Bridge Tracy B Form 4 January 23, 2012

FORM 4

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

OMB 3235-0287

Number: January 31, Expires: 2005

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OMB APPROVAL

Estimated average burden hours per response...

Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF **SECURITIES**

Form 5 Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, obligations Section 17(a) of the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935 or Section may continue. 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940 See Instruction 1(b).

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person * 5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to 2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Bridge Tracy B Issuer Symbol CENTERPOINT ENERGY INC (Check all applicable) [CNP] (Last) (First) (Middle) 3. Date of Earliest Transaction Director 10% Owner Other (specify X_ Officer (give title _ (Month/Day/Year) below) 1111 LOUISIANA 01/19/2012 Sr VP - Div Pres (Street) 4. If Amendment, Date Original 6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Filed(Month/Day/Year) Applicable Line) _X_ Form filed by One Reporting Person Form filed by More than One Reporting

HOUSTON, TX 77002

(Ctata)

(City)	(State) Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owner									
1.Title of	2. Transaction Date		3.	4. Securi			5. Amount of	6. Ownership	7. Nature of	
Security	(Month/Day/Year)	Execution Date, if	TransactionAcquired (A) or Code Disposed of (D)				Securities	Form: Direct	Indirect	
(Instr. 3)		any (Month/Day/Year)	Code (Instr. 8)	(Instr. 3,	`	1	Beneficially Owned Following	(D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4)	Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4)	
			Code V	Amount	(A) or (D)	Price	Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4)			
Common Stock	01/19/2012		A	2,200 (1)	A	<u>(2)</u>	2,200	D		
Common Stock							5,663	I	By Savings Plan (3)	

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

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Person

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Table II - Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned (e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)

1. Title of	2.	3. Transaction Date		4.	5.	6. Date Exer		7. Title a		8. Price of	9. Nu
Derivative	Conversion	(Month/Day/Year)	Execution Date, if		onNumber	Expiration D		Amount		Derivative	Deriv
Security	or Exercise		any	Code	of	(Month/Day/	Year)	Underly	_	Security	Secui
(Instr. 3)	Price of		(Month/Day/Year)	(Instr. 8)	Derivative	e		Securitie	es	(Instr. 5)	Bene
	Derivative				Securities			(Instr. 3	and 4)		Own
	Security				Acquired					Follo	
	,				(A) or						Repo
					Disposed						Trans
					of (D)						(Instr
					(Instr. 3,						(IIISti
					4, and 5)						
								A	mount		
						D.	E	01	r		
						Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title Numb	umber		
				Code V	(A) (D)				hares		

Reporting Owners

Relationships Reporting Owner Name / Address

> Officer Other Director 10% Owner

Bridge Tracy B 1111 LOUISIANA HOUSTON, TX 77002

Sr VP - Div Pres

Signatures

Tracy B. Bridge 01/23/2012 **Signature of Date Reporting Person

Explanation of Responses:

- If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, see Instruction 4(b)(v).
- Intentional misstatements or omissions of facts constitute Federal Criminal Violations. See 18 U.S.C. 1001 and 15 U.S.C. 78ff(a).
- (1) Gross number of shares of time-based stock (with performance goal) awarded for 2009-2011 cycle under Long Term Incentive Plan.
- (2) Price is not applicable.
- (3) Equivalent Shares held in CenterPoint Energy, Inc. Savings Plan as of 01/01/2012.

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, see Instruction 6 for procedure. Potential persons who are to respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB number.

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