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CENTERPOINT ENERGY INC
Form S-8
November 14, 2002

As filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on November 14, 2002
Registration No. 333-_____

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

FORM S-8
REGISTRATION STATEMENT
Under
THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933

CENTERPOINT ENERGY, INC.
(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

TEXAS
(State or other jurisdiction of
incorporation or organization)

74-0694415
(I.R.S. Employer
Identification No.)

1111 LOUISIANA
HOUSTON, TEXAS
(Address of principal executive offices)

77002
(Zip Code)

CENTERPOINT ENERGY, INC. SAVINGS PLAN
(Full title of the plan)

Rufus S. Scott
Vice President, Deputy General Counsel and Assistant Corporate Secretary
1111 Louisiana
Houston, Texas 77002
(Name and address of agent for service)

Telephone number, including area code, of agent for service: (713) 207-3000

CALCULATION OF REGISTRATION FEE

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| TITLE OF SECURITIES TO BE REGISTERED ----- | AMOUNT TO BE REGISTERED ----- | PROPOSED MAXIMUM OFFERING PRICE PER SHARE (1) ----- | PROPOSED MAXIMUM AGGREGATE OFFERING PRICE (1) ----- |
|--|-------------------------------------|--|--|
| Common Stock, par value \$0.01 per share | 50,000,000 shares | \$6.43 | \$321,500,000 |
| Preferred Stock Purchase Rights(3) | 50,000,000 rights | (4) | (4) |

- (1) Estimated solely for the purpose of calculating the registration fee in accordance with Rule 457(c) of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the "Securities Act"), based upon the average of the high and low prices of the Common Stock of CenterPoint Energy, Inc. as reported on The New York Stock Exchange Composite Tape on November 11, 2002.
- (2) Pursuant to Rule 457(p) of the Securities Act, the registration fee of \$29,578 is offset against the \$2,231,375 registration fee (of which \$16,780 remains) that was previously paid to the Commission relating to 306,456,613 shares of Common Stock previously registered by the registrant pursuant to its Registration Statement on Form S-4 filed with the Commission on September 17, 2001 (Registration No. 333-69502), of which 2,436,404 shares remain unissued.
- (3) Each share of Common Stock to be registered includes one associated Preferred Stock Purchase Right.
- (4) No separate consideration is payable for the Preferred Stock Purchase Rights. Therefore, the registration fee for such securities is included in the registration fee for the Common Stock.

In addition, pursuant to Rule 416(c) under the Securities Act, this Registration Statement also covers an indeterminate amount of interests to be offered or sold pursuant to the CenterPoint Energy, Inc. Savings Plan described herein.

INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT

CenterPoint Energy, Inc. (the "Registrant" or the "Company") is filing this Registration Statement on Form S-8 relating to its common stock, par value \$0.01 per share, and associated rights to purchase its Series A preferred stock, par value \$0.01 per share (such common stock and associated rights are collectively referred to in this Registration Statement as the "Common Stock"), issuable pursuant to the terms of the CenterPoint Energy, Inc. Savings Plan.

PART I

INFORMATION REQUIRED IN THE SECTION 10(a) PROSPECTUS

Note: The document(s) containing the plan information required by Item 1 of Form S-8 and the statement of availability of registrant information and any other information required by Item 2 of Form S-8 will be sent or given to participants as specified by Rule 428 under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the "Securities Act"). In accordance with Rule 428 and the requirements of Part I of Form S-8, such documents are not being filed with the Securities

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and Exchange Commission (the "Commission") either as part of this Registration Statement or as prospectuses or prospectus supplements pursuant to Rule 424 under the Securities Act. The Registrant shall maintain a file of such documents in accordance with the provisions of Rule 428. Upon request, the Registrant shall furnish to the Commission or its staff a copy or copies of all of the documents included in such file.

I-1

PART II

INFORMATION REQUIRED IN THE REGISTRATION STATEMENT

ITEM 3. INCORPORATION OF DOCUMENTS BY REFERENCE.

The Company is treated as a successor to Reliant Energy, Incorporated ("Reliant Energy") for purposes of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended. The following documents filed with the Commission by Reliant Energy (File No. 1-3187) or the Company (File No. 1-31447) pursuant to the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the "Exchange Act"), or as otherwise indicated, are hereby incorporated in this Registration Statement by reference:

- (1) The Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2001;
- (2) The Company's Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q for the quarterly periods ended March 31, 2002 and June 30, 2002;
- (3) Reliant Energy's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2001, as amended by Reliant Energy's Annual Report on Form 10-K/A (Amendment No. 1) for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2001, as filed on July 5, 2002;
- (4) Reliant Energy's Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q for the quarterly periods ended March 31, 2002 and June 30, 2002;
- (5) Reliant Energy's Current Reports on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on January 11, 2002, March 6, 2002, April 8, 2002, July 5, 2002 and July 15, 2002;
- (6) Item 5 of Reliant Energy's Current Reports on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on February 5, 2002, March 15, 2002, April 29, 2002, July 25, 2002 and August 1, 2002;
- (7) The Company's Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on September 3, 2002, which includes a description of the Company's common stock and associated rights to purchase its Series A preferred stock;
- (8) The Company's Current Report on Form 8-K12B filed with the SEC on September 6, 2002;
- (9) The Company's Current Reports on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on September 9, 2002, September 13, 2002, September 24, 2002, October 1, 2002, October 11, 2002 and November 8, 2002; and
- (10) Item 5 of the Company's Current Report on Form 8-K filed with

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the SEC on October 17, 2002.

All documents filed with the Commission by the Company pursuant to sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Exchange Act subsequent to the date hereof and prior to the filing of a post-effective amendment to this Registration Statement which indicates that all securities offered hereby have been sold, or which deregisters all securities then remaining unsold, shall be deemed to be incorporated by reference herein and to be a part hereof from the date of filing of such documents.

Any statement contained herein or incorporated by reference herein shall be deemed to be modified or superseded for purposes of this Registration Statement to the extent that a statement contained herein or in any subsequently filed document which also is or is deemed to be incorporated by reference herein modifies or supersedes such statement. Any statement so modified or superseded shall not be deemed, except as so modified or superseded, to constitute a part of this Registration Statement.

II-1

ITEM 4. DESCRIPTION OF SECURITIES.

Not applicable.

ITEM 5. INTERESTS OF NAMED EXPERTS AND COUNSEL.

Not applicable.

ITEM 6. INDEMNIFICATION OF DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS.

Article 2.02.A.(16) and Article 2.02-1 of the Texas Business Corporation Act and Article V of the Registrant's Amended and Restated Bylaws provide the Registrant with broad powers and authority to indemnify its directors and officers and to purchase and maintain insurance for such purposes. Pursuant to such statutory and Bylaw provisions, the Registrant has purchased insurance against certain costs of indemnification that may be incurred by it and by its officers and directors.

Additionally, Article IX of the Registrant's Amended and Restated Articles of Incorporation provides that a director of the Registrant is not liable to the Registrant for monetary damages for any act or omission in the director's capacity as director, except that Article IX does not eliminate or limit the liability of a director for (i) any breach of such director's duty of loyalty to the Registrant or its shareholders, (ii) any act or omission not in good faith that constitutes a breach of duty of such director to the Registrant or an act or omission that involves intentional misconduct or a knowing violation of law, (iii) a transaction from which such director received an improper benefit, whether or not the benefit resulted from an action taken within the scope of the director's office or (iv) an act or omission for which the liability of a director is expressly provided for by statute.

Article IX also provides that any subsequent amendments to Texas statutes that further limit the liability of directors will inure to the benefit of the directors, without any further action by shareholders. Any repeal or modification of Article IX shall not adversely affect any right of protection of a director of the Registrant existing at the time of the repeal or modification.

See "Item 9. Undertakings" for a description of the Commission's position regarding such indemnification provisions.

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ITEM 7. EXEMPTION FROM REGISTRATION CLAIMED.

Not Applicable.

ITEM 8. EXHIBITS.

The following documents are filed as a part of this Registration Statement or incorporated by reference herein:

| Exhibit Number ----- | Document Description ----- | Report or Registration Statement ----- | SEC File Registrati Number ----- |
|----------------------------|---|--|---|
| 4.1* - | Amended and Restated Articles of Incorporation of CenterPoint Energy, Inc. | Registration Statement on Form S-4 of CenterPoint Energy, Inc. | 333-6950 |
| 4.2* - | Articles of Amendment to the Amended and Restated Articles of Incorporation of CenterPoint Energy, Inc. | Form 10-K of CenterPoint Energy, Inc. for the year ended December 31, 2001 | 1-31447 |

II-2

| Exhibit Number ----- | Document Description ----- | Report or Registration Statement ----- | SEC File Registrati Number ----- |
|----------------------------|--|--|---|
| 4.3* - | Amended and Restated Bylaws of CenterPoint Energy, Inc. | Form 10-K of CenterPoint Energy, Inc. for the year ended December 31, 2001 | 1-31447 |
| 4.4* - | Rights Agreement dated as of January 1, 2002 between CenterPoint Energy, Inc. and JPMorgan Chase Bank, as Rights Agent, | Form 10-K of CenterPoint Energy, Inc. for the year ended December 31, 2001 | 1-31447 |
| 4.5* - | Statement of Resolution Establishing Series of Shares designated Series A Preferred Stock and Form of Rights Certificate | Form 10-K of CenterPoint Energy, Inc. for the year ended December 31, 2001 | 1-31447 |
| 4.6* - | Reliant Energy, Incorporated Savings Plan (as amended and restated effective April 1, 1999) | Form 10-K of Reliant Energy, Incorporated for the year ended December 31, 1999 | 1-3187 |
| 4.7* - | First Amendment to the REI Savings Plan (as amended and restated effective April 1, 1999) effective as of the dates specified herein | Form 10-Q of Reliant Energy, Incorporated for the quarter ended June 30, 2002 | 1-3187 |

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| | | | |
|---------|--|---|--------|
| 4.8* - | Second Amendment to the REI Savings Plan (as amended and restated effective April 1, 1999) effective as of the dates specified herein | Form 10-Q of Reliant Energy, Incorporated for the quarter ended June 30, 2002 | 1-3187 |
| 4.9* - | Third Amendment to the REI Savings Plan (as amended and restated effective April 1, 1999) effective as of the dates specified herein | Form 10-Q of Reliant Energy, Incorporated for the quarter ended June 30, 2002 | 1-3187 |
| 4.10* - | Fourth Amendment to the REI Savings Plan (as amended and restated effective April 1, 1999) effective as of the dates specified herein | Form 10-Q of Reliant Energy, Incorporated for the quarter ended June 30, 2002 | 1-3187 |
| 5.1 - | The registrant undertakes that the Savings Plan and any amendment thereto have been or will be submitted to the Internal Revenue Service ("IRS") in a timely manner and all changes required by the IRS for the Savings Plan to be qualified under Section 401 of the Internal Revenue Code have been or will be made. | | |
| 23.1 - | Consent of Deloitte & Touche LLP | | |
| 24 - | Powers of Attorney (included in the signature page of this registration statement) | | |

* Incorporated herein by reference as indicated.

The use of original issuance securities is not contemplated. If original issuance securities are hereafter offered and sold, an opinion of counsel will be filed by amendment.

II-3

ITEM 9. UNDERTAKINGS.

(a) The undersigned registrant hereby undertakes:

(1) To file, during any period in which offers or sales are being made, a post-effective amendment to this registration statement:

(i) To include any prospectus required by section 10(a)(3) of the Securities Act;

(ii) To reflect in the prospectus any facts or events arising after the effective date of the registration statement (or the most recent post-effective amendment thereof) which, individually or in the aggregate, represent a fundamental change in the information set forth in the registration statement;

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(iii) To include any material information with respect to the plan of distribution not previously disclosed in the registration statement or any material change to such information in the registration statement;

provided, however, that the undertakings set forth in paragraphs (i) and (ii) above do not apply if the information required to be included in a post-effective amendment by those paragraphs is contained in periodic reports filed by the registrant pursuant to Section 13 or Section 15(d) of the Exchange Act that are incorporated by reference in the registration statement.

(2) That, for the purpose of determining any liability under the Securities Act, each such post-effective amendment shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial bona fide offering thereof.

(3) To remove from registration by means of a post-effective amendment any of the securities being registered which remain unsold at the termination of the offering.

(b) The undersigned registrant hereby undertakes that, for purposes of determining any liability under the Securities Act, each filing of the registrant's annual report pursuant to Section 13(a) or Section 15(d) of the Exchange Act (and, where applicable, each filing of an employee benefit plan's annual report pursuant to Section 15(d) of the Exchange Act) that is incorporated by reference in this registration statement shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial bona fide offering thereof.

(c) Insofar as indemnification for liabilities arising under the Securities Act may be permitted to directors, officers and controlling persons of the registrant pursuant to the provisions described under Item 6 above, or otherwise, the registrant has been advised that in the opinion of the Commission such indemnification is against public policy as expressed in the Securities Act and is, therefore, unenforceable. In the event that a claim for indemnification against such liabilities (other than the payment by the registrant of expenses incurred or paid by a director, officer or controlling person of the registrant in the successful defense of any action, suit or proceeding) is asserted by such director, officer or controlling person in connection with the securities being registered, the registrant will, unless in the opinion of its counsel the matter has been settled by controlling precedent, submit to a court of appropriate jurisdiction the question whether such indemnification by it is against public policy as expressed in the Securities Act and will be governed by the final adjudication of such issue.

II-4

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, the Registrant certifies that it has reasonable grounds to believe that it meets all of the requirements for filing on Form S-8 and has duly caused this Registration Statement to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized, in the City of Houston, the State of Texas, on November 13, 2002.

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CENTERPOINT ENERGY, INC.
(Registrant)

By: /s/ David M. McClanahan

David M. McClanahan,
President and Chief Executive Officer

POWER OF ATTORNEY

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS, that each person whose signature appears below constitutes and appoints David M. McClanahan, Scott E. Rozzell and Rufus S. Scott, and each of them severally, his or her true and lawful attorney or attorneys-in-fact and agents, with full power to act with or without the others and with full power of substitution and resubstitution, to execute in his or her name, place and stead, in any and all capacities, any or all amendments (including pre-effective and post-effective amendments) to this Registration Statement and any registration statement for the same offering filed pursuant to Rule 462 under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, and to file the same, with all exhibits thereto, and other documents in connection therewith, with the Securities and Exchange Commission, granting unto said attorneys-in-fact and agents and each of them full power and authority, to do and perform in the name and on behalf of the undersigned, in any and all capacities, each and every act and thing necessary or desirable to be done in and about the premises, to all intents and purposes and as fully as they might or could do in person, hereby ratifying and confirming all that said attorneys-in-fact and agents or their substitutes may lawfully do or cause to be done by virtue hereof.

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, this Registration Statement has been signed by the following persons in the capacities and on the dates indicated.

SIGNATURE

TITLE

/s/ David M. McClanahan

David M. McClanahan

President,
Chief Executive Officer and Director
(Principal Executive Officer)

/s/ Gary L. Whitlock

Gary L. Whitlock

Executive Vice President
and Chief Financial Officer
(Principal Financial Officer)

/s/ James S. Brian

James S. Brian

Senior Vice President and
Chief Accounting Officer
(Principal Accounting Officer)

II-5

/s/ Milton Carroll

Director

Milton Carroll

/s/ John T. Cater

Director

John T. Cater

/s/ O. Holcombe Crosswell

Director

O. Holcombe Crosswell

/s/ Robert J. Cruikshank

Director

Robert J. Cruikshank

/s/ T. Milton Honea

Director

T. Milton Honea

II-6

THE PLAN. Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, the Benefits Committee has duly caused this Registration Statement to be signed on behalf of the CenterPoint Energy, Inc. Savings Plan by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized, in the City of Houston, State of Texas, on November 13, 2002.

CENTERPOINT ENERGY, INC. SAVINGS PLAN

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By: /s/ David M. McClanahan

 David M. McClanahan
 Chairman of the Benefits Committee

II-7

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