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For Immediate Release

Page 1 of 1

CenterPoint Energy's proposed Thunder Pipeline holds open season for firm capacity in Oklahoma

HOUSTON – June 14, 2011 –CenterPoint Energy - [Thunder Pipeline Company, LLC](#) (Thunder), an indirect, wholly-owned intrastate natural gas pipeline subsidiary of CenterPoint Energy, Inc. (NYSE: CNP), announced today the start of a non-binding open season to gauge market interest in an expansion to support western Oklahoma production growth for delivery to markets in Oklahoma, and downstream interconnects with other intrastate and interstate pipelines including those in the Bennington, OK area and CenterPoint Energy Gas Transmission's (CEGT) Line AD.

“We are in a position to deliver incremental supplies to markets and end-users in Oklahoma, and eventually, to the Midwest, Northeast and Southeast from the rapidly developing production areas in western Oklahoma,” said Poe Reed, division senior vice president and chief commercial officer of CenterPoint Energy's Pipelines. “Access to these downstream markets would be provided by our proposed Thunder intrastate pipeline system as well as CEGT's existing pipeline system.”

The specific facilities required will be a function of the location and volume level commitment of potential supply sources and the requested delivery areas. Final pricing determinations will be based on the facility costs, the level of firm commitments and the amount of interest indicated in accessing downstream markets. CenterPoint Energy will consider proposals of any contract term length, but anticipates that long-term commitments will be necessary to complete a project.

Written indications of interest should be received by 4 p.m. central time on July 14, 2011. For questions, please email or call [Bryan Ginsburg](#), senior director of Marketing & Business Development at 713.207.5166.

CenterPoint Energy, Inc., headquartered in Houston, Texas, is a domestic energy delivery company that includes electric transmission & distribution, natural gas distribution, competitive natural gas sales and services, interstate pipelines and field services operations. The company serves more than five million metered customers primarily in Arkansas, Louisiana, Minnesota, Mississippi, Oklahoma, and Texas. Assets total more than \$19 billion. With about 8,800 employees, CenterPoint Energy and its predecessor companies have been in business for more than 135 years. For more information, visit the website at [CenterPointEnergy](#).

This news release includes forward-looking statements. Actual events and results may differ materially from those projected. The statements in this news release regarding future events and other statements that are not historical facts are forward-looking statements. Factors that could affect actual results include the financial performance of CenterPoint Energy, the timing and impact of future regulatory decisions, and other factors discussed in CenterPoint Energy's and its subsidiaries' Form 10-Ks for the period ended December 31, 2010, CenterPoint Energy, Inc.'s and its subsidiaries' Form 10-Qs for the quarterly period ended March 31, 2011, and other filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

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