amortization of transition obligation	1	1	4	4
Net periodic cost	<u>\$ 4</u>	<u>\$ 4</u>	<u>\$ 10</u>	<u>\$ 12</u>

CenterPoint Houston expects to contribute approximately \$9 million to CenterPoint Energy's postretirement benefit plan in 2009, of which \$2 million and \$7 million, respectively, have been contributed during the three and nine months ended September 30, 2009.

(4) Regulatory Matters

(a) Hurricane Ike

CenterPoint Houston's electric delivery system suffered substantial damage as a result of Hurricane Ike, which struck the upper Texas coast in September 2008.

As is common with electric utilities serving coastal regions, the poles, towers, wires, street lights and pole mounted equipment that comprise CenterPoint Houston's transmission and distribution system are not covered by property insurance, but office buildings and warehouses and their contents and substations are covered by insurance that provides for a maximum deductible of \$10 million. Current estimates are that total losses to property covered by this insurance were approximately \$28 million.

CenterPoint Houston deferred the uninsured system restoration costs as management believed it was probable that such costs would be recovered through the regulatory process. As a result, system restoration costs did not affect CenterPoint Houston's reported operating income for 2008 or the first nine months of 2009. In April 2009, CenterPoint Houston filed with the Public Utility Commission of Texas (Texas Utility Commission) an application for review and approval for recovery of approximately \$608 million in system restoration costs identified as of the end of February 2009, plus \$2 million in regulatory expenses, \$13 million in certain debt issuance costs and \$55 million in incurred and projected carrying costs, pursuant to the legislation described below.

In April 2009, the Texas Legislature enacted legislation that authorized the Texas Utility Commission to conduct proceedings to determine the amount of system restoration costs and related costs associated with hurricanes or other major storms that utilities are entitled to recover, and to issue financing orders that would permit a utility like CenterPoint Houston to recover the distribution portion of those costs and related carrying costs through the issuance of non-recourse system restoration bonds similar to the securitization bonds issued previously. The legislation also allowed such a utility to recover, or defer for future recovery, the transmission portion of its system restoration costs through the existing mechanisms established to recover transmission level costs. The legislation required the Texas Utility Commission to make its determination of recoverable system restoration costs within 150 days of the filing of a utility's application and to rule on a utility's application for a financing order for the issuance of system restoration bonds within 90 days of the filing of that application. Alternatively, if securitization is not the least-cost option for rate payers, the legislation authorized the Texas Utility Commission to allow a utility to recover those costs through a customer surcharge mechanism.

In its application filed in April 2009, CenterPoint Houston sought approval for recovery of a total of approximately \$678 million, including the \$608 million in system restoration costs described above plus related regulatory expenses, certain debt issuance costs and carrying costs calculated through August 2009. In July 2009, CenterPoint Houston announced that it had reached a settlement agreement with the parties to the proceeding. Under the terms of that settlement agreement, CenterPoint Houston would be entitled to recover a total of \$663 million in costs relating to Hurricane Ike, along with carrying costs from September 1, 2009 until system restoration bonds were issued. The Texas Utility Commission issued an order in August 2009 approving CenterPoint Houston's application and the settlement agreement and authorizing recovery of a total of \$663 million, of which \$643 million is attributable to distribution service and eligible for securitization and the remaining \$20 million is attributable to transmission service and eligible for recovery through the existing mechanisms established to recover transmission costs.

In July 2009, CenterPoint Houston filed with the Texas Utility Commission its application for a financing order to recover the portion of approved costs related to distribution service through the issuance of system restoration bonds. As discussed above, in August 2009, the Texas Utility Commission issued a financing order allowing CenterPoint Houston to securitize \$643 million in distribution service costs plus carrying charges from September 1, 2009 through the date the system restoration bonds are issued, as well as certain up-front qualified costs capped at approximately \$6 million. In accordance with the financing order, CenterPoint Houston is to place into effect a separate customer credit related to accumulated deferred federal income taxes (ADFIT) associated with the storm restoration costs to be recovered. This separate credit (ADFIT Credit) is to be applied to customers' bills to reflect the benefit of those deferred taxes at a carrying charge of 11.075%. The beginning balance of the ADFIT related to storm costs is approximately \$207 million and will decline over the life of the system restoration bonds as taxes are paid on the system restoration tariffs. The ADFIT Credit will become effective on the same date as the tariff for the system restoration charges and will reduce operating income in 2010 by approximately \$24 million. CenterPoint Houston expects its subsidiary, CenterPoint Energy Restoration Bond Company, LLC, to issue the system restoration bonds in the fourth quarter of 2009. Assuming system restoration bonds are issued, CenterPoint Houston will recover the distribution portion of approved system restoration costs out of the bond proceeds, with the bonds being repaid over time through a charge imposed on customers. CenterPoint Houston expects to recover the remaining approximately \$20 million of Hurricane Ike costs related to transmission service through the existing mechanisms established to recover transmission costs.

In accordance with the orders discussed above, as of September 30, 2009, CenterPoint Houston has recorded a net regulatory asset of \$642 million associated with distribution-related storm restoration costs and \$20 million associated with transmission-related storm restoration costs. These amounts reflect carrying costs of \$50 million related to distribution and \$2 million related to transmission through September 30, 2009, based on the 11.075% cost of capital approved by the Texas Utility Commission. The carrying costs have been bifurcated into two

components: (i) return of borrowing costs and (ii) an allowance for earnings on shareholders' investment. During the three months and nine months ended September 30, 2009, the component representing a return of borrowing costs of \$6 million and \$20 million, respectively, has been recognized and is included in other income in CenterPoint Houston's Condensed Statements of Consolidated Income. That component will continue to be recognized as earned until the associated system restoration costs are recovered. The component representing an allowance for earnings on shareholders' investment of \$32 million is being deferred and will be recognized as it is collected through rates.

(b) Recovery of True-Up Balance

In March 2004, CenterPoint Houston filed its true-up application with the Texas Utility Commission, requesting recovery of \$3.7 billion, excluding interest, as allowed under the Texas Electric Choice Plan (Texas electric restructuring law). In December 2004, the Texas Utility Commission issued its final order (True-Up Order) allowing CenterPoint Houston to recover a true-up balance of approximately \$2.3 billion, which included interest through August 31, 2004, and provided for adjustment of the amount to be recovered to include interest on the balance until recovery, along with the principal portion of additional excess mitigation credits (EMCs) returned to customers after August 31, 2004 and certain other adjustments.

CenterPoint Houston and other parties filed appeals of the True-Up Order to a district court in Travis County, Texas. In August 2005, that court issued its judgment on the various appeals. In its judgment, the district court:

- reversed the Texas Utility Commission's ruling that had denied recovery of a portion of the capacity auction true-up amounts;
- reversed the Texas Utility Commission's ruling that precluded CenterPoint Houston from recovering the interest component of the EMCs paid to retail electric providers (REPs); and
- affirmed the True-Up Order in all other respects.

The district court's decision would have had the effect of restoring approximately \$650 million, plus interest, of the \$1.7 billion the Texas Utility Commission had disallowed from CenterPoint Houston's initial request.

CenterPoint Houston and other parties appealed the district court's judgment to the Texas Third Court of Appeals, which issued its decision in December 2007. In its decision, the court of appeals:

- reversed the district court's judgment to the extent it restored the capacity auction true-up amounts;
- reversed the district court's judgment to the extent it upheld the Texas Utility Commission's decision to allow CenterPoint Houston to recover EMCs paid to RRI Energy, Inc. (RRI) (formerly known as Reliant Energy, Inc. and Reliant Resources, Inc.);
- ordered that the tax normalization issue described below be remanded to the Texas Utility Commission as requested by the Texas Utility Commission; and
- affirmed the district court's judgment in all other respects.

In April 2008, the court of appeals denied all motions for rehearing and reissued substantially the same opinion as it had rendered in December 2007.

In June 2008, CenterPoint Houston petitioned the Texas Supreme Court for review of the court of appeals decision. In its petition, CenterPoint Houston seeks reversal of the parts of the court of appeals decision that (i) denied recovery of EMCs paid to RRI, (ii) denied recovery of the capacity auction true up amounts allowed by the district court, (iii) affirmed the Texas Utility Commission's rulings that denied recovery of approximately \$378 million related to depreciation and (iv) affirmed the Texas Utility Commission's refusal to permit CenterPoint Houston to utilize the partial stock valuation methodology for determining the market value of its former generation assets. Two other petitions for review were filed with the Texas Supreme Court by other parties to the appeal. In those petitions parties contend that (i) the Texas Utility Commission was without authority to fashion the

methodology it used for valuing the former generation assets after it had determined that CenterPoint Houston could not use the partial stock valuation method, (ii) in fashioning the method it used for valuing the former generating assets, the Texas Utility Commission deprived parties of their due process rights and an opportunity to be heard, (iii) the net book value of the generating assets should have been adjusted downward due to the impact of a purchase option that had been granted to RRI, (iv) CenterPoint Houston should not have been permitted to recover construction work in progress balances without proving those amounts in the manner required by law and (v) the Texas Utility Commission was without authority to award interest on the capacity auction true up award.

In June 2009, the Texas Supreme Court granted the petitions for review of the court of appeals decision. Oral argument before the court was held in October 2009. Although CenterPoint Houston believes that its true-up request is consistent with applicable statutes and regulations and, accordingly, that it is reasonably possible that it will be successful in its appeal to the Texas Supreme Court, CenterPoint Houston can provide no assurance as to the ultimate court rulings on the issues to be considered in the appeal or with respect to the ultimate decision by the Texas Utility Commission on the tax normalization issue described below.

To reflect the impact of the True-Up Order, in 2004 and 2005, CenterPoint Houston recorded a net after-tax extraordinary loss of \$947 million. No amounts related to the district court's judgment or the decision of the court of appeals have been recorded in CenterPoint Houston's consolidated financial statements. However, if the court of appeals decision is not reversed or modified as a result of further review by the Texas Supreme Court, CenterPoint Houston anticipates that it would be required to record an additional loss to reflect the court of appeals decision. The amount of that loss would depend on several factors, including ultimate resolution of the tax normalization issue described below and the calculation of interest on any amounts CenterPoint Houston ultimately is authorized to recover or is required to refund beyond the amounts recorded based on the True-up Order, but could range from \$170 million to \$385 million (pre-tax) plus interest subsequent to December 31, 2008.

In the True-Up Order, the Texas Utility Commission reduced CenterPoint Houston's stranded cost recovery by approximately \$146 million, which was included in the extraordinary loss discussed above, for the present value of certain deferred tax benefits associated with its former electric generation assets. CenterPoint Energy believes that the Texas Utility Commission based its order on proposed regulations issued by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) in March 2003 that would have allowed utilities owning assets that were deregulated before March 4, 2003 to make a retroactive election to pass the benefits of Accumulated Deferred Investment Tax Credits (ADITC) and Excess Deferred Federal Income Taxes (EDFIT) back to customers. However, the IRS subsequently withdrew those proposed normalization regulations and in March 2008 adopted final regulations that would not permit utilities like CenterPoint Houston to pass the tax benefits back to customers without creating normalization violations. In addition, CenterPoint Energy received a Private Letter Ruling (PLR) from the IRS in August 2007, prior to adoption of the final regulations that confirmed that the Texas Utility Commission's order reducing CenterPoint Houston's stranded cost recovery by \$146 million for ADITC and EDFIT would cause normalization violations with respect to the ADITC and EDFIT.

If the Texas Utility Commission's order relating to the ADITC reduction is not reversed or otherwise modified on remand so as to eliminate the normalization violation, the IRS could require CenterPoint Energy to pay an amount equal to CenterPoint Houston's unamortized ADITC balance as of the date that the normalization violation is deemed to have occurred. In addition, the IRS could deny CenterPoint Houston the ability to elect accelerated tax depreciation benefits beginning in the taxable year that the normalization violation is deemed to have occurred. Such treatment, if required by the IRS, could have a material adverse impact on CenterPoint Houston's results of operations, financial condition and cash flows in addition to any potential loss resulting from final resolution of the True-Up Order. In its opinion, the court of appeals ordered that this issue be remanded to the Texas Utility Commission, as that commission requested. No party, in the petitions for review or briefs filed with the Texas Supreme Court, has challenged that order by the court of appeals although the Texas Supreme Court has the authority to consider all aspects of the rulings above, not just those challenged specifically by the appellants. CenterPoint Energy and CenterPoint Houston will continue to pursue a favorable resolution of this issue through the appellate and administrative process. Although the Texas Utility Commission has not previously required a company subject to its jurisdiction to take action that would result in a normalization violation, no prediction can be made as to the ultimate action the Texas Utility Commission may take on this issue on remand.

The Texas electric restructuring law allowed the amounts awarded to CenterPoint Houston in the Texas Utility Commission's True-Up Order to be recovered either through securitization or through implementation of a

competition transition charge (CTC) or both. Pursuant to a financing order issued by the Texas Utility Commission in March 2005 and affirmed by a Travis County district court, in December 2005 a subsidiary of CenterPoint Houston issued \$1.85 billion in transition bonds with interest rates ranging from 4.84% to 5.30% and final maturity dates ranging from February 2011 to August 2020. Through issuance of the transition bonds, CenterPoint Houston recovered approximately \$1.7 billion of the true-up balance determined in the True-Up Order plus interest through the date on which the bonds were issued.

In July 2005, CenterPoint Houston received an order from the Texas Utility Commission allowing it to implement a CTC designed to collect the remaining \$596 million from the True-Up Order over 14 years plus interest at an annual rate of 11.075% (CTC Order). The CTC Order authorized CenterPoint Houston to impose a charge on REPs to recover the portion of the true-up balance not recovered through a financing order. The CTC Order also allowed CenterPoint Houston to collect approximately \$24 million of rate case expenses over three years without a return through a separate tariff rider (Rider RCE). CenterPoint Houston implemented the CTC and Rider RCE effective September 13, 2005 and began recovering approximately \$620 million. The return on the CTC portion of the true-up balance was included in CenterPoint Houston's tariff-based revenues beginning September 13, 2005. Effective August 1, 2006, the interest rate on the unrecovered balance of the CTC was reduced from 11.075% to 8.06% pursuant to a revised rule adopted by the Texas Utility Commission in June 2006. Recovery of rate case expenses under Rider RCE was completed in September 2008.

Certain parties appealed the CTC Order to a district court in Travis County. In May 2006, the district court issued a judgment reversing the CTC Order in three respects. First, the court ruled that the Texas Utility Commission had improperly relied on provisions of its rule dealing with the interest rate applicable to CTC amounts. The district court reached that conclusion based on its belief that the Texas Supreme Court had previously invalidated that entire section of the rule. The 11.075% interest rate in question was applicable from the implementation of the CTC Order on September 13, 2005 until August 1, 2006, the effective date of the implementation of a new CTC in compliance with the revised rule discussed above. Second, the district court reversed the Texas Utility Commission's ruling that allows CenterPoint Houston to recover through the Rider RCE the costs (approximately \$5 million) for a panel appointed by the Texas Utility Commission in connection with the valuation of electric generation assets. Finally, the district court accepted the contention of one party that the CTC should not be allocated to retail customers that have switched to new on-site generation. The Texas Utility Commission and CenterPoint Houston appealed the district court's judgment to the Texas Third Court of Appeals, and in July 2008, the court of appeals reversed the district court's judgment in all respects and affirmed the Texas Utility Commission's order. Two of the appellants have requested further review from the Texas Supreme Court. In June 2009, the Texas Supreme Court agreed to hear those appeals and oral argument before the court was held in October 2009. The ultimate outcome of this matter cannot be predicted at this time. However, CenterPoint Houston does not expect the disposition of this matter to have a material adverse effect on its financial condition, results of operations or cash flows.

During the 2007 legislative session, the Texas legislature amended statutes prescribing the types of true-up balances that can be securitized by utilities and authorized the issuance of transition bonds to recover the balance of the CTC. In June 2007, CenterPoint Houston filed a request with the Texas Utility Commission for a financing order that would allow the securitization of the remaining balance of the CTC, adjusted to refund certain unspent environmental retrofit costs and to recover the amount of the final fuel reconciliation settlement. CenterPoint Houston reached substantial agreement with other parties to this proceeding, and a financing order was approved by the Texas Utility Commission in September 2007. In February 2008, pursuant to the financing order, a new special purpose subsidiary of CenterPoint Houston issued approximately \$488 million of transition bonds in two tranches with interest rates of 4.192% and 5.234% and final maturity dates of February 2020 and February 2023, respectively. Contemporaneously with the issuance of those bonds, the CTC was terminated and a transition charge was implemented. During the nine months ended September 30, 2008, CenterPoint Houston recognized approximately \$5 million in operating income from the CTC.

As of September 30, 2009, CenterPoint Houston had not recognized an allowed equity return of \$196 million on CenterPoint Houston's true-up balance because such return will be recognized as it is recovered in rates. During the three months ended September 30, 2008 and 2009, CenterPoint Houston recognized approximately \$4 million and \$5 million, respectively, of the allowed equity return not previously recognized. During the nine months ended September 30, 2008 and 2009, CenterPoint Houston recognized approximately \$10 million and \$11 million, respectively, of the allowed equity return not previously recognized.

(c) Rate Proceedings

In May 2009, CenterPoint Houston filed an application at the Texas Utility Commission seeking approval of certain energy efficiency program costs, an energy efficiency performance bonus for 2008 programs and carrying costs totaling approximately \$10 million. The application sought to recover these costs through a surcharge effective July 1, 2010. In October 2009, the Texas Utility Commission approved the application in part and authorized CenterPoint Houston to recover approximately \$8 million through an Energy Efficiency Cost Recovery Factor that is to go into effect July 1, 2010. The Texas Utility Commission disallowed \$2 million of CenterPoint Houston's requested \$4.85 million energy efficiency performance bonus reasoning that the CenterPoint Houston cannot receive a performance bonus on energy-efficiency programs that arose from the settlement of its 2006 rate proceeding. Motions for Rehearing can be filed by mid-November 2009.

(d) Regulatory Accounting

CenterPoint Houston's actuarially determined pension expense for 2009 in excess of the 2007 base year amount is being deferred for rate making purposes until its next general rate case pursuant to Texas law. CenterPoint Houston deferred as a regulatory asset \$8 million and \$21 million in pension expense during the three and nine months ended September 30, 2009, respectively.

(5) Fair Value Measurements

Effective January 1, 2008, CenterPoint Houston adopted new accounting guidance on fair value measurements which requires additional disclosures about CenterPoint Houston's financial assets and liabilities that are measured at fair value. Effective January 1, 2009, CenterPoint Houston adopted this new guidance for nonfinancial assets and liabilities, which adoption had no impact on CenterPoint Houston's financial position, results of operations or cash flows. Beginning in January 2008, assets and liabilities recorded at fair value in the Condensed Consolidated Balance Sheets are categorized based upon the level of judgment associated with the inputs used to measure their value. Hierarchical levels, as defined in this guidance and directly related to the amount of subjectivity associated with the inputs to fair valuations of these assets and liabilities, are as follows:

Level 1: Inputs are unadjusted quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities at the measurement date. The types of assets carried at Level 1 fair value are investments listed in active markets. At September 30, 2009, CenterPoint Houston held Level 1 investments of \$56 million, which were primarily money market funds.

Level 2: Inputs, other than quoted prices included in Level 1, are observable for the asset or liability, either directly or indirectly. Level 2 inputs include quoted prices for similar instruments in active markets, and inputs other than quoted prices that are observable for the asset or liability. CenterPoint Houston had no Level 2 assets or liabilities at September 30, 2009.

Level 3: Inputs are unobservable for the asset or liability, and include situations where there is little, if any, market activity for the asset or liability. In certain cases, the inputs used to measure fair value may fall into different levels of the fair value hierarchy. In such cases, the level in the fair value hierarchy within which the fair value measurement in its entirety falls has been determined based on the lowest level input that is significant to the fair value measurement in its entirety. Unobservable inputs reflect CenterPoint Houston's judgments about the assumptions market participants would use in pricing the asset or liability since limited market data exists. CenterPoint Houston develops these inputs based on the best information available, including CenterPoint Houston's own data. CenterPoint Houston had no Level 3 assets or liabilities at September 30, 2009.

(6) Related Party Transactions and Major Customers

Related Party Transactions. CenterPoint Houston participates in a money pool through which it can borrow or invest on a short-term basis. Funding needs are aggregated and external borrowing or investing is based on the net cash position. The net funding requirements of the money pool are expected to be met with borrowings by CenterPoint Energy under its revolving credit facility or the sale by CenterPoint Energy of its commercial paper. CenterPoint Houston had borrowings from the money pool of \$8 million at December 31, 2008 and investments in the money pool of \$215 million at September 30, 2009.

At December 31, 2008 and September 30, 2009, CenterPoint Houston had a \$750 million note receivable from its parent.

For the three months ended September 30, 2008 and 2009, CenterPoint Houston had net interest income related to affiliate borrowings of \$8 million and \$5 million, respectively, and \$25 million and \$15 million, respectively, for the nine months ended September 30, 2008 and 2009.

CenterPoint Energy provides some corporate services to CenterPoint Houston. The costs of services have been charged directly to CenterPoint Houston using methods that management believes are reasonable. These methods include negotiated usage rates, dedicated asset assignment and proportionate corporate formulas based on operating expenses, assets, gross margin, employees and a composite of assets, gross margin and employees. These charges are not necessarily indicative of what would have been incurred had CenterPoint Houston not been an affiliate. Amounts charged to CenterPoint Houston for these services were \$27 million and \$31 million for the three months ended September 30, 2008 and 2009, respectively, and \$85 million and \$93 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2008 and 2009, respectively, and are included primarily in operation and maintenance expenses.

Major Customers. Revenues derived from energy delivery charges to CenterPoint Houston's largest customer, a REP that was formerly a subsidiary of RRI and is currently a subsidiary of NRG Energy, Inc., totaled \$199 million and \$200 million for the three months ended September 30, 2008 and 2009, respectively, and \$492 million and \$493 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2008 and 2009, respectively. In May 2009, RRI completed the previously announced sale of its Texas retail business to NRG Retail LLC, a subsidiary of NRG Energy, Inc.

(7) Short-term Borrowings and Long-term Debt

(a) Short-term Borrowings

Revolving Credit Facility. On October 6, 2009 CenterPoint Houston terminated its \$600 million 364-day credit facility which was secured by a pledge of \$600 million of CenterPoint Houston's general mortgage bonds. From inception through its termination, there had been no borrowings under the credit facility.

(b) Long-term Debt

General Mortgage Bonds. In January 2009, CenterPoint Houston issued \$500 million aggregate principal amount of general mortgage bonds, due in March 2014 with an interest rate of 7.00%. The proceeds from the sale of the bonds were used for general corporate purposes, including the repayment of outstanding borrowings under its revolving credit facility and the money pool, capital expenditures and storm restoration costs associated with Hurricane Ike.

Revolving Credit Facility. CenterPoint Houston's \$289 million credit facility contains a debt (excluding transition and other securitization bonds) to total capitalization covenant. The facility's first drawn cost is LIBOR plus 45 basis points based on CenterPoint Houston's current credit ratings.

As of December 31, 2008 and September 30, 2009, CenterPoint Houston had \$251 million and \$-0- of borrowings, respectively, under its \$289 million credit facility. In addition, CenterPoint Houston had approximately \$4 million of outstanding letters of credit under its \$289 million credit facility as of both December 31, 2008 and September 30, 2009. CenterPoint Houston was in compliance with all debt covenants as of September 30, 2009.

Other. At both December 31, 2008 and September 30, 2009, CenterPoint Houston had issued \$151 million of first mortgage bonds and \$527 million of general mortgage bonds as collateral for long-term debt of CenterPoint Energy. These bonds are not reflected in the consolidated financial statements because of the contingent nature of the obligations.

(8) Commitments and Contingencies

Legal Matters

Gas Market Manipulation Cases. CenterPoint Energy, CenterPoint Houston or their predecessor, Reliant Energy, Incorporated (Reliant Energy), and certain of their former subsidiaries are named as defendants in several lawsuits described below. Under a master separation agreement between CenterPoint Energy and RRI, CenterPoint Energy and its subsidiaries are entitled to be indemnified by RRI for any losses, including attorneys' fees and other costs, arising out of these lawsuits. Pursuant to the indemnification obligation, RRI is defending CenterPoint Energy and its subsidiaries to the extent named in these lawsuits. A large number of lawsuits were filed against numerous gas market participants in a number of federal and western state courts in connection with the operation of the natural gas markets in 2000-2002. CenterPoint Energy's former affiliate, RRI, was a participant in gas trading in the California and Western markets. These lawsuits, many of which have been filed as class actions, allege violations of state and federal antitrust laws. Plaintiffs in these lawsuits are seeking a variety of forms of relief, including, among others, recovery of compensatory damages (in some cases in excess of \$1 billion), a trebling of compensatory damages, full consideration damages and attorneys' fees. CenterPoint Energy and/or Reliant Energy were named in approximately 30 of these lawsuits, which were instituted between 2003 and 2009. CenterPoint Energy and its affiliates have been released or dismissed from all but two of such cases. CenterPoint Energy Services, Inc. (CES), an indirect subsidiary of CenterPoint Energy, is a defendant in a case now pending in federal court in Nevada alleging a conspiracy to inflate Wisconsin natural gas prices in 2000-2002. Additionally, CenterPoint Energy was a defendant in a lawsuit filed in state court in Nevada that was dismissed in 2007, but the plaintiffs have indicated that they will appeal the dismissal. CenterPoint Energy believes that neither it nor CES is a proper defendant in these remaining cases and will continue to pursue dismissal from those cases. CenterPoint Houston does not expect the ultimate outcome of these remaining matters to have a material impact on its financial condition, results of operations or cash flows.

On May 1, 2009, RRI completed the previously announced sale of its Texas retail business to NRG Retail LLC, a subsidiary of NRG Energy, Inc. In connection with the sale, RRI changed its name to RRI Energy, Inc. and no longer provides service as a REP in CenterPoint Houston's service territory. The sale does not alter RRI's contractual obligations to indemnify CenterPoint Energy and its subsidiaries, including CenterPoint Houston, for certain liabilities, including their indemnification regarding certain litigation, nor does it affect the terms of existing guaranty arrangements for certain RRI gas transportation contracts.

Environmental Matters

Asbestos. Some facilities owned by CenterPoint Energy contain or have contained asbestos insulation and other asbestos-containing materials. CenterPoint Energy or its subsidiaries, including CenterPoint Houston, have been named, along with numerous others, as a defendant in lawsuits filed by a number of individuals who claim injury due to exposure to asbestos. Some of the claimants have worked at locations owned by CenterPoint Energy or CenterPoint Houston, but most existing claims relate to facilities previously owned by CenterPoint Energy or CenterPoint Houston. CenterPoint Energy anticipates that additional claims like those received may be asserted in the future. In 2004, CenterPoint Energy sold its generating business, to which most of these claims relate, to Texas Genco LLC, which is now known as NRG Texas LP. Under the terms of the arrangements regarding separation of the generating business from CenterPoint Energy and its sale to NRG Texas LP, ultimate financial responsibility for uninsured losses from claims relating to the generating business has been assumed by NRG Texas LP, but CenterPoint Energy has agreed to continue to defend such claims to the extent they are covered by insurance maintained by CenterPoint Energy, subject to reimbursement of the costs of such defense from NRG Texas LP. Although their ultimate outcome cannot be predicted at this time, CenterPoint Energy intends to continue vigorously contesting claims that it does not consider to have merit and CenterPoint Houston does not expect, based on its experience to date, these matters, either individually or in the aggregate, to have a material adverse effect on its financial condition, results of operations or cash flows.

Other Environmental. From time to time CenterPoint Houston has received notices from regulatory authorities or others regarding its status as a potentially responsible party in connection with sites found to require remediation due to the presence of environmental contaminants. In addition, CenterPoint Houston has been named from time to time as a defendant in litigation related to such sites. Although the ultimate outcome of such matters cannot be predicted

at this time, CenterPoint Houston does not expect, based on its experience to date, these matters, either individually or in the aggregate, to have a material adverse effect on its financial condition, results of operations or cash flows.

Other Proceedings

CenterPoint Houston is involved in other legal, environmental, tax and regulatory proceedings before various courts, regulatory commissions and governmental agencies regarding matters arising in the ordinary course of business. Some of these proceedings involve substantial amounts. CenterPoint Houston regularly analyzes current information and, as necessary, provides accruals for probable liabilities on the eventual disposition of these matters. CenterPoint Houston does not expect the disposition of these matters to have a material adverse effect on CenterPoint Houston's financial condition, results of operations or cash flows.

(9) Income Taxes

During the three months and nine months ended September 30, 2008, the effective tax rate was 36% and 37%, respectively. During the three months and nine months ended September 30, 2009, the effective tax rate was 27% and 32%, respectively. CenterPoint Energy's settlement of its federal income tax returns for tax years 2004 and 2005 affected the comparability of the effective tax rate. As a result of the settlement, CenterPoint Houston recognized a reduction in the liability for uncertain tax positions of approximately \$40 million, which included approximately \$3 million of uncertain tax positions existing as of December 31, 2008 which reduced income tax expense. Additionally, CenterPoint Houston recognized approximately \$8 million as a reduction in accrued interest.

The following table summarizes CenterPoint Houston's uncertain tax positions at December 31, 2008 and September 30, 2009:

	December 31, 2008	September 30, 2009
	(in millions)	
Liability for uncertain tax positions	\$ 123	\$ 156
Portion of liability for uncertain tax positions that, if recognized, would reduce the effective income tax rate	11	8
Interest accrued on uncertain tax positions	14	8

(10) Estimated Fair Value of Financial Instruments

The fair values of cash and cash equivalents, short-term borrowings and the \$750 million notes receivable from CenterPoint Houston's parent are estimated to be equivalent to carrying amounts and have been excluded from the table below. The fair value of each debt instrument is determined by multiplying the principal amount of each debt instrument by the market price.

	December 31, 2008		September 30, 2009	
	Carrying Amount	Fair Value	Carrying Amount	Fair Value
	(in millions)			
Financial liabilities:				
Long-term debt (including \$151 million of long-term notes payable to parent and excluding capital leases)	\$ 4,582	\$ 4,424	\$ 4,624	\$ 4,975

(11) Subsequent Events

On October 27, 2009, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) notified CenterPoint Houston that it had been selected for a \$200 million grant for its advanced metering system and intelligent grid projects. The award is contingent on successful completion of negotiations with the DOE, which are expected to begin in November 2009. CenterPoint Houston applied for the grant in August 2009 to obtain \$150 million in funding to accelerate completion of CenterPoint Houston's current deployment of advanced meters by 2012, instead of 2014. In addition, the grant request included \$50 million to begin building the intelligent grid. At this time, CenterPoint Houston cannot predict the schedule for completion of negotiations with the DOE or the final terms of any grant it ultimately receives.

CenterPoint Houston has evaluated all subsequent events through the date these Interim Condensed Financial Statements were issued, which was November 9, 2009.

ITEM 2. MANAGEMENT'S NARRATIVE ANALYSIS OF THE RESULTS OF OPERATIONS

The following narrative analysis should be read in combination with our Interim Condensed Financial Statements contained in this Form 10-Q and our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2008 (2008 Form 10-K).

We meet the conditions specified in General Instruction H(1)(a) and (b) to Form 10-Q and are therefore permitted to use the reduced disclosure format for wholly owned subsidiaries of reporting companies. Accordingly, we have omitted from this report the information called for by Item 2 (Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations), Item 3 (Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk) of Part I and the following Part II items of Form 10-Q: Item 2 (Unregistered Sales of Equity Securities and Use of Proceeds), Item 3 (Defaults Upon Senior Securities) and Item 4 (Submission of Matters to a Vote of Security Holders). The following discussion explains material changes in our results of operations between the three and nine months ended September 30, 2008 and the three and nine months ended September 30, 2009. Reference is made to "Management's Narrative Analysis of Results of Operations" in Item 7 of our 2008 Form 10-K.

Recent Events

Hurricane Ike

Our electric delivery system suffered substantial damage as a result of Hurricane Ike, which struck the upper Texas coast in September 2008.

As is common with electric utilities serving coastal regions, the poles, towers, wires, street lights and pole mounted equipment that comprise our transmission and distribution system are not covered by property insurance, but office buildings and warehouses and their contents and substations are covered by insurance that provides for a maximum deductible of \$10 million. Current estimates are that total losses to property covered by this insurance were approximately \$28 million.

We deferred the uninsured system restoration costs as management believed it was probable that such costs would be recovered through the regulatory process. As a result, system restoration costs did not affect our reported operating income for 2008 or the first nine months of 2009. In April 2009, we filed with the Public Utility Commission of Texas (Texas Utility Commission) an application for review and approval for recovery of approximately \$608 million in system restoration costs identified as of the end of February 2009, plus \$2 million in regulatory expenses, \$13 million in certain debt issuance costs and \$55 million in incurred and projected carrying costs, pursuant to the legislation described below.

In April 2009, the Texas Legislature enacted legislation that authorized the Texas Utility Commission to conduct proceedings to determine the amount of system restoration costs and related costs associated with hurricanes or other major storms that utilities are entitled to recover, and to issue financing orders that would permit a utility like us to recover the distribution portion of those costs and related carrying costs through the issuance of non-recourse system restoration bonds similar to the securitization bonds issued previously. The legislation also allowed such a utility to recover, or defer for future recovery, the transmission portion of its system restoration costs through the existing mechanisms established to recover transmission level costs. The legislation required the Texas Utility Commission to make its determination of recoverable system restoration costs within 150 days of the filing of a utility's application and to rule on a utility's application for a financing order for the issuance of system restoration bonds within 90 days of the filing of that application. Alternatively, if securitization is not the least-cost option for rate payers, the legislation authorized the Texas Utility Commission to allow a utility to recover those costs through a customer surcharge mechanism.

In the application we filed in April 2009, we sought approval for recovery of a total of approximately \$678 million, including the \$608 million in system restoration costs described above plus related regulatory expenses, certain debt issuance costs and carrying costs calculated through August 2009. In July 2009, we announced that we had reached a settlement agreement with the parties to the proceeding. Under the terms of that settlement agreement, we would be entitled to recover a total of \$663 million in costs relating to Hurricane Ike, along with carrying costs from September 1, 2009 until system restoration bonds were issued. The Texas Utility Commission issued an order in August 2009 approving our application and the settlement agreement and authorizing

recovery of a total of \$663 million, of which \$643 million is attributable to distribution service and eligible for securitization and the remaining \$20 million is attributable to transmission service and eligible for recovery through the existing mechanisms established to recover transmission costs.

In July 2009, we filed with the Texas Utility Commission our application for a financing order to recover the portion of approved costs related to distribution service through the issuance of system restoration bonds. As discussed above, in August 2009, the Texas Utility Commission issued a financing order allowing us to securitize \$643 million in distribution service costs plus carrying charges from September 1, 2009 through the date the system restoration bonds are issued, as well as certain up-front qualified costs capped at approximately \$6 million. In accordance with the financing order, we are to place into effect a separate customer credit related to accumulated deferred federal income taxes (ADFIT) associated with the storm restoration costs to be recovered. This separate credit (ADFIT Credit) is to be applied to customers' bills to reflect the benefit of those deferred taxes at a carrying charge of 11.075%. The beginning balance of the ADFIT related to storm costs is approximately \$207 million and will decline over the life of the system restoration bonds as taxes are paid on the system restoration tariffs. The ADFIT Credit will become effective on the same date as the tariff for the system restoration charges and will reduce operating income in 2010 by approximately \$24 million. We expect our subsidiary, CenterPoint Energy Restoration Bond Company, LLC, to issue the system restoration bonds in the fourth quarter of 2009. Assuming system restoration bonds are issued, we will recover the distribution portion of approved system restoration costs out of the bond proceeds, with the bonds being repaid over time through a charge imposed on customers. We expect to recover the remaining approximately \$20 million of Hurricane Ike costs related to transmission service through the existing mechanisms established to recover transmission costs.

In accordance with the orders discussed above, as of September 30, 2009, we have recorded a net regulatory asset of \$642 million associated with distribution-related storm restoration costs and \$20 million associated with transmission-related storm restoration costs. These amounts reflect carrying costs of \$50 million related to distribution and \$2 million related to transmission through September 30, 2009, based on the 11.075% cost of capital approved by the Texas Utility Commission. The carrying costs have been bifurcated into two components: (i) return of borrowing costs and (ii) an allowance for earnings on shareholders' investment. During the three months and nine months ended September 30, 2009, the component representing a return of borrowing costs of \$6 million and \$20 million, respectively, has been recognized and is included in other income in our Condensed Statements of Consolidated Income. That component will continue to be recognized as earned until the associated system restoration costs are recovered. The component representing an allowance for earnings on shareholders' investment of \$32 million is being deferred and will be recognized as it is collected through rates.

Debt Transaction

On October 6, 2009, we terminated our \$600 million 364-day secured credit facility which had been arranged in November 2008 following Hurricane Ike.

CONSOLIDATED RESULTS OF OPERATIONS

Our results of operations are affected by seasonal fluctuations in the demand for electricity. Our results of operations are also affected by, among other things, the actions of various governmental authorities having jurisdiction over rates we charge, debt service costs, income tax expense, our ability to collect receivables from retail electric providers (REPs) and our ability to recover our stranded costs and regulatory assets. For more information regarding factors that may affect the future results of operations of our business, please read "Risk Factors" in Item 1A of Part II of this Form 10-Q.

The following table sets forth our consolidated results of operations for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2008 and 2009, followed by a discussion of our consolidated results of operations based on operating income.

	Three Months Ended September 30,		Nine Months Ended September 30,	
	2008	2009	2008	2009
	(in millions, except customer data)			
Revenues:				
Electric transmission and distribution utility	\$ 455	\$ 503	\$ 1,220	\$ 1,281
Transition bond companies	97	105	251	260
Total revenues	552	608	1,471	1,541
Expenses:				
Operation and maintenance, excluding transition bond companies	167	194	502	563
Depreciation and amortization, excluding transition bond companies	71	70	208	207
Taxes other than income taxes	48	52	153	158
Transition bond companies	64	74	151	163
Total expenses	350	390	1,014	1,091
Operating income	202	218	457	450
Interest and other finance charges	(27)	(39)	(80)	(118)
Interest on transition bonds	(34)	(32)	(102)	(98)
Other income, net	11	14	34	41
Income before income taxes	152	161	309	275
Income tax expense	(54)	(43)	(113)	(88)
Net income	\$ 98	\$ 118	\$ 196	\$ 187
Throughput (in gigawatt-hours (GWh)):				
Residential	8,446	9,243	19,623	20,041
Total	21,594	22,963	58,523	57,947
Number of metered customers at period end:				
Residential	1,824,238	1,849,158	1,824,238	1,849,158
Total	2,068,568	2,094,847	2,068,568	2,094,847

Three months ended September 30, 2009 compared to three months ended September 30, 2008

We reported operating income of \$218 million for the three months ended September 30, 2009, consisting of \$187 million from the regulated electric transmission and distribution utility (TDU) and \$31 million related to transition bond companies. For the three months ended September 30, 2008, operating income totaled \$202 million, consisting of \$169 million from the TDU and \$33 million related to transition bond companies. TDU revenues increased \$48 million primarily due to higher transmission-related revenues (\$16 million), in part reflecting the impact of a transmission rate increase implemented in November 2008, the impact of Hurricane Ike in 2008 (\$17 million), revenues from implementation of the advanced metering system (AMS) (\$9 million), higher revenues due to increased usage (\$5 million) primarily as a result of warmer weather and higher revenues due to customer growth (\$5 million) from the addition of over 26,000 new customers, partially offset by lower other revenues (\$4 million). Operation and maintenance expenses increased \$27 million primarily due to higher transmission costs billed by transmission providers (\$9 million), increased operating and maintenance expenses that were postponed in 2008 as a result of Hurricane Ike restoration efforts (\$5 million), increased labor and benefit costs (\$4 million), expenses related to AMS (\$3 million) and increases in other expenses (\$6 million). Taxes other than income taxes increased \$4 million as a result of a refund in 2008 of prior year state franchise taxes (\$5 million).

Nine months ended September 30, 2009 compared to nine months ended September 30, 2008

We reported operating income of \$450 million for the nine months ended September 30, 2009, consisting of \$353 million from the TDU and \$97 million related to transition bond companies. For the nine months ended

September 30, 2008, operating income totaled \$457 million, consisting of \$352 million from the TDU, exclusive of an additional \$5 million from the CTC, and \$100 million related to transition bond companies. TDU revenues increased \$61 million primarily due to higher transmission-related revenues (\$43 million), in part reflecting the impact of a transmission rate increase implemented in November 2008, the impact of Hurricane Ike in 2008 (\$17 million), revenues from implementation of AMS (\$17 million) and higher revenues due to customer growth (\$11 million) from the addition of over 26,000 new customers, which were partially offset by declines in use (\$18 million) primarily occurring in the first quarter and lower other revenues (\$3 million). Operation and maintenance expenses increased \$61 million primarily due to higher transmission costs billed by transmission providers (\$24 million), increased operating and maintenance expenses that were postponed in 2008 as a result of Hurricane Ike restoration efforts (\$5 million), higher pension and other employee benefit costs (\$10 million), increased support services (\$5 million), expenses related to AMS (\$8 million) and a gain on a land sale in 2008 (\$9 million). Taxes other than income taxes increased \$5 million as a result of a refund in 2008 of prior year state franchise taxes (\$5 million). Changes in pension expense over our 2007 base year amount are being deferred until our next general rate case pursuant to Texas law.

Interest and Other Finance Charges

Interest and other finance charges increased for the three months and nine months ended September 30, 2009 by \$12 million and \$38 million, respectively, due to increased borrowing levels in 2009 compared to the same periods in 2008.

Income Tax Expense

During the three months and nine months ended September 30, 2008, the effective tax rate was 36% and 37%, respectively. During the three months and nine months ended September 30, 2009, the effective tax rate was 27% and 32%, respectively. CenterPoint Energy's settlement of its federal income tax returns for tax years 2004 and 2005 affected the comparability of the effective tax rate. As a result of the settlement, we recognized a reduction in the liability for uncertain tax positions of approximately \$40 million, which included approximately \$3 million of uncertain tax positions existing as of December 31, 2008 which reduced income tax expense. Additionally, we recognized approximately \$8 million as a reduction in accrued interest.

CERTAIN FACTORS AFFECTING FUTURE EARNINGS

For information on other developments, factors and trends that may have an impact on our future earnings, please read "Risk Factors" in Item 1A of Part II of this Form 10-Q and "Management's Narrative Analysis of Results of Operations — Certain Factors Affecting Future Earnings" in Item 7 of Part II of our 2008 Form 10-K and "Cautionary Statement Regarding Forward-Looking Information."

LIQUIDITY AND CAPITAL RESOURCES

Our liquidity and capital requirements are affected primarily by our results of operations, capital expenditures, debt service requirements, tax payments, working capital needs, various regulatory actions and appeals relating to such regulatory actions. Our principal cash requirements for the remaining three months of 2009 include approximately \$153 million of capital expenditures.

We expect that borrowings under our credit facilities, anticipated cash flows from operations and intercompany borrowings will be sufficient to meet our anticipated cash needs for the remaining three months of 2009. Cash needs or discretionary financing or refinancing may result in the issuance of debt securities in the capital markets or the arrangement of additional credit facilities. Issuances of debt in the capital markets and additional credit facilities may not, however, be available to us on acceptable terms.

Off-Balance Sheet Arrangements. Other than operating leases and first mortgage bonds and general mortgage bonds issued as collateral for our long-term debt and that of CenterPoint Energy as discussed below, we have no off-balance sheet arrangements.

Credit Facilities. On October 6, 2009, we terminated our \$600 million 364-day secured credit facility which had been arranged in November 2008 following Hurricane Ike.

As of October 19, 2009, we had the following facility (in millions):

<u>Date Executed</u>	<u>Type of Facility</u>	<u>Size of Facility</u>	<u>Amount Utilized at October 19, 2009</u>	<u>Termination Date</u>
June 29, 2007	Revolver	\$ 289	\$ 4 ⁽¹⁾	June 29, 2012

(1) Represents outstanding letters of credit.

Our \$289 million credit facility contains a debt (excluding transition and other securitization bonds) to total capitalization covenant. The facility's first drawn cost is London Interbank Offered Rate (LIBOR) plus 45 basis points based on our current credit rating. An additional utilization fee of 5 basis points applies to borrowings any time more than 50% of the facility is utilized. The spread to LIBOR and the utilization fee fluctuate based on our credit rating.

Borrowings under the credit facility are subject to customary terms and conditions. However, there is no requirement that we make representations prior to borrowings as to the absence of material adverse changes or litigation that could be expected to have a material adverse effect. Borrowings under the credit facility are subject to acceleration upon the occurrence of events of default that we consider customary.

We are currently in compliance with the various business and financial covenants contained in the credit facility as disclosed above.

Securities Registered with the SEC. In October 2008, we registered an indeterminate principal amount of our general mortgage bonds under a joint registration statement with CenterPoint Energy.

Temporary Investments. As of October 19, 2009, we had no external temporary investments.

Money Pool. We participate in a money pool through which we and certain of our affiliates can borrow or invest on a short-term basis. Funding needs are aggregated and external borrowing or investing is based on the net cash position. The net funding requirements of the money pool are expected to be met with borrowings under CenterPoint Energy's revolving credit facility or the sale of CenterPoint Energy's commercial paper. At October 19, 2009, we had investments in the money pool aggregating \$245 million. The money pool may not provide sufficient funds to meet our cash needs.

Long-term Debt. Our long-term debt consists of our obligations and the transition bonds issued by our wholly owned subsidiaries. At September 30, 2009, CenterPoint Energy Transition Bond Company, LLC (TBC) had \$376 million aggregate principal amount of outstanding transition bonds that were issued in 2001, CenterPoint Energy Transition Bond Company II, LLC (TBC II) had \$1.55 billion aggregate principal amount of outstanding transition bonds that were issued in 2005 and CenterPoint Energy Transition Bond Company III, LLC (TBC III) had \$455 million aggregate principal amount of outstanding transition bonds that were issued in February 2008. All of the transition bonds were issued in accordance with the Texas Electric Choice Plan (Texas electric restructuring law). The transition bonds are secured by "transition property," as defined in the Texas electric restructuring law, which includes the irrevocable right to recover, through non-bypassable transition charges payable by retail electric customers, qualified costs provided in the Texas electric restructuring law. The transition bonds are reported as our long-term debt, although the holders of the transition bonds have no recourse to any of our assets or revenues, and our creditors have no recourse to any assets or revenues (including, without limitation, the transition charges) of the bond companies. We have no payment obligations with respect to the transition bonds except to remit collections of transition charges as set forth in the servicing agreements between us and the bond companies and in an intercreditor agreement among us, the bond companies and other parties.

The following table shows future maturity dates of long-term debt issued by us to third parties and affiliates and scheduled future payment dates of transition bonds issued by our subsidiaries, TBC, TBC II and TBC III, as of September 30, 2009. Amounts are expressed in millions.

Year	Third-Party	Affiliate	Sub-Total	Transition Bonds	Total
2009	\$ —	\$ —	\$ —	\$ —	\$ —
2010	—	—	—	221	221
2011	—	—	—	240	240
2012	46	—	46	262	308
2013	450	—	450	283	733
2014	800	—	800	188	988
2015	—	151	151	201	352
2016	—	—	—	215	215
2017	127	—	127	231	358
2018	—	—	—	247	247
2019	—	—	—	264	264
2020	—	—	—	29	29
2021	102	—	102	—	102
2023	200	—	200	—	200
2027	56	—	56	—	56
2033	312	—	312	—	312
Total	\$ 2,093	\$ 151	\$ 2,244	\$ 2,381	\$ 4,625

As of September 30, 2009, outstanding first mortgage bonds and general mortgage bonds aggregated approximately \$3.4 billion as shown in the following table, including \$600 million of general mortgage bonds securing a credit facility that was terminated in October 2009. Amounts are expressed in millions.

	Issued Directly to Third Parties	Issued as Collateral for CenterPoint Houston's Debt	Issued as Collateral for CenterPoint Energy's Debt	Total
First Mortgage Bonds	\$ 102	\$ —	\$ 151	\$ 253
General Mortgage Bonds	1,762	829	527	3,118
Total	\$ 1,864	\$ 829	\$ 678	\$ 3,371

The lien of the general mortgage indenture is junior to that of the mortgage pursuant to which the first mortgage bonds are issued. We may issue additional general mortgage bonds on the basis of retired bonds, 70% of property additions or cash deposited with the trustee. Approximately \$1.5 billion of additional first mortgage bonds and general mortgage bonds could be issued on the basis of retired bonds and 70% of property additions as of September 30, 2009. However, we have contractually agreed not to issue additional first mortgage bonds, subject to certain exceptions.

The following table shows the maturity dates of the \$678 million of first mortgage bonds and general mortgage bonds that we have issued as collateral for long-term debt of CenterPoint Energy. These bonds are not reflected in our consolidated financial statements because of the contingent nature of the obligations. Amounts are expressed in millions.

Year	First Mortgage Bonds	General Mortgage Bonds	Total
2011	\$ —	\$ 19	\$ 19
2015	151	—	151
2018	—	50	50
2019	—	200	200
2020	—	90	90
2026	—	100	100
2028	—	68	68
Total	\$ 151	\$ 527	\$ 678

Impact on Liquidity of a Downgrade in Credit Ratings. As of October 19, 2009, Moody's Investors Service, Inc. (Moody's), Standard & Poor's Ratings Services, a division of The McGraw Hill Companies (S&P), and Fitch, Inc. (Fitch) had assigned the following credit ratings to our senior debt.

Instrument	Moody's		S&P		Fitch	
	Rating	Outlook ⁽¹⁾	Rating	Outlook ⁽²⁾	Rating	Outlook ⁽³⁾
Senior Secured Debt	Baa1	Positive	BBB+	Negative	A-	Stable

(1) A Moody's rating outlook is an opinion regarding the likely direction of a rating over the medium term.

(2) An S&P rating outlook assesses the potential direction of a long-term credit rating over the intermediate to longer term.

(3) A "stable" outlook from Fitch encompasses a one- to two-year horizon as to the likely ratings direction.

We cannot assure you that these ratings will remain in effect for any given period of time or that one or more of these ratings will not be lowered or withdrawn entirely by a rating agency. We note that these credit ratings are not recommendations to buy, sell or hold our securities and may be revised or withdrawn at any time by the rating agency. Each rating should be evaluated independently of any other rating. Any future reduction or withdrawal of one or more of our credit ratings could have a material adverse impact on our ability to obtain short- and long-term financing, the cost of such financings and the execution of our commercial strategies.

A decline in credit ratings could increase borrowing costs under our credit facility. If our credit ratings had been downgraded one notch by each of the three principal credit rating agencies from the ratings that existed at September 30, 2009, the impact on the borrowing costs under our bank credit facility would have been immaterial. A decline in credit ratings would also increase the interest rate on long-term debt to be issued in the capital markets and could negatively impact our ability to complete capital market transactions.

Cross Defaults. Under CenterPoint Energy's \$1.2 billion revolving credit facility, a payment default on, or a non-payment default that permits acceleration of, any indebtedness exceeding \$50 million by us will cause a default. In addition, four outstanding series of CenterPoint Energy's senior notes, aggregating \$950 million in principal amount as of September 30, 2009, provide that a payment default by us, in respect of, or an acceleration of, borrowed money and certain other specified types of obligations, in the aggregate principal amount of \$50 million, will cause a default. A default by CenterPoint Energy would not trigger a default under our debt instruments or bank credit facilities.

Other Factors that Could Adversely Affect Cash Requirements. In addition to the above factors, our liquidity and capital resources could be adversely affected by:

- increases in interest expense in connection with debt refinancings and borrowings under credit facilities;
- various regulatory actions;
- the ability of RRI Energy, Inc. (RRI) (formerly known as Reliant Energy, Inc. and Reliant Resources, Inc.) and its subsidiaries to satisfy their obligations in respect of RRI's indemnity obligations to us;
- the ability of NRG Retail, LLC, the successor to RRI's REP and our largest customer, to satisfy its obligations to us and our subsidiaries;
- the outcome of litigation brought by and against us;
- restoration costs and revenue losses resulting from natural disasters such as hurricanes and the timing of recovery of such restoration costs; and
- various other risks identified in "Risk Factors" in Item 1A of this Form 10-Q.

Certain Contractual Limits on Our Ability to Issue Securities and Borrow Money. Our credit facility limits our debt (excluding transition and other securitization bonds) as a percentage of our total capitalization to 65%. Additionally, we have contractually agreed that we will not issue additional first mortgage bonds, subject to certain exceptions.

Relationship with CenterPoint Energy. We are an indirect wholly owned subsidiary of CenterPoint Energy. As a result of this relationship, the financial condition and liquidity of our parent company could affect our access to capital, our credit standing and our financial condition.

NEW ACCOUNTING PRONOUNCEMENTS

See Note 2 to our Interim Condensed Financial Statements for a discussion of new accounting pronouncements that affect us.

Item 4T. CONTROLS AND PROCEDURES

In accordance with Exchange Act Rules 13a-15 and 15d-15, we carried out an evaluation, under the supervision and with the participation of management, including our principal executive officer and principal financial officer, of the effectiveness of our disclosure controls and procedures as of the end of the period covered by this report. Based on that evaluation, our principal executive officer and principal financial officer concluded that our disclosure controls and procedures were effective as of September 30, 2009 to provide assurance that information required to be disclosed in our reports filed or submitted under the Exchange Act is recorded, processed, summarized and reported within the time periods specified in the Securities and Exchange Commission's rules and forms and such information is accumulated and communicated to our management, including our principal executive officer and principal financial officer, as appropriate to allow timely decisions regarding disclosure.

There has been no change in our internal controls over financial reporting that occurred during the three months ended September 30, 2009 that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, our internal controls over financial reporting.

PART II. OTHER INFORMATION

Item 1. LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

For a discussion of material legal and regulatory proceedings affecting us, please read Notes 4 and 8 to our Interim Condensed Financial Statements, each of which is incorporated herein by reference. See also "Business — Regulation" and "— Environmental Matters" in Item 1 and "Legal Proceedings" in Item 3 of our 2008 Form 10-K.

Item 1A. RISK FACTORS

The following risk factors are provided to supplement and update the risk factors contained in the reports we file with the SEC, including the risk factors contained in Item 1A of Part I of our 2008 Form 10-K.

The following information about risks, along with any additional legal proceedings identified or referenced in Part II, Item 1 "Legal Proceedings" of this Form 10-Q and in "Legal Proceedings" in Item 3 of our 2008 Form 10-K, summarize the principal risk factors associated with our businesses.

Risk Factors Affecting Our Business

We may not be successful in ultimately recovering the full value of our true-up components, which could result in the elimination of certain tax benefits and could have an adverse impact on our results of operations, financial condition and cash flows.

In March 2004, we filed our true-up application with the Texas Utility Commission, requesting recovery of \$3.7 billion, excluding interest, as allowed under the Texas Electric Choice Plan (Texas electric restructuring law). In December 2004, the Texas Utility Commission issued its final order (True-Up Order) allowing us to recover a true-up balance of approximately \$2.3 billion, which included interest through August 31, 2004, and provided for

adjustment of the amount to be recovered to include interest on the balance until recovery, along with the principal portion of additional excess mitigation credits (EMCs) returned to customers after August 31, 2004 and certain other adjustments.

We and other parties filed appeals of the True-Up Order to a district court in Travis County, Texas. In August 2005, that court issued its judgment on the various appeals. In its judgment, the district court:

- reversed the Texas Utility Commission's ruling that had denied recovery of a portion of the capacity auction true-up amounts;
- reversed the Texas Utility Commission's ruling that precluded us from recovering the interest component of the EMCs paid to retail electric providers (REPs); and
- affirmed the True-Up Order in all other respects.

The district court's decision would have had the effect of restoring approximately \$650 million, plus interest, of the \$1.7 billion the Texas Utility Commission had disallowed from our initial request.

We and other parties appealed the district court's judgment to the Texas Third Court of Appeals, which issued its decision in December 2007. In its decision, the court of appeals:

- reversed the district court's judgment to the extent it restored the capacity auction true-up amounts;
- reversed the district court's judgment to the extent it upheld the Texas Utility Commission's decision to allow us to recover EMCs paid to RRI Energy, Inc. (RRI) (formerly known as Reliant Energy, Inc. and Reliant Resources, Inc.);
- ordered that the tax normalization issue described below be remanded to the Texas Utility Commission as requested by the Texas Utility Commission; and
- affirmed the district court's judgment in all other respects.

In April 2008, the court of appeals denied all motions for rehearing and reissued substantially the same opinion as it had rendered in December 2007.

In June 2008, we petitioned the Texas Supreme Court for review of the court of appeals decision. In our petition, we seek reversal of the parts of the court of appeals decision that (i) denied recovery of EMCs paid to RRI, (ii) denied recovery of the capacity auction true up amounts allowed by the district court, (iii) affirmed the Texas Utility Commission's rulings that denied recovery of approximately \$378 million related to depreciation and (iv) affirmed the Texas Utility Commission's refusal to permit us to utilize the partial stock valuation methodology for determining the market value of its former generation assets. Two other petitions for review were filed with the Texas Supreme Court by other parties to the appeal. In those petitions parties contend that (i) the Texas Utility Commission was without authority to fashion the methodology it used for valuing the former generation assets after it had determined that we could not use the partial stock valuation method, (ii) in fashioning the method it used for valuing the former generating assets, the Texas Utility Commission deprived parties of their due process rights and an opportunity to be heard, (iii) the net book value of the generating assets should have been adjusted downward due to the impact of a purchase option that had been granted to RRI, (iv) we should not have been permitted to recover construction work in progress balances without proving those amounts in the manner required by law and (v) the Texas Utility Commission was without authority to award interest on the capacity auction true up award.

In June 2009, the Texas Supreme Court granted the petitions for review of the court of appeals decision. Oral argument before the court was held in October 2009. Although we believe that our true-up request is consistent with applicable statutes and regulations and, accordingly, that it is reasonably possible that we will be successful in our appeal to the Texas Supreme Court, we can provide no assurance as to the ultimate court rulings on the issues to be considered in the appeal or with respect to the ultimate decision by the Texas Utility Commission on the tax normalization issue described below.

To reflect the impact of the True-Up Order, in 2004 and 2005, we recorded a net after-tax extraordinary loss of \$947 million. No amounts related to the district court's judgment or the decision of the court of appeals have been recorded in our consolidated financial statements. However, if the court of appeals decision is not reversed or modified as a result of further review by the Texas Supreme Court, we anticipate that we would be required to record an additional loss to reflect the court of appeals decision. The amount of that loss would depend on several factors, including ultimate resolution of the tax normalization issue described below and the calculation of interest on any amounts we ultimately are authorized to recover or are required to refund beyond the amounts recorded based on the True-up Order, but could range from \$170 million to \$385 million (pre-tax) plus interest subsequent to December 31, 2008.

In the True-Up Order, the Texas Utility Commission reduced our stranded cost recovery by approximately \$146 million, which was included in the extraordinary loss discussed above, for the present value of certain deferred tax benefits associated with our former electric generation assets. CenterPoint Energy believes that the Texas Utility Commission based its order on proposed regulations issued by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) in March 2003 that would have allowed utilities owning assets that were deregulated before March 4, 2003 to make a retroactive election to pass the benefits of Accumulated Deferred Investment Tax Credits (ADITC) and Excess Deferred Federal Income Taxes (EDFIT) back to customers. However, the IRS subsequently withdrew those proposed normalization regulations and in March 2008 adopted final regulations that would not permit utilities like us to pass the tax benefits back to customers without creating normalization violations. In addition, CenterPoint Energy received a Private Letter Ruling (PLR) from the IRS in August 2007, prior to adoption of the final regulations that confirmed that the Texas Utility Commission's order reducing our stranded cost recovery by \$146 million for ADITC and EDFIT would cause normalization violations with respect to the ADITC and EDFIT.

If the Texas Utility Commission's order relating to the ADITC reduction is not reversed or otherwise modified on remand so as to eliminate the normalization violation, the IRS could require CenterPoint Energy to pay an amount equal to our unamortized ADITC balance as of the date that the normalization violation is deemed to have occurred. In addition, the IRS could deny us the ability to elect accelerated tax depreciation benefits beginning in the taxable year that the normalization violation is deemed to have occurred. Such treatment, if required by the IRS, could have a material adverse impact on our results of operations, financial condition and cash flows in addition to any potential loss resulting from final resolution of the True-Up Order. In its opinion, the court of appeals ordered that this issue be remanded to the Texas Utility Commission, as that commission requested. No party, in the petitions for review or briefs filed with the Texas Supreme Court, has challenged that order by the court of appeals although the Texas Supreme Court has the authority to consider all aspects of the rulings above, not just those challenged specifically by the appellants. We and CenterPoint Energy will continue to pursue a favorable resolution of this issue through the appellate and administrative process. Although the Texas Utility Commission has not previously required a company subject to its jurisdiction to take action that would result in a normalization violation, no prediction can be made as to the ultimate action the Texas Utility Commission may take on this issue on remand.

The Texas electric restructuring law allowed the amounts awarded to us in the Texas Utility Commission's True-Up Order to be recovered either through securitization or through implementation of a competition transition charge (CTC) or both. Pursuant to a financing order issued by the Texas Utility Commission in March 2005 and affirmed by a Travis County district court, in December 2005 one of our subsidiaries issued \$1.85 billion in transition bonds with interest rates ranging from 4.84% to 5.30% and final maturity dates ranging from February 2011 to August 2020. Through issuance of the transition bonds, we recovered approximately \$1.7 billion of the true-up balance determined in the True-Up Order plus interest through the date on which the bonds were issued.

Our receivables are concentrated in a small number of retail electric providers, and any delay or default in payment could adversely affect our cash flows, financial condition and results of operations.

Our receivables from the distribution of electricity are collected from REPs that supply the electricity we distribute to their customers. As of September 30, 2009, we did business with 80 REPs. Adverse economic conditions, structural problems in the market served by ERCOT or financial difficulties of one or more REPs could impair the ability of these REPs to pay for our services or could cause them to delay such payments. In 2008, seven REPs selling power within our service territory ceased to operate, and their customers were transferred to the provider of last resort or to other REPs. We depend on these REPs to remit payments on a timely basis. Applicable regulatory provisions require that customers be shifted to a provider of last resort if a REP cannot make timely payments. Applicable Texas Utility Commission regulations significantly limit the extent to which we can apply

normal commercial terms or otherwise seek credit protection from firms desiring to provide retail electric service in our service territory, and thus we remain at risk for payments not made prior to the shift to the provider of last resort. Although the Texas Utility Commission revised its regulations in 2009 to (i) increase the financial qualifications of REPs that began selling power after January 1, 2009, and (ii) authorize utilities to defer bad debts resulting from defaults by REPs for recovery in a future rate case, significant bad debts may be realized and unpaid amounts may not be timely recovered. A subsidiary of NRG Energy, Inc. is the successor to the retail electric sales business of RRI and has become the largest REP in our service territory. Approximately 43% of our \$196 million in billed receivables from REPs at September 30, 2009 was owed by the NRG Energy, Inc. subsidiary. Any delay or default in payment by REPs such as the NRG Energy, Inc. subsidiary could adversely affect our cash flows, financial condition and results of operations. If any of these REPs were unable to meet its obligations, it could consider, among various options, restructuring under the bankruptcy laws, in which event any such REP might seek to avoid honoring its obligations and claims might be made by creditors involving payments we have received from such REP.

Rate regulation of our business may delay or deny our ability to earn a reasonable return and fully recover its costs.

Our rates are regulated by certain municipalities and the Texas Utility Commission based on an analysis of our invested capital and our expenses in a test year. Thus, the rates that we are allowed to charge may not match our expenses at any given time. The regulatory process by which rates are determined may not always result in rates that will produce full recovery of our costs and enable us to earn a reasonable return on our invested capital.

In this regard, pursuant to the Stipulation and Settlement Agreement approved by the Texas Utility Commission in September 2006, until June 30, 2010 we are limited in our ability to request retail rate relief. For more information on the Stipulation and Settlement Agreement, please read “Business — Regulation — State and Local Regulation — Rate Agreement” in Item 1 of the 2008 Form 10-K.

Disruptions at power generation facilities owned by third parties could interrupt our sales of transmission and distribution services.

We transmit and distribute to customers of REPs electric power that the REPs obtain from power generation facilities owned by third parties. We do not own or operate any power generation facilities. If power generation is disrupted or if power generation capacity is inadequate, our sales of transmission and distribution services may be diminished or interrupted, and our results of operations, financial condition and cash flows could be adversely affected.

Our revenues and results of operations are seasonal.

A significant portion of our revenues is derived from rates that we collect from each REP based on the amount of electricity we deliver on behalf of such REP. Thus, our revenues and results of operations are subject to seasonality, weather conditions and other changes in electricity usage, with revenues being higher during the warmer months.

Risk Factors Associated with Our Consolidated Financial Condition

If we are unable to arrange future financings on acceptable terms, our ability to refinance existing indebtedness could be limited.

As of September 30, 2009, we had \$4.5 billion of outstanding indebtedness on a consolidated basis, which includes \$2.4 billion of non-recourse transition bonds. Our future financing activities may be significantly affected by, among other things:

- the resolution of the true-up proceedings, including, in particular, the results of appeals to the courts regarding rulings obtained to date;
- general economic and capital market conditions;
- credit availability from financial institutions and other lenders;

- investor confidence in us and the markets in which we operate;
- maintenance of acceptable credit rating by us and CenterPoint Energy;
- market expectations regarding our future earnings and cash flows;
- market perceptions of our and CenterPoint Energy's ability to access capital markets on reasonable terms;
- our exposure to RRI as our customer and in connection with its indemnification obligations arising in connection with its separation from CenterPoint Energy; and
- provisions of relevant tax and securities laws.

As of September 30, 2009, we had outstanding approximately \$3.1 billion aggregate principal amount of general mortgage bonds, including approximately \$527 million held in trust to secure pollution control bonds for which CenterPoint Energy is obligated, \$600 million securing borrowings under a credit facility which was retired following the October 2009 termination of the facility and approximately \$229 million held in trust to secure pollution control bonds for which CenterPoint Energy is obligated. Additionally, we had outstanding approximately \$253 million aggregate principal amount of first mortgage bonds, including approximately \$151 million held in trust to secure certain pollution control bonds for which we are obligated. We may issue additional general mortgage bonds on the basis of retired bonds, 70% of property additions or cash deposited with the trustee. Approximately \$1.5 billion of additional first mortgage bonds and general mortgage bonds in the aggregate could be issued on the basis of retired bonds and 70% of property additions as of September 30, 2009. However, we have contractually agreed that we will not issue additional first mortgage bonds, subject to certain exceptions.

Our current credit ratings are discussed in “Management’s Narrative Analysis of Results of Operations — Liquidity — Impact on Liquidity of a Downgrade in Credit Ratings” in Item 2 of Part I of this Form 10-Q. These credit ratings may not remain in effect for any given period of time and one or more of these ratings may be lowered or withdrawn entirely by a rating agency. We note that these credit ratings are not recommendations to buy, sell or hold our securities. Each rating should be evaluated independently of any other rating. Any future reduction or withdrawal of one or more of our credit ratings could have a material adverse impact on our ability to access capital on acceptable terms.

The creditworthiness and liquidity of our parent company and our affiliates could affect our creditworthiness and liquidity.

Our credit ratings and liquidity may be impacted by the creditworthiness and liquidity of our affiliates. As of September 30, 2009, CenterPoint Energy and its subsidiaries other than us have approximately \$822 million principal amount of debt required to be paid through 2011. This amount excludes amounts related to capital leases, transition bonds and indexed debt securities obligations. If CenterPoint Energy were to experience a deterioration in its creditworthiness or liquidity, our creditworthiness, liquidity and the repayment of notes receivable from CenterPoint Energy in the amount of \$750 million as of September 30, 2009 could be adversely affected. In addition, from time to time we and other affiliates invest or borrow funds in the money pool maintained by CenterPoint Energy. If CenterPoint Energy or the affiliates that borrow our invested funds were to experience a deterioration in their creditworthiness or liquidity, our creditworthiness, liquidity and the repayment of notes receivable from CenterPoint Energy and our affiliates under the money pool could be adversely impacted. As of September 30, 2009, we had invested \$215 million in the CenterPoint Energy money pool.

We are an indirect wholly owned subsidiary of CenterPoint Energy. CenterPoint Energy can exercise substantial control over our dividend policy and business and operations and could do so in a manner that is adverse to our interests.

We are managed by officers and employees of CenterPoint Energy. Our management will make determinations with respect to the following:

- our payment of dividends;

- decisions on our financings and our capital raising activities;
- mergers or other business combinations; and
- our acquisition or disposition of assets.

There are no contractual restrictions on our ability to pay dividends to CenterPoint Energy. Our management could decide to increase our dividends to CenterPoint Energy to support its cash needs. This could adversely affect our liquidity. However, under our credit facility, our ability to pay dividends is restricted by a covenant that debt, excluding transition bonds, as a percentage of total capitalization may not exceed 65%.

Other Risks

We are subject to operational and financial risks and liabilities arising from environmental laws and regulations.

Our operations are subject to stringent and complex laws and regulations pertaining to health, safety and the environment. As an owner or operator of electric transmission and distribution systems, we must comply with these laws and regulations at the federal, state and local levels. These laws and regulations can restrict or impact our business activities in many ways, such as:

- restricting the way we can handle or dispose of wastes;
- limiting or prohibiting construction activities in sensitive areas such as wetlands, coastal regions, or areas inhabited by endangered species;
- requiring remedial action to mitigate pollution conditions caused by our operations, or attributable to former operations; and
- enjoining the operations of facilities deemed in non-compliance with permits issued pursuant to such environmental laws and regulations.

In order to comply with these requirements, we may need to spend substantial amounts and devote other resources from time to time to:

- construct or acquire new equipment;
- acquire permits for facility operations;
- modify or replace existing and proposed equipment; and
- clean up or decommission waste disposal areas, fuel storage and management facilities and other locations and facilities.

Failure to comply with these laws and regulations may trigger a variety of administrative, civil and criminal enforcement measures, including the assessment of monetary penalties, the imposition of remedial actions, and the issuance of orders enjoining future operations. Certain environmental statutes impose strict, joint and several liability for costs required to clean up and restore sites where hazardous substances have been disposed or otherwise released. Moreover, it is not uncommon for neighboring landowners and other third parties to file claims for personal injury and property damage allegedly caused by the release of hazardous substances or other waste products into the environment.

Our insurance coverage may not be sufficient. Insufficient insurance coverage and increased insurance costs could adversely impact our results of operations, financial condition and cash flows.

We currently have general liability and property insurance in place to cover certain of our facilities in amounts that we consider appropriate. Such policies are subject to certain limits and deductibles and do not include business

interruption coverage. Insurance coverage may not be available in the future at current costs or on commercially reasonable terms, and the insurance proceeds received for any loss of, or any damage to, any of our facilities may not be sufficient to restore the loss or damage without negative impact on our results of operations, financial condition and cash flows.

In common with other companies in our line of business that serve coastal regions, we do not have insurance covering our transmission and distribution system because we believe it to be cost prohibitive. In the future, we may not be able to recover the costs incurred in restoring our transmission and distribution properties following hurricanes or other natural disasters through a change in our regulated rates or otherwise, or any such recovery may not be timely granted. Therefore, we may not be able to restore any loss of, or damage to, any of our transmission and distribution properties without negative impact on our results of operations, financial condition and cash flows.

We and CenterPoint Energy could incur liabilities associated with businesses and assets that we have transferred to others.

Under some circumstances, we and CenterPoint Energy could incur liabilities associated with assets and businesses we and CenterPoint Energy no longer own. These assets and businesses were previously owned by Reliant Energy, Incorporated (Reliant Energy), our predecessor, directly or through subsidiaries and include:

- merchant energy, energy trading and REP businesses transferred to RRI or its subsidiaries in connection with the organization and capitalization of RRI prior to its initial public offering in 2001; and
- Texas electric generating facilities transferred to Texas Genco Holdings, Inc. (Texas Genco) in 2004 and early 2005.

In connection with the organization and capitalization of RRI, RRI and its subsidiaries assumed liabilities associated with various assets and businesses Reliant Energy transferred to them. RRI also agreed to indemnify, and cause the applicable transferee subsidiaries to indemnify, CenterPoint Energy and its subsidiaries, including us, with respect to liabilities associated with the transferred assets and businesses. These indemnity provisions were intended to place sole financial responsibility on RRI and its subsidiaries for all liabilities associated with the current and historical businesses and operations of RRI, regardless of the time those liabilities arose. If RRI were unable to satisfy a liability that has been so assumed in circumstances in which Reliant Energy and its subsidiaries were not released from the liability in connection with the transfer, we and CenterPoint Energy could be responsible for satisfying the liability.

RRI's unsecured debt ratings are currently below investment grade. If RRI were unable to meet its obligations, it would need to consider, among various options, restructuring under the bankruptcy laws, in which event RRI might not honor its indemnification obligations and claims by RRI's creditors might be made against us as its former owner.

On May 1, 2009, RRI completed the previously announced sale of its Texas retail business to NRG Retail LLC, a subsidiary of NRG Energy, Inc. In connection with the sale, RRI changed its name to RRI Energy, Inc. and no longer provides service as a REP in our service territory. The sale does not alter RRI's contractual obligations to indemnify CenterPoint Energy and its subsidiaries, including us, for certain liabilities, including their indemnification regarding certain litigation, nor does it affect the terms of existing guaranty arrangements for certain RRI gas transportation contracts.

Reliant Energy and RRI are named as defendants in a number of lawsuits arising out of energy sales in California and other markets and financial reporting matters. Although these matters relate to the business and operations of RRI, claims against Reliant Energy have been made on grounds that include the effect of RRI's financial results on Reliant Energy's historical financial statements and liability of Reliant Energy as a controlling shareholder of RRI. We or CenterPoint Energy could incur liability if claims in one or more of these lawsuits were successfully asserted against us or CenterPoint Energy and indemnification from RRI were determined to be unavailable or if RRI were unable to satisfy indemnification obligations owed with respect to those claims.

In connection with the organization and capitalization of Texas Genco, Texas Genco assumed liabilities associated with the electric generation assets Reliant Energy transferred to it. Texas Genco also agreed to indemnify,

and cause the applicable transferee subsidiaries to indemnify, CenterPoint Energy and its subsidiaries, including us, with respect to liabilities associated with the transferred assets and businesses. In many cases the liabilities assumed were our obligations and we were not released by third parties from these liabilities. The indemnity provisions were intended generally to place sole financial responsibility on Texas Genco and its subsidiaries for all liabilities associated with the current and historical businesses and operations of Texas Genco, regardless of the time those liabilities arose. In connection with the sale of Texas Genco's fossil generation assets (coal, lignite and gas-fired plants) to NRG Texas LP (previously named Texas Genco LLC), the separation agreement CenterPoint Energy entered into with Texas Genco in connection with the organization and capitalization of Texas Genco was amended to provide that all of Texas Genco's rights and obligations under the separation agreement relating to its fossil generation assets, including Texas Genco's obligation to indemnify CenterPoint Energy with respect to liabilities associated with the fossil generation assets and related business, were assigned to and assumed by NRG Texas LP. In addition, under the amended separation agreement, Texas Genco is no longer liable for, and CenterPoint Energy has assumed and agreed to indemnify NRG Texas LP against, liabilities that Texas Genco originally assumed in connection with its organization to the extent, and only to the extent, that such liabilities are covered by certain insurance policies or other similar agreements held by CenterPoint Energy. If Texas Genco or NRG Texas LP were unable to satisfy a liability that had been so assumed or indemnified against, and provided Reliant Energy had not been released from the liability in connection with the transfer, we could be responsible for satisfying the liability.

CenterPoint Energy or its subsidiaries, including us, have been named, along with numerous others, as a defendant in lawsuits filed by a number of individuals who claim injury due to exposure to asbestos. Some of the claimants have worked at locations owned by CenterPoint Energy or us, but most existing claims relate to facilities previously owned by CenterPoint Energy or us that are currently owned by NRG Texas LP. We anticipate that additional claims like those received may be asserted in the future. Under the terms of the arrangements regarding separation of the generating business from CenterPoint Energy and its sale to NRG Texas LP, ultimate financial responsibility for uninsured losses from claims relating to the generating business has been assumed by NRG Texas LP, but CenterPoint Energy has agreed to continue to defend such claims to the extent they are covered by insurance maintained by CenterPoint Energy, subject to reimbursement of the costs of such defense by NRG Texas LP.

The global financial crisis may have impacts on our business, liquidity and financial condition that we currently cannot predict.

The continued credit crisis and related turmoil in the global financial system may have an impact on our business, liquidity and our financial condition. Our ability to access the capital markets may be severely restricted at a time when we would like, or need, to access those markets, which could have an impact on our liquidity and flexibility to react to changing economic and business conditions. In addition, the cost of debt financing and the proceeds of equity financing may be materially adversely impacted by these market conditions. Defaults of lenders in our credit facility should they occur could adversely affect our liquidity. Capital market turmoil was also reflected in significant reductions in equity market valuations in 2008, which significantly reduced the value of assets of CenterPoint Energy's pension plan, in which we participate. These reductions are expected to result in increased non-cash pension expense in 2009, which will impact 2009 results of operations and may impact liquidity if contributions are made to offset reduced asset values.

In addition to the credit and financial market issues, the national and local recessionary conditions may impact our business in a variety of ways. These include, among other things, reduced customer usage, increased customer default rates and wide swings in commodity prices.

Item 5. OTHER INFORMATION

Our ratio of earnings to fixed charges for the nine months ended September 30, 2008 and 2009 was 2.61 and 2.24, respectively. We do not believe that the ratios for these nine-month periods are necessarily indicative of the ratios for the twelve-month periods due to the seasonal nature of our business. The ratios were calculated pursuant to applicable rules of the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Item 6. EXHIBITS

The following exhibits are filed herewith:

Exhibits not incorporated by reference to a prior filing are designated by a cross (+); all exhibits not so designated are incorporated by reference to a prior filing of CenterPoint Houston or CenterPoint Energy as indicated.

Agreements included as exhibits are included only to provide information to investors regarding their terms. 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 should be relied upon as constituting or providing any factual disclosures about CenterPoint Energy Houston Electric, LLC, any other persons, any state of affairs or other matters.

Exhibit Number	Description	Report or Registration Statement	SEC File or Registration Number	Exhibit References
3.1	Articles of Organization of CenterPoint Houston	CenterPoint Houston's Form 8-K dated August 31, 2002 filed with the SEC on September 3, 2002	1-3187	3(b)
3.2	Limited Liability Company Regulations of CenterPoint Houston	CenterPoint Houston's Form 8-K dated August 31, 2002 filed with the SEC on September 3, 2002	1-3187	3(c)
4.1	\$300,000,000 Second Amended and Restated Credit Agreement, dated as of June 29, 2007, among CenterPoint Houston, as Borrower, and the banks named therein	CenterPoint Houston's Form 10-Q for the quarter ended June 30, 2007	1-3187	4.1
4.2	First Amendment to Exhibit 4.1, dated as of November 18, 2008, among CenterPoint Houston, as Borrower, and the banks named therein	CenterPoint Energy's Form 8-K dated November 18, 2008	1-31447	4.2
+12	Computation of Ratios of Earnings to Fixed Charges			
+31.1	Rule 13a-14(a)/15d-14(a) Certification of David M. McClanahan			
+31.2	Rule 13a-14(a)/15d-14(a) Certification of Gary L. Whitlock			
+32.1	Section 1350 Certification of David M. McClanahan			
+32.2	Section 1350 Certification of Gary L. Whitlock			

SIGNATURES

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 thereunto duly authorized.

CENTERPOINT ENERGY HOUSTON ELECTRIC, LLC

By: /s/ Walter L. Fitzgerald

Walter L. Fitzgerald
Senior Vice President and Chief Accounting Officer

Date: November 9, 2009

Index to Exhibits

The following exhibits are filed herewith:

Exhibits not incorporated by reference to a prior filing are designated by a cross (+); all exhibits not so designated are incorporated by reference to a prior filing of CenterPoint Houston or CenterPoint Energy as indicated.

Agreements included as exhibits are included only to provide information to investors regarding their terms. 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 should be relied upon as constituting or providing any factual disclosures about CenterPoint Energy Houston Electric, LLC, any other persons, any state of affairs or other matters.

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+32.1	Section 1350 Certification of David M. McClanahan			
+32.2	Section 1350 Certification of Gary L. Whitlock			

CENTERPOINT ENERGY HOUSTON ELECTRIC, LLC AND SUBSIDIARIES
(AN INDIRECT WHOLLY OWNED SUBSIDIARY OF CENTERPOINT ENERGY, INC.)

COMPUTATION OF RATIOS OF EARNINGS TO FIXED CHARGES
(Millions of Dollars)

	Nine Months Ended September 30,	
	2008 (1)	2009 (1)
Net Income	\$ 196	\$ 187
Income taxes	113	88
Capitalized interest	(5)	(3)
	<u>304</u>	<u>272</u>
Fixed charges, as defined:		
Interest	182	216
Capitalized interest	5	3
Interest component of rentals charged to operating income	1	—
Total fixed charges	<u>188</u>	<u>219</u>
Earnings, as defined	<u>\$ 492</u>	<u>\$ 491</u>
Ratio of earnings to fixed charges	<u>2.61</u>	<u>2.24</u>

(1) Excluded from the computation of fixed charges for the nine months ended September 30, 2008 and 2009 is interest expense of \$5 million and interest income of \$1 million, respectively, which is included in income tax expense.

CERTIFICATIONS

I, David M. McClanahan, certify that:

1. I have reviewed this quarterly report on Form 10-Q of CenterPoint Energy Houston Electric, LLC;

2. Based on my knowledge, this report does not contain any untrue statement of a material fact or omit to state a material fact necessary to make the statements made, in light of the circumstances under which such statements were made, not misleading with respect to the period covered by this report;

3. Based on my knowledge, the financial statements, and other financial information included in this report, fairly present in all material respects the financial condition, results of operations and cash flows of the registrant as of, and for, the periods presented in this report;

4. The registrant's other certifying officer(s) and I are responsible for establishing and maintaining disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e)) and internal control over financial reporting (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a-15(f) and 15d-15(f)) for the registrant and have:

- (a) Designed such disclosure controls and procedures, or caused such disclosure controls and procedures to be designed under our supervision, to ensure that material information relating to the registrant, including its consolidated subsidiaries, is made known to us by others within those entities, particularly during the period in which this report is being prepared;
- (b) Designed such internal control over financial reporting, or caused such internal control over financial reporting to be designed under our supervision, to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of financial statements for external purposes in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles;
- (c) Evaluated the effectiveness of the registrant's disclosure controls and procedures and presented in this report our conclusions about the effectiveness of the disclosure controls and procedures, as of the end of the period covered by this report based on such evaluation; and
- (d) Disclosed in this report any change in the registrant's internal control over financial reporting that occurred during the registrant's most recent fiscal quarter (the registrant's fourth fiscal quarter in the case of an annual report) that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, the registrant's internal control over financial reporting; and

5. The registrant's other certifying officer(s) and I have disclosed, based on our most recent evaluation of internal control over financial reporting, to the registrant's auditors and the audit committee of the registrant's board of directors (or persons performing the equivalent functions):

- (a) All significant deficiencies and material weaknesses in the design or operation of internal control over financial reporting which are reasonably likely to adversely affect the registrant's ability to record, process, summarize and report financial information; and
- (b) Any fraud, whether or not material, that involves management or other employees who have a significant role in the registrant's internal control over financial reporting.

Date: November 9, 2009

/s/ David M. McClanahan

David M. McClanahan

Chairman (Principal Executive Officer)

CERTIFICATIONS

I, Gary L. Whitlock, certify that:

1. I have reviewed this quarterly report on Form 10-Q of CenterPoint Energy Houston Electric, LLC;
2. Based on my knowledge, this report does not contain any untrue statement of a material fact or omit to state a material fact necessary to make the statements made, in light of the circumstances under which such statements were made, not misleading with respect to the period covered by this report;
3. Based on my knowledge, the financial statements, and other financial information included in this report, fairly present in all material respects the financial condition, results of operations and cash flows of the registrant as of, and for, the periods presented in this report;
4. The registrant's other certifying officer(s) and I are responsible for establishing and maintaining disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a-15(e) and 15d-15(e)) and internal control over financial reporting (as defined in Exchange Act Rules 13a-15(f) and 15d-15(f)) for the registrant and have:
 - (a) Designed such disclosure controls and procedures, or caused such disclosure controls and procedures to be designed under our supervision, to ensure that material information relating to the registrant, including its consolidated subsidiaries, is made known to us by others within those entities, particularly during the period in which this report is being prepared;
 - (b) Designed such internal control over financial reporting, or caused such internal control over financial reporting to be designed under our supervision, to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of financial statements for external purposes in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles;
 - (c) Evaluated the effectiveness of the registrant's disclosure controls and procedures and presented in this report our conclusions about the effectiveness of the disclosure controls and procedures, as of the end of the period covered by this report based on such evaluation; and
 - (d) Disclosed in this report any change in the registrant's internal control over financial reporting that occurred during the registrant's most recent fiscal quarter (the registrant's fourth fiscal quarter in the case of an annual report) that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, the registrant's internal control over financial reporting; and
5. The registrant's other certifying officer(s) and I have disclosed, based on our most recent evaluation of internal control over financial reporting, to the registrant's auditors and the audit committee of the registrant's board of directors (or persons performing the equivalent functions):
 - (a) All significant deficiencies and material weaknesses in the design or operation of internal control over financial reporting which are reasonably likely to adversely affect the registrant's ability to record, process, summarize and report financial information; and
 - (b) Any fraud, whether or not material, that involves management or other employees who have a significant role in the registrant's internal control over financial reporting.

Date: November 9, 2009

/s/ Gary L. Whitlock

Gary L. Whitlock

Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer

CERTIFICATION PURSUANT TO
18 U.S.C. SECTION 1350,
AS ADOPTED PURSUANT TO SECTION 906
OF THE SARBANES-OXLEY ACT OF 2002

In connection with the Quarterly Report of CenterPoint Energy Houston Electric, LLC (the "Company") on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended September 30, 2009 (the "Report"), as filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on the date hereof, I, David M. McClanahan, Chairman (Principal Executive Officer), certify, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, to the best of my knowledge, that:

1. The Report fully complies with the requirements of section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended; and
2. The information contained in the Report fairly presents, in all material respects, the financial condition and results of operations of the Company.

/s/ David M. McClanahan

David M. McClanahan

Chairman (Principal Executive Officer)

November 9, 2009

CERTIFICATION PURSUANT TO
18 U.S.C. SECTION 1350,
AS ADOPTED PURSUANT TO SECTION 906
OF THE SARBANES-OXLEY ACT OF 2002

In connection with the Quarterly Report of CenterPoint Energy Houston Electric, LLC (the "Company") on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended September 30, 2009 (the "Report"), as filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on the date hereof, I, Gary L. Whitlock, Chief Financial Officer, certify, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, to the best of my knowledge, that:

1. The Report fully complies with the requirements of section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended; and
2. The information contained in the Report fairly presents, in all material respects, the financial condition and results of operations of the Company.

/s/ Gary L. Whitlock

Gary L. Whitlock

Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer

November 9, 2009
