



CenterPoint Energy Names Two New Board Members

HOUSTON, TX - December 10, 2002 - CenterPoint Energy, Inc. (NYSE:CNP) announced that two new members, Thomas F. Madison and Michael E. Shannon, have been elected to the company's board of directors effective January 8, 2003.

"We are extremely fortunate to add to our board two new members of such high caliber as Mr. Madison and Mr. Shannon," said CenterPoint Energy President and CEO David M. McClanahan. "We look forward to having their wise counsel as we work through the challenges facing our company and the utility industry in general."

Madison, 66, held a number of significant positions with US West, Inc. and its predecessor companies, retiring as president of US West Communications-Markets in 1992. He later served as vice chairman of Minnesota Mutual Life Insurance Company, chairman of Communications Holdings, Inc., a communications and systems integrations company, and as a director on the CenterPoint Energy Minnegasco Advisory Board. He is currently president and chief executive officer of MLM Partners, a small business consulting and investments company in Minneapolis, Minn. Madison is a graduate of the University of Minnesota with a BS degree in Aeronautical Engineering.

Shannon, 66, served as chairman of the board and chief financial and administrative officer of Ecolab, Inc. (a Fortune 500 specialty chemical company) from 1996 until his retirement in January 2000. Prior to that, he held senior management positions with Ecolab, Inc., Republic Steel and Gulf Oil Corp. He is currently president of MESHannon & Associates, Inc., a Houston company specializing in corporate financial advisory services and investments. Shannon received a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Notre Dame, and an MBA from Stanford University.

Madison and Shannon will join current CenterPoint Energy board members John T. Cater, O. Holcombe Crosswell, Robert J. Cruikshank, T. Milton Honea, David M. McClanahan and board Chairman Milton Carroll.

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