

STANDISH THOMAS R

Form 4

December 23, 2009

FORM 4**UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549**

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

**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(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

OMB APPROVAL

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(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person *
STANDISH THOMAS R

2. Issuer Name **and** Ticker or Trading
Symbol
CENTERPOINT ENERGY INC
[CNP]

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to
Issuer

(Check all applicable)

(Last) (First) (Middle)

1111 LOUISIANA

(Street)

3. Date of Earliest Transaction
(Month/Day/Year)
12/23/2009

____ Director ____ 10% Owner
____X____ Officer (give title below) ____ Other (specify below)
Sr. VP and Group Pres

HOUSTON, TX 77002

4. If Amendment, Date Original
Filed(Month/Day/Year)

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check
Applicable Line)
____X____ Form filed by One Reporting Person
____ Form filed by More than One Reporting
Person

(City) (State) (Zip)

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

1. Title of Security (Instr. 3)	2. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	2A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year)	3. Transaction 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	12/23/2009		M		21,295	A	\$ 14.0077	126,514	D	
Common Stock	12/23/2009		S		21,295	D	\$ 14.7364	105,219	D	
Common Stock								22,312	I	By Savings Plan ⁽¹⁾
Common Stock								14,267	I	By Estate ⁽²⁾
Common Stock								1,450	I	By Spouse ⁽²⁾

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

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(9-02)

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

1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 3)	2. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security	3. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	3A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year)	4. Transaction 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 (Month/Day/Year)		7. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities (Instr. 3 and 4)			
				Code	V	(A)	(D)	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of Shares
Employee Stock Option (right to buy)	\$ 14.0077	12/23/2009		M		21,295		<u>(3)</u>	02/24/2010	Common Stock	21,295

Reporting Owners

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

Signatures

Thomas R.
Standish 12/23/2009

__Signature of
Reporting Person Date

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) Equivalent Shares held in CenterPoint Energy, Inc. Savings Plan as of 12/01/2009.
- (2) The filing of this Form 4 shall not be deemed an admission that the reporting person is, for purposes of Section 16 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, the beneficial owner of such equity securities.
- (3) Stock options totaling 21,295 vested in three equal installments on February 25, 2001, 2002 and 2003.
- (4) Price is not applicable.

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

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