

CENTERPOINT ENERGY INC

Reported by
VORTHERMS JOSEPH JOHN

FORM 3

(Initial Statement of Beneficial Ownership)

Filed 03/06/17 for the Period Ending 03/01/17

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

INITIAL STATEMENT OF BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF SECURITIES

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person *			2. Date of Event Requiring Statement (MM/DD/YYYY)		3. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol		
Vortherms Joseph John			3/1/2017		CENTERPOINT ENERGY INC [CNP]		
(Last) (First) (Middle)			4. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable)				
1111 LOUISIANA			<input type="checkbox"/> Director <input type="checkbox"/> 10% Owner <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Officer (give title below) <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify below) Senior VP /				
(Street)			5. If Amendment, Date Original Filed (MM/DD/YYYY)		6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing (Check Applicable Line)		
HOUSTON, TX 77002					<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Form filed by One Reporting Person <input type="checkbox"/> Form filed by More than One Reporting Person		
(City) (State) (Zip)							

Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned

1. Title of Security (Instr. 4)	2. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned (Instr. 4)	3. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 5)	4. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 5)
Common Stock	9068 (1)	D	
Common Stock	10219	I	By Savings Plan (2)

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

1. Title of Derivate Security (Instr. 4)	2. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (MM/DD/YYYY)		3. Title and Amount of Securities Underlying Derivative Security (Instr. 4)		4. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security	5. Ownership Form of Derivative Security: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 5)	6. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 5)
	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of Shares			

Explanation of Responses:

(Total includes (i) 3,000 time-based restricted stock units previously awarded under the Issuer's Long-term Incentive Plan and vesting in November 2017, (ii) 1) 940 time-based restricted stock units previously awarded under the Issuer's Long-term Incentive Plan and vesting in February 2018, (iii) 1,775 time-based restricted stock units previously awarded under the Issuer's Long-term Incentive Plan and vesting in February 2019, and (iv) 2,537 time-based restricted stock units previously awarded under the Issuer's Long-term Incentive Plan and vesting in February 2020. Each award shall vest if the Reporting Person continues to be an employee of Issuer from the grant date through the vesting date and on a prorata basis in the event of his earlier retirement, disability or death.

(2) Equivalent shares held in CenterPoint Energy, Inc. Savings Plan.

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships			
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other
Vortherms Joseph John 1111 LOUISIANA HOUSTON, TX 77002			Senior VP	

Signatures

Vincent A. Mercaldi, Attorney-in-Fact

3/6/2017

** 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 5(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.

CENTERPOINT ENERGY, INC.

Power of Attorney

WHEREAS, the undersigned, in his or her capacity as a director or officer or both, as the case may be, of CenterPoint Energy, Inc., a Texas corporation (the "Company"), may be required to file with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "Commission") under Section 16 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, and the rules and regulations promulgated thereunder (collectively, the "Exchange Act"), Forms 3, 4, and 5 or other reports, applications, and documents ("Forms") relating to the undersigned's holdings of and transactions in securities of the Company;

NOW, THEREFORE, the undersigned, in his or her capacity as a director or officer or both, as the case may be, of the Company, does hereby appoint Dana C. O'Brien, Vincent A. Mercaldi, any duly appointed corporate secretary or assistant corporate secretary of the Company, and each of them severally, as his or her true and lawful attorney-in-fact or attorneys-in-fact and agent or agents with power to act with or without the other and with full power of substitution and resubstitution, to execute in his or her name, place and stead, in his or her capacity as a director or officer or both, as the case may be, of the Company, Forms and any and all amendments thereto and any and all instruments necessary or incidental in connection therewith, if any, and to file the same with the Commission and any stock exchange or similar authority. Each said attorney-in-fact and agent shall have full power and authority to do and perform in the name and on behalf of the undersigned in any and all capacities, every act whatsoever necessary or desirable to be done in the premises, as fully and to all intents and purposes as the undersigned might or could do in person, the undersigned hereby ratifying and approving the acts of said attorney. The powers and authority of each said attorney-in-fact and agent herein granted shall remain in full force and effect until the undersigned is no longer required to file Forms under the Exchange Act, unless earlier revoked by the undersigned by giving written notice of such revocation to the Company. The undersigned acknowledges that the said attorneys-in-fact, in serving in such capacity at the request of the undersigned, are not assuming, nor is the Company assuming, any of the undersigned's responsibilities to comply with the Exchange Act.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned has executed this instrument this 1st day of March, 2017.

/s/ Joseph J. Vortherms
Name: *Joseph J. Vortherms*