Harper C Gregory Form 4 February 22, 2012

## FORM 4

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

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF

**SECURITIES** 

**OMB APPROVAL** OMB

3235-0287 Number:

January 31, Expires: 2005

Estimated average burden hours per

5 Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to

response... 0.5

if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5 obligations

Check this box

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 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 \*

| Harper C G                           | 2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol CENTERPOINT ENERGY INC [CNP] |              |      |   |                                  | Issuer  (Check all applicable)  |                     |  |  |                           |  |  |
|--------------------------------------|--|--------------|------|---|----------------------------------|---|---------------------|--|--|---------------------------|--|--|
| (Last)                               | (N   |              |      | Earliest Tr<br>Pay/Year)<br>012         | ansaction                        |   |                     | Director 10% Owner X Officer (give title Other (specify below) Sr. VP & Group Pres.                                |  |                           |  |  |
| HOUSTON                              | 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 |                     |  |  |                           |  |  |
| HOUSTON (City)                       | (State)  | (Zip)        | Tabl | e I - Non-D                             | erivative !                      | Secur   | ities A <i>c</i> a  | Person uired, Disposed of  |  |                           |  |  |
| 1.Title of<br>Security<br>(Instr. 3) | 2. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)                                     | Executio any |      | 3.<br>Transaction<br>Code<br>(Instr. 8) | 4. Securitor(A) or Di (Instr. 3, | ties A  | cquired d of (D) 5) | 5. Amount of<br>Securities<br>Beneficially<br>Owned<br>Following<br>Reported<br>Transaction(s)<br>(Instr. 3 and 4) | 6. Ownership<br>Form: Direct<br>(D) or<br>Indirect (I)<br>(Instr. 4) | 7. Nature of              |  |  |
| Common<br>Stock                      | 02/21/2012   |              |      | F                                       | 2,100<br>(1)                     | D   | \$<br>19.01         | 30,209   | D  |                           |  |  |
| Common<br>Stock                      |  |              |      |   |                                  |   |                     | 1,723  | I  | By<br>Savings<br>Plan (2) |  |  |

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

Persons who respond to the collection of SEC 1474 information contained in this form are not (9-02)required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB control number.

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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 | S                   |                 | (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<br>Exercisable | Expiration Date | Title Number of | umber  |             |         |
|             |             |                     |                    |            |            |                     |                 |                 |        |             |         |
|             |             |                     |                    | Code V     | (A) (D)    |                     |                 |                 | hares  |             |         |

### **Reporting Owners**

Relationships Reporting Owner Name / Address

> Officer Other Director 10% Owner

Harper C Gregory 1111 LOUISIANA HOUSTON, TX 77002

Sr. VP & Group Pres.

### **Signatures**

C. Gregory 02/22/2012 Harper

\*\*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).
- Shares withheld for taxes upon vesting of 2009 award of time based stock with performance goal reported on Form 4 dated January 23, **(1)**
- (2) Equivalent Shares held in CenterPoint Energy, Inc. Savings Plan as of 02/01/2012.

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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