

2008 CenterPoint Energy
Annual Shareholders Meeting

Remarks by:

Milton Carroll

CenterPoint Energy
Chairman of the Board

April 24, 2008

FINAL

Good morning, ladies and gentlemen.

Slide: Milton
Carroll,
Chairman of
the Board

I'm Milton Carroll, Chairman of the Board of CenterPoint Energy. Welcome to CenterPoint Energy's 2008 Annual Meeting of Shareholders. On behalf of the entire Board and management team, thank you for investing in CenterPoint Energy, and thank you for joining us today.

I hereby officially call this meeting to order.

I would like to begin today by introducing your company's Board of Directors. General biographical information about your board can be found in our Annual Report:

Directors, please stand when I call your name.

Slide: Board
of Directors

Donald R. Campbell. Don has served as a director since 2005. Prior to his retirement, he was a director and Chief Financial Officer of Sanders Morris Harris Group and Vice Chairman of the Board and Chief Financial Officer of Pinnacle Global Group. Don serves on the Audit, Compensation and Governance Committees. He also considers himself to be quite a golfer, just ask him.

Derrill Cody. Derrill joined the Board in 2003. He is of counsel to the law firm of Tomlinson & O'Connell in Oklahoma City. Derrill is the former CEO of Texas Eastern Gas Pipeline Company and brings to our Board a wealth of knowledge and experience regarding the natural gas pipeline industry. Derrill is a member of the Compensation and Governance Committees.

Holcombe Crosswell. Holcombe has been a director of CenterPoint Energy and its predecessor companies since 1997. Holcombe is president of Griggs Corporation, a real estate and investment company in Houston. Back in 1986, Holcombe joined the Entex, Inc. board. The Entex natural gas distribution assets are now part of the CenterPoint Energy's Regulated Operations group. Holcombe serves on the Audit and Finance Committees.

Janiece Longoria. Janiece joined the Board in 2005. She is a partner in the Houston law firm of Ogden, Gibson, Broocks & Longoria. She also recently received the 2008 Sandra Day O'Connor Board Excellence Award which recognizes women lawyers who serve on the boards of public companies and promotes board diversity. The award was well deserved. Janiece has served as a commissioner of the Port of Houston Authority since 2002 and in February of this year, she was appointed by the Governor of Texas to be a member of the University of Texas System Board of Regents.

Unfortunately, this appointment has created a bit of a strain on the Board as Janiece and Derrill, a die-hard University of Oklahoma supporter, argue about whether UT or OU is the better school. Janiece serves on the Audit and Finance Committees.

Thomas F. Madison. Tom has served as a director since 2003. He is President and CEO of MLM Partners, a small business consulting and investments company in Minneapolis. Like Holcombe, Tom was involved with what are now our natural gas distribution operations even before they became a part of the company. Tom served for several years as an advisory director of Minnegasco – what we now refer to as Minnesota Gas and that is also part of our Regulated Operations business group. Tom is the Chairman of the Compensation Committee and is a member of the Governance Committee.

David M. McClanahan. David began his board service in 2002 when CenterPoint Energy was first established as a holding company. David is the company's President and CEO and has worked for the company since 1972. David, didn't you start out as a computer programmer? You've come a long way.

Robert T. O'Connell. Bob was the only new director joining the Board in 2004, and he has been a great addition. Currently, he is a consultant focusing on strategic and business development issues and has had a distinguished career, including previously serving as Chief Financial Officer of General Motors and as Chairman and CEO of General Motors Acceptance Corporation. Bob chairs our Finance Committee and is a member of the Audit Committee.

Michael E. Shannon. Mike joined the Board in 2003. He is President of ME Shannon & Associates, a corporate financial advisory services and investments company in Houston. Until his retirement, he served as Chairman of the Board and Chief Financial and Administrative Officer of Ecolab, a Fortune 500 specialty chemical company. Mike serves very capably as chairman of the Audit Committee and is also a member of the Finance Committee.

Peter S. Wareing. Peter joined the Board in 2005 along with Don and Janiece. With Peter, Janiece and Don all joining the Board, 2005 was a good year. He is co-founder and partner of the private equity firm Wareing, Athon & Company. Peter is a member of the Compensation and Finance Committees.

Sherman M. Wolff. Sherm is our newest director, joining the Board in October of last year. He retired in 2006 as executive vice president and chief operating officer of Health Care Service Corporation. Before that he was that firm's Chief Financial Officer. With his strong operating and financial background, Sherm has been a great addition to the Board and the Audit, Compensation and Finance Committees.

I have served on the Boards of CenterPoint Energy and its predecessor companies since 1992. I am the founder and Chairman of Instrument Products, an oilfield equipment manufacturer in Houston. I serve on the Compensation Committee and am Chairman of the Governance Committee.

Now, I'd like to recognize other former directors and company officers who have joined us this morning:

[Howard Horne , Tom McDade, Others]

I hope I didn't miss anyone. Please accept my apologies if I did.

Your board has been, and continues to be, committed to good corporate governance. The majority of the Board – ten out of eleven directors – are independent. Only David McClanahan, our CEO, is an officer of the company. We encourage all Board members to attend continuing education courses and seminars. These programs cover a wide array of emerging business issues and Board responsibilities. Our directors have been very active in attending these educational opportunities over the past several years.

Your Board currently has four standing committees: Audit, Compensation, Finance and Governance. Each committee is composed entirely of independent directors. The charters of each committee are posted on the company's Web site. These charters give a thorough description of the responsibilities of each committee.

Your Board also continues to focus on the company's strategic direction and remains focused on the company's ethics and compliance program to ensure that we operate with the highest ethical standards. I'm pleased with the company's strong performance and the progress over this past year.

And now here to conduct the business of this meeting, to report on the financial and operating performance of your company and to share with you CenterPoint Energy's accomplishments, is CenterPoint Energy's President and Chief Executive Officer, David McClanahan.