

CENTERPOINT ENERGY INC

Form 11-K

June 07, 2010

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**SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549**

**FORM 11-K**

(Mark One)

**ANNUAL REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE  
ACT OF 1934**

**For the Fiscal Year Ended December 31, 2009**

**OR**

**TRANSITION REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE  
ACT OF 1934 [NO FEE REQUIRED]**

**For the transition period from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_**

**Commission file number 1-31447**

A. Full title of the plan and address of the plan, if different from that of the issuer named below:

**CenterPoint Energy Savings Plan**

B. Name of issuer of the securities held pursuant to the plan and the address of its principal executive office:

**CenterPoint Energy, Inc.  
1111 Louisiana Street  
Houston, Texas 77002**

**CENTERPOINT ENERGY SAVINGS PLAN  
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Supplemental Schedule:	
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<u>Signature</u>	
<u>EX-23</u>	
Consent of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm (Exhibit 23)	
<i>Other supplemental schedules required by Section 2520.103-10 of the Department of Labor Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA have been omitted because they are not applicable.</i>	

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**REPORT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM**

CenterPoint Energy Savings Plan

We have audited the accompanying statements of net assets available for benefits of the CenterPoint Energy Savings Plan (Plan) as of December 31, 2009 and 2008, and the related statement of changes in net assets available for benefits for the year ended December 31, 2009. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Plan's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audits.

We conducted our audits in accordance with standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States). Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the net assets available for benefits of the Plan as of December 31, 2009 and 2008, and the changes in net assets available for benefits for the year ended December 31, 2009 in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Our audits were conducted for the purpose of forming an opinion on the basic financial statements taken as a whole. The supplemental schedule of assets (held at end of year) is presented for the purpose of additional analysis and is not a required part of the basic financial statements, but is supplementary information required by the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974. The supplemental schedule is the responsibility of the Plan's management. The supplemental schedule has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in our audit of the basic financial statements and, in our opinion, is fairly stated in all material respects in relation to the basic financial statements taken as a whole.

/s/ McConnell & Jones LLP

Houston, Texas

June 3, 2010

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**CENTERPOINT ENERGY SAVINGS PLAN  
STATEMENTS OF NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS**

	<b>December 31,</b>	
	<b>2009</b>	<b>2008</b>
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Investments, at fair value (see Note 2)	\$ 1,310,695,502	\$ 1,050,017,933
Participant loans	35,664,467	33,813,468
Receivables:		
Participant contributions	1,283,017	1,077,562
Employer contributions	664,151	15,848,402
Dividends and interest	378,636	523,333
Pending investment transactions	55,002	155,975
Total receivables	2,380,806	17,605,272
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>1,348,740,775</b>	<b>1,101,436,673</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
Pending investment transactions	53,811	143,390
Other	323,020	402,234
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>376,831</b>	<b>545,624</b>
<b>NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS AT FAIR VALUE</b>	<b>1,348,363,944</b>	<b>1,100,891,049</b>
Adjustment from fair value to contract value for fully benefit-responsive investment contracts	4,529,567	14,116,225
<b>NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS</b>	<b>\$ 1,352,893,511</b>	<b>\$ 1,115,007,274</b>

See accompanying Notes to Financial Statements.

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**CENTERPOINT ENERGY SAVINGS PLAN  
STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2009**

<b>Investment Income, Net:</b>	
Dividends	\$ 35,047,885
Interest on loans to participants	2,264,644
Net appreciation of investments (see Note 3)	178,570,757
<b>Total Investment Income</b>	<b>215,883,286</b>
<b>Contributions:</b>	
Participant contributions	44,551,618
Employer contributions	31,125,170
Rollover contributions	1,133,437
<b>Total Contributions</b>	<b>76,810,225</b>
<b>Expenses:</b>	
Administrative expenses	2,749,919
Benefit payments	52,057,355
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>54,807,274</b>
<b>CHANGE IN NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS</b>	<b>237,886,237</b>
<b>NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS:</b>	
<b>BEGINNING OF YEAR</b>	<b>1,115,007,274</b>
<b>END OF YEAR</b>	<b>\$ 1,352,893,511</b>

See accompanying Notes to Financial Statements.

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**CENTERPOINT ENERGY SAVINGS PLAN  
Notes to Financial Statements  
December 31, 2009 and 2008**

**1. Description of the Plan**

The following description of the CenterPoint Energy Savings Plan (Plan) provides only general information. Participants (as defined below) should refer to the Plan document for a more complete description of the Plan's provisions. In the case of any discrepancy between this summary and the Plan document, the Plan document will govern.

***(a) General***

The Plan is a defined contribution plan established in accordance with Sections 401(a) and 401(k) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (IRC) and is subject to the provisions of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA). Effective January 1, 2009, the Plan is a safe harbor 401(k) plan under the IRC, which means it is deemed to satisfy certain deferral and contribution testing requirements.

Participants include all employees of CenterPoint Energy, Inc. (Company or CenterPoint Energy) and those subsidiaries and affiliates of the Company that have adopted the Plan except (a) employees covered by a collective bargaining agreement unless such agreement provides for participation in the Plan, (b) leased employees, (c) independent contractors or (d) non-resident aliens who receive no U.S. sourced income (Participants).

***(b) Contributions***

Participants may contribute, on a pre-tax and after-tax basis, up to 50% and 16% of eligible compensation, respectively, not to exceed the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) compensation limit as defined in the Plan. Active Participants age 50 or over may contribute an additional pre-tax contribution not to exceed the IRS limit (\$5,500 for 2009); however, the Company generally does not provide the match on such catch-up contributions, unless a matching contribution is required to meet the safe harbor plan provisions under the IRC. Participants may also contribute amounts representing rollover eligible distributions from other defined benefit or defined contribution plans, IRC Section 403(b) annuity plans, IRC Section 457 governmental plans or conduit Individual Retirement Accounts that have been holding a distribution from a qualified plan. Participants direct their contributions into the various eligible investment options offered by the Plan.

All new employees are automatically enrolled in the Plan to make pre-tax contributions. An employee who has been automatically enrolled is deemed to have elected to defer pre-tax contributions (Automatic Contribution). The initial pre-tax contribution is three percent of the employee's eligible compensation on a payroll period basis. The contribution percentage is increased by an increment of one percent on April 1 in each of the following years in which the Automatic Contribution started, up to six percent of compensation on a payroll period basis.

A notice is provided to all employees who have been automatically enrolled in the Plan (Automatic Enrollment Notice). In general, an employee has 30 days after receiving the Automatic Enrollment Notice to elect not to make any pre-tax contributions or choose a different contribution percentage.

Contributions, including all related employer matching contributions, made under the Automatic Contribution provision of the Plan will be invested in the default investment fund as defined in the Plan. Employees may elect to change the Automatic Contribution percentage and/or direct the contributions to any of the investment options offered under the Plan at any time after the commencement of the Automatic Contribution.

Effective January 1, 2009, the employer matching contribution is 100% of the first six percent of eligible compensation, and the discretionary match has been discontinued. All employer matching contributions are fully vested at all times.

Participants may elect to invest all or a portion of their contributions to the Plan in the Company Common Stock Fund. In addition, Participants may elect to have dividends paid on their investment in Company common stock either reinvested in the Company Common Stock Fund or paid to them in cash, and they can transfer all or part of their investment in the Company Common Stock Fund to the other investment options offered by the Plan. Employer contributions are made in the form of cash and are invested in accordance with Participant elections.

Contributions are subject to certain limitations as set out under the IRC or the limits set forth in the Plan document.



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***(c) Investment Options***

The Plan offers the following investment funds (Funds):

- Company Common Stock Fund
- Large Company Growth Fund
- Large Company Value Fund
- International Equity Fund
- Balanced Fund
- Fixed Income Fund
- Stable Value Fund
- S&P 500 Index Fund
- Small Company Fund
- Vanguard Target Retirement Income Fund
- Vanguard Target Retirement 2050 Fund
- Vanguard Target Retirement 2045 Fund
- Vanguard Target Retirement 2040 Fund
- Vanguard Target Retirement 2035 Fund
- Vanguard Target Retirement 2030 Fund
- Vanguard Target Retirement 2025 Fund
- Vanguard Target Retirement 2020 Fund
- Vanguard Target Retirement 2015 Fund
- Vanguard Target Retirement 2010 Fund
- Vanguard Target Retirement 2005 Fund

Upon enrollment in the Plan, Participants may direct contributions (as permitted), in one percent increments, in any of the investment options. Participants should refer to the Plan prospectus for a detailed description of each Fund.

***(d) Participant Accounts***

Individual accounts are maintained for each Participant. Each Participant's account is credited with the Participant's contributions and with allocations of the Company contributions and Plan earnings. Each Participant's account is also

charged with an allocation of administrative expenses. Allocations are based on Participant account balances. A Participant is entitled to their vested account balance.

***(e) Vesting and Forfeitures***

Participants are immediately 100% vested in all contributions and actual earnings thereon. As a result, there are no forfeitures.

***(f) Participant Loans***

A Participant may borrow against their vested account balance. The maximum amount that a Participant may borrow is the lesser of (a) \$50,000, reduced by the excess, if any, of the highest outstanding balance of loans to the Participant from all plans maintained by the Company or an affiliated entity during the one-year period ending on the day before the date on which such loan is made, over the outstanding balance of loans from the Plan on the date on which such loan is made or (b) 50% of the value of the Participant's vested account balance under the Plan.

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The loans are to be secured by the pledge of a portion of the Participant's right, title and value of the Participant's vested account balance under the Plan as determined immediately after the loans are made. Loans may be repaid over a period of up to five years and are subject to a \$25 origination fee. Effective January 1, 2010, the loan origination fee was increased to \$50. The minimum loan amount is \$500. Interest rates are fixed at the prime rate listed in The Wall Street Journal for the first of each month in which the loan is requested plus one percent. Loan transactions are treated as a transfer to (from) the investment fund from (to) the Participant loans fund.

***(g) Payment of Benefits***

Upon termination, a Participant whose account exceeds \$1,000 may elect, upon written request at any time, to receive a distribution in a single lump sum payment or fixed monthly, quarterly, semi-annual or annual installments over a period of ten years or less. Such distributions are generally paid in the form of cash; however, if the Participant has investments in the Company Common Stock Fund, the Participant may elect to have an in-kind distribution of those funds.

Generally, to the extent a Participant has not requested a distribution by the time he or she reaches age 70 1/2, required minimum distributions will be made consistent with the terms and conditions of the Plan and the requirements of the IRC. Immediate lump sum distributions are made for accounts which do not exceed \$1,000.

A Participant who is under age 59 1/2 may make a withdrawal from amounts attributable to after-tax contributions and, if applicable, rollover contributions in the Plan and associated earnings. A Participant who is under age 59 1/2 and has less than five years of service who withdraws matched after-tax contributions will be suspended from Plan participation for six months. A Participant who is age 59 1/2 or older may make unlimited withdrawals from pre-tax contributions, after-tax contributions, vested portion of prior Plan accounts, rollover account and the associated earnings.

***(h) Administration***

The assets of the Plan are held in trust by The Northern Trust Company (Trustee). Hewitt Associates is the recordkeeper for the Plan. The Benefits Committee of CenterPoint Energy, Inc. (Committee), appointed by the Board of Directors of the Company, is the Plan Administrator (Plan Administrator). The Committee retains an independent investment consultant to provide investment advice with respect to the Funds.

***(i) Termination of the Plan***

Although it has not expressed any intent to do so, the Company may terminate the Plan at any time subject to the provisions of ERISA and must give written notice to the Trustee.

**2. Summary of Accounting Policies**

***(a) Use of Estimates and Basis of Accounting***

The preparation of financial statements under the accrual basis of accounting in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make estimates that affect the financial statements and accompanying notes. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

***(b) Investment Valuation and Income Recognition***

The investments in all Funds of the Plan are reported at fair value. Fair value is the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. Investments are reflected at fair value in the financial statements, except for fully benefit-responsive investment contracts which are stated at contract value. Security transactions are recorded as of the trade date. Interest income is recorded on the accrual basis. Dividends are recorded on the ex-dividend date.

Investment contracts held by a defined contribution plan are required to be reported at fair value; however, contract value is the relevant measurement attributed for that portion of the net assets available for benefits, because it represents the amount Participants would receive if they were to initiate permitted transactions under the terms of the Plan. The Statement of Net Assets Available for Benefits presents the fair value of the investment contracts, as well as the adjustment of the fully



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benefit-responsive contracts from fair value to contract value. The Statement of Changes in Net Assets Available for Benefits is prepared on a contract-value basis.

***(c) Fair Value Measurements***

Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) *Accounting Standards Codification* (ASC) 820, *Fair Value Measurements and Disclosures* establishes a framework for measuring fair value as it relates to financial assets and liabilities and to nonfinancial assets and liabilities measured at fair value on a recurring basis. That framework provides a three-level valuation hierarchy based upon observable and unobservable inputs, with preference given to observable inputs. The three levels of the fair value hierarchy under FASB ASC 820 are described below:

- Level 1    Observable inputs such as quoted prices for identical assets or liabilities;
- Level 2    Observable inputs such as (i) quoted prices for similar assets or liabilities in active markets; (ii) quoted prices for identical or similar assets or liabilities in markets that are not active and do not require significant adjustment based on unobservable inputs; or (iii) valuations based on pricing models, discounted cash flow methodologies or similar techniques where significant inputs (e.g. interest rates, yield curves, etc.) are derived principally from or corroborated by observable market data for substantially the full term of the assets or liabilities; and
- Level 3    Unobservable inputs, including valuations based on pricing models, discounted cash flow methodologies or similar techniques where at least one significant model assumption or inputs is unobservable. Unobservable inputs are used to the extent that observable inputs are not available and reflect the Plan's own assumptions about the assumptions the market participants would use in pricing the assets or liabilities. Unobservable inputs are based on the best information available in the circumstances, which might include the Plan's own data.

Following is a description of the valuation methodologies used for assets measured at fair value:

***Common stocks:*** valued at the closing price reported on the active market in which the individual securities are traded.

***Mutual funds:*** valued at the net asset value of shares held by the Plan at year end. The share value is based on the quoted price at the end of the day on the active market in which the individual mutual funds are traded.

***Common or collective trust funds:*** valued at the net asset value of units held by the Plan at year-end, and generally, include the use of significant observable inputs in determining the unit value.

***Participant loans:*** valued at amortized cost, which approximates fair value.

***Guaranteed investment contract:*** valued at fair value by discounting the related future payments based on current yields of similar instruments with comparable duration considering the credit worthiness of the issuer.

The methods described above may produce a fair value calculation that may not be indicative of net realizable value or reflective of future fair values. Furthermore, while the Plan believes its valuation methods are appropriate and consistent with other market participants, the use of different methodologies or assumptions to determine the fair value of certain financial instruments could result in a different fair value measurement at the reporting date.

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**CENTERPOINT ENERGY SAVINGS PLAN**  
**Notes to Financial Statements**  
**December 31, 2009 and 2008**

The following table sets forth by level, within the fair value hierarchy, the Plan's assets at fair value as of December 31, 2009:

	Assets at Fair Value as of December 31, 2009			Total
	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	
<b>Mutual funds</b>				
Target date retirement funds	\$ 144,803,900	\$	\$	\$ 144,803,900
Fixed income funds	124,020,648			124,020,648
International equity funds	52,325,732			52,325,732
U.S. equity – large cap funds	41,017,291			41,017,291
Balanced funds	27,674,554			27,674,554
Total mutual funds	389,842,125			389,842,125
<b>Common or collective trust funds</b>				
U.S. equity – large cap funds		239,238,429		239,238,429
Stable value funds		196,346,120		196,346,120
Balanced funds		45,686,934		45,686,934
Fixed income funds		43,508,234		43,508,234
Short-term investment funds		25,580,510		25,580,510
International equity funds		20,653,437		20,653,437
U.S. equity – small cap funds		15,861,238		15,861,238
Total common or collective trust funds		586,874,902		586,874,902
<b>Common stocks</b>				
Company stock	309,359,526			309,359,526
U.S. equity – small cap	13,672,509			13,672,509
International equity	271,577			271,577
Total common stocks	323,303,612			323,303,612
<b>Others</b>				
Guaranteed investment contracts			10,674,863	10,674,863
Participant loans			35,664,467	35,664,467
Total others			46,339,330	46,339,330
<b>Total assets at fair value</b>	<b>\$ 713,145,737</b>	<b>\$ 586,874,902</b>	<b>\$ 46,339,330</b>	<b>\$ 1,346,359,969</b>

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**CENTERPOINT ENERGY SAVINGS PLAN**  
**Notes to Financial Statements**  
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The following table sets forth by level, within the fair value hierarchy, the Plan's assets at fair value as of December 31, 2008:

	<b>Assets at Fair Value as of December 31, 2008</b>			
	<b>Level 1</b>	<b>Level 2</b>	<b>Level 3</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Mutual funds</b>				
Fixed income funds	\$ 101,957,177	\$	\$	\$ 101,957,177
Target date retirement funds	95,406,365			95,406,365
International equity funds	39,503,380			39,503,380
U.S. equity – large cap funds	33,203,864			33,203,864
Balanced funds	25,686,244			25,686,244
<b>Total mutual funds</b>	<b>295,757,030</b>			<b>295,757,030</b>
<b>Common or collective trust funds</b>				
Stable value funds		189,766,831		189,766,831
U.S. equity – large cap funds		168,310,108		168,310,108
Fixed income funds		30,311,549		30,311,549
Balanced funds		27,605,185		27,605,185
Short-term investment funds		27,006,902		27,006,902
International equity funds		9,652,634		9,652,634
U.S. equity – small cap funds		9,617,694		9,617,694
<b>Total common or collective trust funds</b>		<b>462,270,903</b>		<b>462,270,903</b>
<b>Common stocks</b>				
Company stock	269,472,045			269,472,045
U.S. equity – small cap	10,553,201			10,553,201
International equity	30,240			30,240
<b>Total common stocks</b>	<b>280,055,486</b>			<b>280,055,486</b>
<b>Others</b>				
Guaranteed investment contracts			11,934,514	11,934,514
Participant loans			33,813,468	33,813,468
<b>Total others</b>			<b>45,747,982</b>	<b>45,747,982</b>
<b>Total assets at fair value</b>	<b>\$ 575,812,516</b>	<b>\$ 462,270,903</b>	<b>\$ 45,747,982</b>	<b>\$ 1,083,831,401</b>

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**CENTERPOINT ENERGY SAVINGS PLAN**  
**Notes to Financial Statements**  
**December 31, 2009 and 2008**

The following table sets forth a summary of changes in the fair value of the Plan's level 3 assets for the year ended December 31, 2009:

	<b>Level 3 Assets</b>		
	<b>Year Ended December 31, 2009</b>		
	<b>Guaranteed Investment Contract</b>	<b>Participant Loans</b>	<b>Total</b>
Balance, beginning of year	\$11,934,514	\$33,813,468	\$45,747,982
Realized gains/(losses)			
Unrealized gains/(losses) relating to instruments still held at the reporting date			
Purchases, sales, issuances, and settlements (net)	(1,259,651)	1,850,999	591,348
Balance, end of year	\$10,674,863	\$35,664,467	\$46,339,330

Gains and losses (realized and unrealized) included in changes in net assets for the period above are reported in net appreciation in fair value of investments in the Statement of Changes in Net Assets Available for Benefits.

**(d) Payment of Benefits**

Benefits are recorded when paid.

**(e) Plan Expenses**

Direct Plan expenses such as trustee, recordkeeping, auditing and investment management fees and certain general administrative expenses are paid from the Plan assets. These expenses are shown as a separate component in the Statement of Changes in Net Assets Available for Plan Benefits. Plan expenses other than the aforementioned items are included as a component of the investment gains and losses. These expenses are reported on the Schedule C of the Form 5500 as indirect compensation.

**3. Investments**

The following presents investments that represent five percent or more of the Plan's net assets available for benefits.

	<b>December 31,</b>	
	<b>2009</b>	<b>2008</b>
Company common stock, 21,320,436 and 21,352,777 shares, respectively	\$309,359,526	\$269,472,045
BlackRock Equity Index Fund, 8,375,870 and 7,058,831 shares, respectively	146,745,246	97,482,463
Dwight Target 2 Fund, 6,531,619 and 6,531,619 shares, respectively	114,764,248	108,741,698
PIMCO Total Return Fund, 9,131,004 and 8,712,912 shares, respectively	98,614,843	88,348,927

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**CENTERPOINT ENERGY SAVINGS PLAN**  
**Notes to Financial Statements**  
**December 31, 2009 and 2008**

As detailed above, the Plan has significant holdings of Company common stock. As a result, the values of the Plan's investments may be materially impacted by the changes in fair value related to this security.

During 2009 the Plan's investments (including gains and losses on investments bought and sold, as well as held during the year) appreciated in value as follows:

Common stocks	\$ 45,675,592
Common or collective trust funds	66,903,042
Mutual funds	65,992,123
 Total investment appreciation	 \$ 178,570,757

**Stable Value Fund**

The Stable Value Fund (Stable Fund) has investments in synthetic guaranteed investment contracts (Synthetic GICs). A Synthetic GIC, also known as a wrap contract, is an investment contract issued by an insurance company or other financial institution, backed by a portfolio of bonds or other fixed income assets that are owned by the Stable Fund. These assets underlying the wrap contract are maintained separate from the contract issuer's general assets, usually by the Stable Fund's trustee or a third party custodian. The contracts are obligated to provide an interest rate not less than zero. These contracts provide that realized and unrealized gains and losses on the underlying assets are not reflected immediately in the net assets of the Stable Fund, but rather are amortized, over the duration of the underlying assets or other agreed upon period, through adjustments to the future interest crediting rates. The issuer guarantees that all qualified participant withdrawals will occur at contract value which represents contributions made under the contract, plus earnings, less withdrawals made under the contract and administrative expenses.

There are no reserves against contract value for credit risk of the contract issuer or otherwise. The crediting rates for Synthetic GICs are reset quarterly and are based on the market value of the underlying portfolio of assets backing these contracts. Inputs used to determine the crediting rate include each contract's portfolio value, current yield to maturity, duration and market value relative to the Synthetic GICs book value.

During 2009 and 2008, the average yields for the Stable Fund were as follows:

	<b>2009</b>	<b>2008</b>
Based on actual earnings	3.57%	5.79%
Based on the interest rate credited to Participants	2.65%	3.73%

Benefit-responsive investment contracts are designed to preserve capital and provide a stable crediting rate. Such contracts provide Participant initiated withdrawals to be paid at contract value. Such contracts provide that withdrawals associated with certain events not in the ordinary course of fund operations may be paid at market rather than contract value. Examples of such circumstances may include significant plan design changes, complete or partial plan terminations, severance programs, early retirement programs, the closing or sale of a subsidiary, bankruptcy of the plan sponsor or the failure of the trust to qualify for exemption from federal income taxes or any required prohibited transaction exemption under ERISA. The Plan Administrator does not believe the occurrence of the above events that would limit the Plan's ability to conduct transactions with Participants at contract value is probable.

Contracts associated with Synthetic GICs are evergreen agreements with termination provisions. Accordingly, such agreements permit the Plan's investment manager or issuer to terminate upon notice at any time at market value and provide for automatic termination of the contract if the book value or the market value of the contract equals zero. The issuer is not excused from paying the excess contract value when the market value equals zero. Contracts that permit the issuer to terminate at market value generally provide portfolio guidelines and transition provisions intended to result in the contract value equaling the market value of the portfolio by such termination date. Non-adherence to the guidelines and provisions may result in the settlement of the contract at market value; however, the Plan

Administrator does not believe the occurrence of these circumstances is probable.

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**Notes to Financial Statements**  
**December 31, 2009 and 2008**

**4. Risks and Uncertainties**

The Plan provides for investments in Company common stock, various mutual funds and other investments. Investments, in general, are exposed to various risks, such as interest rate, credit and overall market volatility risk. Due to the level of risk associated with certain investments, it is reasonably possible that changes in the values of investments will occur in the near term and that such changes could materially affect the amounts reported in the Statements of Net Assets Available for Benefits and Participant account balances. Rates of return will vary, and returns will depend on the market value of the Plan's investments.

**5. Tax Status**

The IRS has determined and informed the Company by letter dated April 2, 2001 that the Plan is qualified and the trust fund established is tax-exempt under the appropriate sections of the IRC. Although the Plan has been amended and restated since receiving the determination letter, the Plan Administrator and the Plan sponsor's counsel believe these amendments have not adversely affected the Plan's qualified status and the related trust's tax-exempt status as of the financial statement date.

**6. Related Party Transactions**

During 2009, the Plan purchased and sold shares of the Company's common stock and units of short-term investment funds managed by the Trustee as temporary investments (party-in-interest transactions) as shown below:

Purchases	
Company common stock	\$ 57,055,539
Northern Trust collective short-term investment fund	308,745,990
Sales	
Company common stock	\$ 59,638,994
Northern Trust collective short-term investment fund	317,984,612

**7. Reconciliation of Financial Statements to Form 5500**

The following is a reconciliation of Net Assets Available for Benefits per the financial statements to Form 5500:

	<b>2009</b>	<b>2008</b>
Net Assets Available for Benefits per the financial statements	\$ 1,352,893,511	\$ 1,115,007,274
Adjustment from contract value to fair value for fully benefit-responsive contracts	(4,529,567)	(14,116,225)
Net Assets Available for Benefits per Form 5500	\$ 1,348,363,944	\$ 1,100,891,049

The following is a reconciliation of the Changes in Net Assets Available for Benefits per the financial statements to Form 5500 for the year ended December 31, 2009:

Increase in Net Assets Available for Benefits per the financial statements	\$ 237,886,237
Adjustment to reverse fair value adjustment for fully benefit-responsive contracts related to prior year	14,116,225
Adjustment from contract value to fair value for fully benefit-responsive contracts	(4,529,567)
Increase in Net Assets Available for Benefits per Form 5500	\$ 247,472,895

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**DECEMBER 31, 2009**

(a) (b) Identity of issue, borrower, lessor or similar party	(c) Description of investment including maturity date, rate of interest, collateral, par or maturity value	(e) Current value
<b>COMMON OR COLLECTIVE TRUSTS</b>		
BLACKROCK	EQUITY INDEX FUND	\$ 146,745,246
BLACKROCK	MSCI ACWI EX US INDEX SUPERFUND	20,653,438
BLACKROCK	RUSSELL 1000 GROWTH FUND	45,539,483
BLACKROCK	RUSSELL 1000 VALUE FUND	37,824,100
BLACKROCK	RUSSELL 2000 INDEX FUND	15,861,239
CAPITAL GUARDIAN	US GROWTH EQUITY MASTER FUND	44,334,440
MELLON BANK	EB DAILY LIQUIDITY AGGREGATE BOND FUND	43,508,234
DWIGHT ASSET MANAGEMENT	CORE INTER FUND	39,426,700
DWIGHT ASSET MANAGEMENT	TARGET 2 FUND	114,764,248
DWIGHT ASSET MANAGEMENT	TARGET 5 FUND	42,155,170
* NORTHERN TRUST	SHORT TERM INVESTMENT FUND	18,830,565
SEI	STABLE ASSET FUND	6,749,947
WELLINGTON CAPITAL	SMALL CAP OPPORTUNITIES FUND	10,482,092
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>		<b>\$ 586,874,902</b>
1ST NIAGARA FINL GROUP INC	COMMON STOCK	\$ 82,069
A123 SYS INC	COMMON STOCK	50,266
ABERCROMBIE & FITCH CO	COMMON STOCK	35,547
ABOVENET INC	COMMON STOCK	91,056
ACCO BRANDS CORP	COMMON STOCK	73,382
ACORDA THERAPEUTICS INC	COMMON STOCK	44,892
AECOM TECHNOLOGY CORP	COMMON STOCK	66,000
DELAWARE		
AFFILIATED MANAGERS GROUP INC	COMMON STOCK	70,044
AGCO CORP	COMMON STOCK	43,982
AIRGAS INC	COMMON STOCK	56,644
ALBANY INTL CORP	COMMON STOCK	85,123
ALBERTO-CULVER CO	COMMON STOCK	54,479
ALEXANDRIA REAL ESTATE	COMMON STOCK	63,969
EQUITIES INC		
ALEXION PHARMACEUTICALS INC	COMMON STOCK	62,001
ALLSCRIPT-MISYS HEALTHCARE	COMMON STOCK	36,009
SOLUTIONS INC		
ALPHA NAT RES INC	COMMON STOCK	58,780
ALTRA HLDGS INC	COMMON STOCK	69,160
AMEDISYS INC	COMMON STOCK	68,955

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AMERICAN SUPERCONDUCTOR CORP	COMMON STOCK	65,031
AMERICAN WTR WKS CO INC	COMMON STOCK	57,818
AMERISAFE INC	COMMON STOCK	52,293
A-POWER ENERGY GENERATION SYSTEMS LTD	COMMON STOCK	53,407
ARENA RES INC	COMMON STOCK	57,781
ARIBA INC	COMMON STOCK	69,110
ARTIO GLOBAL INVS INC	COMMON STOCK	65,254
ARVINMERITOR INC	COMMON STOCK	66,856

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(a) (b) Identity of issue, borrower, lessor or similar party	(c) Description of investment including maturity date, rate of interest, collateral, par or maturity value	(e) Current value
ASCENT MEDIA CORP	COMMON STOCK	65,612
ASHLAND INC	COMMON STOCK	43,582
ASSURED GUARANTY LTD	COMMON STOCK	99,226
ATHEROSMUNICATIONS INC	COMMON STOCK	78,752
ATLAS AIR WORLDWIDE HLDGS INC	COMMON STOCK	104,300
AUXILIUM PHARMACEUTICALS INC	COMMON STOCK	27,881
AVISTA CORP	COMMON STOCK	96,076
B & G FOODS INC	COMMON STOCK	34,884
BANK OF THE OZARKS INC	COMMON STOCK	37,466
BEBE STORES INC	COMMON STOCK	44,141
BECKMAN COULTER INC	COMMON STOCK	34,029
BIOMED RLTY TR INC	COMMON STOCK	103,517
BK HAW CORP	COMMON STOCK	56,472
BOSTON PRIVATE FINL HLDGS INC	COMMON STOCK	70,048
BPZ RESOURCE INC	COMMON STOCK	80,370
BRANDYWINE RLTY TR	COMMON STOCK	113,316
BRIGHAM EXPL CO	COMMON STOCK	44,038
BROADPOINT GLEACHER SECS GROUP INC	COMMON STOCK	22,657
BROCADEMUNICATIONS SYS INC	COMMON STOCK	48,069
BRUKER CORP	COMMON STOCK	41,607
BUCYRUS INTL INC	COMMON STOCK	59,189
CABOT CORP	COMMON STOCK	76,854
CALIFORNIA WTR SVC GROUP	COMMON STOCK	70,326
CARDTRONICS INC	COMMON STOCK	62,878
CASH AMER INVTS INC	COMMON STOCK	139,840
CB RICHARD ELLIS GROUP INC	COMMON STOCK	68,257
* CENTERPOINT ENERGY INC	COMMON STOCK	309,359,526
CENTY ALUM CO	COMMON STOCK	41,608
CHATTEM INC	COMMON STOCK	42,918
CHINA NORTH EAST PETE HLDGS LTD	COMMON STOCK	92,685
CLECO CORP	COMMON STOCK	76,524
CLIFFS NAT RES INC	COMMON STOCK	77,431
COLBS MCKINNON CORP N Y	COMMON STOCK	47,537
COLLECTIVE BRANDS INC	COMMON STOCK	91,308
COMERICA INC	COMMON STOCK	74,221
COML METALS CO	COMMON STOCK	34,900
CONSECO INC	COMMON STOCK	89,100
CONTL AIRL INC	COMMON STOCK	77,414

CORE LAB	COMMON STOCK	74,416
COVANTA HLDG CORP	COMMON STOCK	60,059
CREE INC	COMMON STOCK	88,501
CROWN HLDGS INC	COMMON STOCK	76,996
CYBERSOURCE CORP DEL	COMMON STOCK	79,837

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DCT INDL TR INC	COMMON STOCK	81,926
DECKERS OUTDOOR CORP	COMMON STOCK	73,238
DOMTAR CORP	COMMON STOCK	77,020
DRESS BARN INC	COMMON STOCK	109,494
DTS INC	COMMON STOCK	42,420
DUPONT FABROS TECH INC REIT	COMMON STOCK	115,316
EAST WEST BANCORP INC	COMMON STOCK	71,574
EATON VANCE CORP	COMMON STOCK	95,792
EMULEX CORP	COMMON STOCK	70,632
ENERGEN CORP	COMMON STOCK	69,264
ENERNOC INC	COMMON STOCK	70,201
ENTEGRIS INC	COMMON STOCK	87,331
EQUIFAX INC	COMMON STOCK	70,738
ESTERLINE TECHNOLOGIES CORP	COMMON STOCK	61,970
EVERCORE PARTNERS INC	COMMON STOCK	61,712
EXCO RES INC	COMMON STOCK	56,260
F5 NETWORKS INC	COMMON STOCK	64,636
FAIRCHILD SEMICONDUCTOR INTL INC	COMMON STOCK	76,224
FIDELITY NATL INFORMATION SVCS INC	COMMON STOCK	77,586
FOCUS MEDIA HLDG LTD	COMMON STOCK - ADR	35,029
FUSHI COPPERWELD INC	COMMON STOCK	56,470
GENCO SHIPPING & TRADING LTD	COMMON STOCK	74,749
GENESEE & WYO INC	COMMON STOCK	47,654
GENTIVA HEALTH SVCS INC	COMMON STOCK	58,342
GENWORTH FINL INC	COMMON STOCK	60,836
GLOBAL PMTS INC	COMMON STOCK	59,246
GRAFTECH INTL LTD	COMMON STOCK	52,870
GREEN MTN COFFEE ROASTERS	COMMON STOCK	80,248
GSI COMM INC	COMMON STOCK	78,201
GUESS INC	COMMON STOCK	140,436
GYMBOREE CORP COM	COMMON STOCK	40,011
HANCOCK HLDG CO	COMMON STOCK	80,574
HEADWATERS INC	COMMON STOCK	139,724
HEALTHSOUTH CORP	COMMON STOCK	53,307
HEALTHSPRING INC	COMMON STOCK	82,591
HILLTOP HLDGS INC	COMMON STOCK	45,745
HORSEHEAD HLDG CORP	COMMON STOCK	93,840

HSN INC DEL	COMMON STOCK	85,000
HUMAN GENOME SCIENCES INC	COMMON STOCK	103,428
IMPAX LABORATORIES INC	COMMON STOCK	88,944
ION GEOPHYSICAL CORP	COMMON STOCK	58,608
ITC HLDGS CORP	COMMON STOCK	66,675
JDA SOFTWARE GROUP INC	COMMON STOCK	76,665

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JDS UNIPHASE CORP	COMMON STOCK	104,858
KAISER ALUM CORP	COMMON STOCK	81,991
LAM RESH CORP	COMMON STOCK	133,706
LASALLE HOTEL PPTYS	COMMON STOCK	85,769
LONGTOP FINL TECHNOLOGIES LTD	COMMON STOCK - ADR	52,568
MAGELLAN HLTH SVCS INC	COMMON STOCK	37,064
MDU RES GROUP INC	COMMON STOCK	71,036
MEDICIS PHARMACEUTICAL CORP	COMMON STOCK	76,822
MF GLOBAL LTD	COMMON STOCK	36,001
MF GLOBAL LTD	COMMON STOCK	50,944
MID-AMER APT CMNTYS INC	COMMON STOCK	97,526
MINDRAY MED INTL LTD	COMMON STOCK - ADR	56,986
MLP LAZARD LTD	COMMON STOCK	89,609
MONTPELIER RE HOLDINGS LTD	COMMON STOCK	48,669
MSCI INC	COMMON STOCK	67,416
NATL FINL PARTNERS CORP	COMMON STOCK	30,823
NELNET INC	COMMON STOCK	104,242
NET 1 UEPS TECHNOLOGIES INC	COMMON STOCK	61,950
NET 1 UEPS TECHNOLOGIES INC	COMMON STOCK	71,466
NET SERVICOS DE COMUNICACAO S A	COMMON STOCK - ADR	60,750
NETLOGIC MICROSYSTEMS INC	COMMON STOCK	72,166
NEUTRAL TANDEM INC	COMMON STOCK	50,050
NICOR INC	COMMON STOCK	68,623
NORTHWESTERN CORP	COMMON STOCK	68,693
NUTRI SYS INC	COMMON STOCK	54,859
OPTIONSXPRESS HLDGS INC	COMMON STOCK	2,472
OSI PHARMACEUTICALS INC	COMMON STOCK	25,134
PALM INC	COMMON STOCK	46,284
PAREXEL INTL CORP	COMMON STOCK	28,059
PARTNERRE HLDG LTD	COMMON STOCK	47,782
PENN NATL GAMING INC	COMMON STOCK	47,293
PETRO DEV CORP	COMMON STOCK	70,109
PIER 1 IMPORTS INC	COMMON STOCK	37,717
PMC SIERRA INC	COMMON STOCK	83,482
POLYCOM INC	COMMON STOCK	77,657
PROASSURANCE CORP	COMMON STOCK	63,378
PROSPERITY BANCSHARES INC	COMMON STOCK	65,561
PROSPERITY BANCSHARES INC	COMMON STOCK	112,507

PULTE HOMES INC	COMMON STOCK	79,730
ROBERT HALF INTL INC	COMMON STOCK	58,806
ROCK-TENN CO	COMMON STOCK	49,906
ROCK-TENN CO	COMMON STOCK	52,931
ROCKWOOD HLDGS INC	COMMON STOCK	100,130

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ROSETTA RES INC	COMMON STOCK	108,619
RTI INTL METALS INC	COMMON STOCK	84,320
RYLAND GROUP INC	COMMON STOCK	63,434
SALESFORCE INC	COMMON STOCK	45,000
SCHWEITZER-MAUDUIT INTL INC	COMMON STOCK	92,862
SERVICE CORP INTL	COMMON STOCK	112,285
SHUTTERFLY INC	COMMON STOCK	78,364
SIGNATURE BK NY N Y	COMMON STOCK	131,428
SILVER WHEATON CORP	COMMON STOCK	57,376
SMART BALANCE INC	COMMON STOCK	31,620
STARWOOD HOTELS & RESORTS WORLDWIDE INC	COMMON STOCK	48,638
STIFEL FINL CORP	COMMON STOCK	69,311
STONE ENERGY CORP	COMMON STOCK	74,727
SUCCESSFACTORS INC	COMMON STOCK	15,254
SUPERIOR WELL SVCS INC	COMMON STOCK	53,618
SYBASE INC	COMMON STOCK	79,856
TANGER FACTORY OUTLET CTRS INC	COMMON STOCK	46,788
TENET HEALTHCARE CORP	COMMON STOCK	64,572
TERADYNE INC	COMMON STOCK	108,910
TERADYNE INC	COMMON STOCK	97,321
TEREX CORP	COMMON STOCK	51,110
TERRA INDS INC	COMMON STOCK	57,942
TEXAS ROADHOUSE INC	COMMON STOCK	63,000
THOMPSON CREEK METALS CO INC	COMMON STOCK	46,763
TREEHOUSE FOODS INC	COMMON STOCK	51,684
TRUE RELIGION APPAREL INC	COMMON STOCK	55,655
TUPPERWARE BRANDS CORPORATION	COMMON STOCK	77,306
UNISYS CORP	COMMON STOCK	149,227
UNVL HEALTH SERVICES INC	COMMON STOCK	64,050
URBAN OUTFITTERS INC	COMMON STOCK	118,966
UTD THERAPEUTICS CORP DEL	COMMON STOCK	68,445
VAIL RESORTS INC	COMMON STOCK	75,600
VARIAN SEMICONDUCTOR EQUIPMENT ASSOCS INC	COMMON STOCK	104,662
VCA ANTECH INC	COMMON STOCK	52,083
VERIFONE HLDGS INC	COMMON STOCK	55,364

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VISTAPRINT NV	COMMON STOCK	79,891
WA REAL ESTATE INVT TR	COMMON STOCK	88,987
WADDELL & REED FINL INC	COMMON STOCK	55,277
WATSCO INC	COMMON STOCK	53,878
WEBSTER FNCL CORP WATERBURY CONN	COMMON STOCK	89,500
WELLCARE HLTH PLANS INC	COMMON STOCK	34,187
WHOLE FOODS MKT INC	COMMON STOCK	67,802

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(b) Identity of issue, borrower, lessor or similar party	(c) Description of investment including maturity date, rate of interest, collateral, par or maturity value	(e) Current value
WILSHIRE BANCORP INC	COMMON STOCK	58,149
WMS INDS INC	COMMON STOCK	93,200
WONDER AUTO TECHNOLOGY INC	COMMON STOCK	83,490
WOODWARD GOVERNOR CO	COMMON STOCK	63,652
WOODWARD GOVERNOR CO	COMMON STOCK	38,140
YINGLI GREEN ENERGY HLDG CO LTD	COMMON STOCK - ADR	66,240
ZORAN CORP	COMMON STOCK	90,720
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>		<b>\$ 323,303,612</b>
<b>GUARANTEED INVESTMENT CONTRACTS</b>		
METROPOLITAN	CONTRACT #31832 INTEREST RATE 5.700%	\$ 10,674,862
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>		<b>\$ 10,674,862</b>
<b>MUTUAL FUNDS</b>		
ADVISORS INNER CIRCLE	LSV VALUE EQUITY FUND	\$ 41,017,290
LOOMIS SAYLES	FIXED INCOME FUND	42,849,350
PIMCO	TOTAL RETURN FUND	98,614,843
TEMPLETON INVESTMENTS	INSTITUTIONAL FUNDS FOREIGN EQUITY SERIES	26,460,390
THORNBURG INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT	INTERNATIONAL VALUE FUND	36,096,340
VANGUARD	TARGET RETIREMENT FUND 2005	4,618,980
VANGUARD	TARGET RETIREMENT FUND 2010	2,598,560
VANGUARD	TARGET RETIREMENT FUND 2015	18,975,520
VANGUARD	TARGET RETIREMENT FUND 2020	5,149,260
VANGUARD	TARGET RETIREMENT FUND 2025	28,254,240
VANGUARD	TARGET RETIREMENT FUND 2030	3,179,050
VANGUARD	TARGET RETIREMENT FUND 2035	34,355,180
VANGUARD	TARGET RETIREMENT FUND 2040	6,068,770
VANGUARD	TARGET RETIREMENT FUND 2045	30,965,500
VANGUARD	TARGET RETIREMENT FUND 2050	6,502,330
VANGUARD	TARGET RETIREMENT INCOME FUND	4,136,460
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>		<b>\$ 389,842,123</b>
<b>TOTAL PLAN INVESTMENTS AT FAIR VALUE</b>		<b>\$ 1,310,695,502</b>

CENTERPOINT ENERGY SAVINGS PLAN  
PARTICIPANT LOANS

LOANS ISSUED AT INTEREST RATES BETWEEN  
4.25% - 9.25% WITH VARIOUS MATURITIES

\$ 35,664,467

**\* PARTY-IN-INTEREST**

***HISTORICAL COST INFORMATION IN COLUMN (D) IS NOT PRESENTED SINCE THE INVESTMENTS  
DISPLAYED ARE PARTICIPANT-DIRECTED.***

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**SIGNATURE**

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the trustees (or other persons who administer the Plan) have duly caused this annual report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned thereunto duly authorized.

**CENTERPOINT ENERGY SAVINGS PLAN**

By /s/ Marc Kilbride  
(Marc Kilbride, Chairman of the Benefits  
Committee  
of CenterPoint Energy, Inc., Plan  
Administrator)

June 7, 2010

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