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CenterPoint Energy continues to lead the nation in comprehensive smart grid technology

Company completes project supported by U.S. Department of Energy

HOUSTON – April 8, 2015—More than five years after receiving a \$200 million federal Smart Grid Investment Grant from the U.S. Department of Energy for the acceleration of smart meter deployment and Intelligent Grid (IG) implementation, CenterPoint Energy (NYSE: CNP) continues to lead the nation in electric grid optimization. The company was one of only six utilities awarded the maximum grant amount by the DOE in 2009, with \$150 million used toward smart meter deployment and the remaining \$50 million toward implementation of the IG system.

“CenterPoint Energy continues to be a leader in the implementation of smart grid technology, made possible in part by the Department of Energy,” said Kenny Mercado, senior vice president of Electric Operations for CenterPoint Energy. “Through these advancements in technology, we are able to operate more efficiently, provide better service to customers and improve air quality in our community. This is a large step forward for CenterPoint Energy, and will provide the basis for long term advancements in how we operate our system.”

Consumer benefits

Since beginning the smart meter deployment in 2009, which was completed three years later, and beginning construction of the Intelligent Grid in 2010 on 13 percent of the company’s overhead circuits, CenterPoint Energy has achieved several notable milestones including:

- Executing more than 11 million electronic service orders (e.g. turn on/off service), resulting in:
 - Vehicle fuel savings of more than 1 million gallons
 - Avoidance of more than 9,300 metric tons of CO2 emissions,
- Restoring power to nearly 1.2 million customers without a phone call,
- Avoiding more than 102 million customer outage minutes and
- Improving power reliability by 28 percent when using the IG in 2014 alone.

CenterPoint Energy has installed more than 2.3 million smart meters throughout the company’s 5,000 square-mile service territory, including the greater Houston area. Among the benefits resulting from this technology, more than 400,000 customers enrolled in the company’s new Power Alert Service receive automated alerts by text, email and/or phone call about an outage, including the cause, an estimated restoration time, and confirmation when power has been restored.

With the sensors and automated switches of the IG, which the company plans to extend across its remaining circuits, CenterPoint Energy can more quickly identify and isolate power outage locations.

Recent advancements

Recently, the company rolled out The Advanced Distribution Management System (ADMS), an integrated network of upgraded systems and new software that will be the “brain” of CenterPoint Energy’s IG.

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ADMS will use real-time smart meter and intelligent grid switching device data to better plan, engineer and operate the grid; provide faster, more accurate information on outage types and locations; make dispatching of crews more efficient; reduce outage duration; and improve reliability and customer service.

“The company remains strong in its commitment to deliver valuable benefits to consumers and the environment. That commitment was most recently evident through the implementation of the Advanced Distribution Management System,” said Mercado. “The future of delivering energy presents challenges on many fronts, and CenterPoint Energy has continued to identify and implement sustainable solutions that address those challenges, while delivering safe, reliable and environmentally responsible energy to meet the needs of our customers today and in the future.”

This news release includes forward-looking statements within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. These forward-looking statements are based upon assumptions of management which are believed to be reasonable at the time made and are subject to significant risks and uncertainties. Actual events and results may differ materially from those expressed or implied by these forward-looking statements. Any statements in this news release regarding future events, such as statements regarding future implementation of the intelligent grid system, and any other statements that are not historical facts are forward-looking statements. Each forward-looking statement contained in this news release speaks only as of the date of this release.

CenterPoint Energy, Inc., headquartered in Houston, Texas, is a domestic energy delivery company that includes electric transmission & distribution, natural gas distribution and energy services operations. The company serves more than five million metered customers primarily in Arkansas, Louisiana, Minnesota, Mississippi, Oklahoma, and Texas. The company also owns a 55.4 percent limited partner interest in Enable Midstream Partners, a publicly traded master limited partnership it jointly controls with OGE Energy Corp., which owns, operates and develops natural gas and crude oil infrastructure assets. With more than 7,400 employees, CenterPoint Energy and its predecessor companies have been in business for more than 140 years. For more information, visit the website at www.CenterPointEnergy.com.

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