Liu Xia Form 4 April 23, 2019

FORM 4

UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

OMB APPROVAL

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January 31,

2005

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STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF **SECURITIES**

Form 5 obligations may continue. See Instruction

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

1(b).

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person * 5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to 2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Liu Xia Issuer Symbol CENTERPOINT ENERGY INC (Check all applicable) [CNP] (Last) (First) (Middle) 3. Date of Earliest Transaction Director 10% Owner X_ Officer (give title Other (specify (Month/Day/Year) below) 1111 LOUISIANA 04/22/2019 **EVP & Chief Financial Officer** (Street) 4. If Amendment, Date Original 6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Filed(Month/Day/Year) Applicable Line)

HOUSTON, TX 77002

X Form filed by One Reporting Person Form filed by More than One Reporting

(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 on(A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5) | Securities Beneficially Owned | 6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) | Indirect Beneficial Ownership |
|--------------------------------------|---|---|---|---|--|--|-------------------------------------|
| | | | Code V | (A) or Amount (D) Price | Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4) | (Instr. 4) | (Instr. 4) |
| Common Stock | 04/22/2019 | | A | $\frac{35,045}{(1)}$ A \$0 | 35,045 | D | |

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.

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

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| 1. Title of | 2. | 3. Transaction Date | 3A. Deemed | 4. | 5. | 6. Date Exer | cisable and | 7. Title a | and | 8. Price of | 9. Nu |
|-------------|-------------|---------------------|--------------------|------------|------------|-----------------|-------------------|------------|--------|-------------|--------|
| Derivative | Conversion | (Month/Day/Year) | Execution Date, if | Transacti | onNumber | Expiration D | ate | Amount | of | Derivative | Deriv |
| Security | or Exercise | | any | Code | of | (Month/Day | Year) | Underlyi | ing | Security | Secui |
| (Instr. 3) | Price of | | (Month/Day/Year) | (Instr. 8) | Derivativ | e | | Securitie | es | (Instr. 5) | Bene |
| | Derivative | | | | Securities | 3 | | (Instr. 3 | and 4) | | Own |
| | Security | | | | Acquired | | | | | | Follo |
| | | | | | (A) or | | | | | | Repo |
| | | | | | Disposed | | | | | | Trans |
| | | | | | of (D) | | | | | | (Instr |
| | | | | | (Instr. 3, | | | | | | |
| | | | | | 4, and 5) | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | ٨ | mount | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | Date | Date Expiration | or Title Numbe | umber | | | |
| | | | | | | Exercisable | Date | of | | | |
| | | | | Code V | (A) (D) | | | | hares | | |

Reporting Owners

Relationships Reporting Owner Name / Address

> Director 10% Owner Officer Other

Liu Xia 1111 LOUISIANA HOUSTON, TX 77002

EVP & Chief Financial Officer

Signatures

/s/ Vincent A. Mercaldi, 04/23/2019 Attorney-in-Fact

> **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).

Reflects the award of restricted stock units ("RSUs") under the Issuer's Long-Term Incentive Plan (the "Plan"). Includes (i) 12,500 time-based RSUs vesting on the first anniversary of the grant date and (ii) 12,500 time-based RSUs vesting on the second anniversary of

the grant date. Reporting Person must continue to be an employee of Issuer from the grant date through the applicable vesting date. Additionally, includes 10,045 time-based RSUs vesting (a) in February 2022 if the Reporting Person continues to be an employee of Issuer from the grant date through the vesting date; (b) in the event of her earlier disability or death; or (c) on a pro-rata basis upon her earlier retirement unless she satisfies various conditions for full vesting.

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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