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CENTERPOINT ENERGY INC

Reported by

STANDISH THOMAS R

FORM 4

(Statement of Changes in Beneficial Ownership)

Filed 03/02/12 for the Period Ending 02/29/12

Address	1111 LOUISIANA ST HOUSTON, TX 77002
Telephone	7132073000
CIK	0001130310
Symbol	CNP
SIC Code	4911 - Electric Services
Industry	Electric Utilities
Sector	Utilities
Fiscal Year	12/31

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FORM 4

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

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

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STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF SECURITIES

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, Section 17(a) of the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935 or Section 30(f) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person *	2. Issuer Name **and** Ticker or Trading Symbol	5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable)
STANDISH THOMAS R	**CENTERPOINT ENERGY INC [CNP]**	_____ Director _____ 10% Owner
(Last) (First) (Middle) **1111 LOUISIANA**	3. Date of Earliest Transaction (MM/DD/YYYY) **2/29/2012**	__ **X** __ Officer (give title below) _____ Other (specify below) **Exec VP and Group Pres**
(Street) **HOUSTON, TX 77002** (City) (State) (Zip)	4. If Amendment, Date Original Filed (MM/DD/YYYY)	6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing (Check Applicable Line) _ **X** _ Form filed by One Reporting Person ___ Form filed by More than One Reporting Person

Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned

1.Title of Security (Instr. 3)	2. Trans. Date	2A. Deemed Execution Date, if any	3. Trans. Code (Instr. 8)		4. Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5)			5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4)	6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4)	7. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4)
			Code	V	Amount	(A) or (D)	Price			
Common Stock	**2/29/2012**		**A**		**50965** (1)	**A**	(2)	**205255**	**D**	
Common Stock	**2/29/2012**		**F**		**14902**	**D**	**$19.19**	**190353**	**D**	
Common Stock								**24230**	**I**	**By Savings Plan** (3)
Common Stock								**15705**	**I**	**By Estate** (4)
Common Stock								**1450**	**I**	**By Spouse** (4)

Table II - Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned (*e.g.* , puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)

1. Title of Derivate Security (Instr. 3)	2. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security	3. Trans. Date	3A. Deemed Execution Date, if any	4. Trans. Code (Instr. 8)		5. Number of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5)		6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date		7. Title and Amount of Securities Underlying Derivative Security (Instr. 3 and 4)		8. Price of Derivative Security (Instr. 5)	9. Number of derivative Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction (s) (Instr. 4)	10. Ownership Form of Derivative Security: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4)	11. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4)
				Code	V	(A)	(D)	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of Shares				

Explanation of Responses:

(1) Award of performance shares for 2009-2011 performance cycle.

(2) Price is not applicable.

(3) Equivalent Shares held in CenterPoint Energy, Inc. Savings Plan as of 02/01/2012.

(4) The filing of this Form 4 shall not be deemed an admission that Mr. Standish is, for purposes of Section 16 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, the beneficial owner of such equity securities.

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships			
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other
STANDISH THOMAS R 1111 LOUISIANA HOUSTON, TX 77002			**Exec VP and Group Pres**	

Signatures

Thomas R. Standish **3/2/2012**

** Signature of Reporting Person — Date

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

***** If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, *see* Instruction 4(b)(v).

****** Intentional misstatements or omissions of facts constitute Federal Criminal Violations. *See* 18 U.S.C. 1001 and 15 U.S.C. 78ff(a).

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

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