FORM 4

UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

| lashington, D.C. 20549 |
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STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP

| OMB APPROVAL | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------|-----------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| OMB Number: | 3235-0287 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Estimated average burden | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| hours per response | . 0.5 | | | | | | | | | | | |

Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5 obligations may continue. See Instruction 1(b).

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

| 1. Name and Address of Reporting Person* Donohue Elisabeth B | | | | | 2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol NRG ENERGY, INC. [NRG] | | | | | | | 5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable) | | | | | suer | | |
|--|--|---------|----------|----------|--|---|--|--|---|--|--------------------|--|---|------------------------------------|--|---|---------------------------------|--|---|
| Dononue Elisabeth B | | | | | | | | | _ | , | | | X | Direc | tor | | 10% O | wner | |
| (Last) | (Fir | , | /liddle) | | | 3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year) 02/01/2023 | | | | | | | | | Office below | er (give title | | Other (s below) | specify |
| 40 LA RIVIERE DRIVE, SUITE 300 | | | | | 4. If A | 4. If Amendment, Date of Original Filed (Month/Day/Year) | | | | | | | 6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing (Check Applicable Line) | | | | | | |
| (Street) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | X | | filed by On | e Repo | orting Pers | on |
| BUFFAI | O NY | 7 1 | 4202 | | | Fo | | | | | | | | | Form Perso | m filed by More than One Reporting son | | | |
| (City) | (St | ate) (Z | Zip) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1. Title of Security (Instr. 3) 2. Transact Date (Month/Day) | | | | | Execution Date, | | Date, | 3. Transaction Code (Instr. 8) 4. Securiti Disposed 5) | | | | | , 4 and Securit Benefic | | ties Fo cially (D) I Following (I) | | : Direct Indirect str. 4) | 7. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4) | |
| | | | | | | | | Code | v | Amount | (A) (D) | or P | rice | Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4) | | | | (111311. 4) | |
| Common Stock, par value \$.01 per share 02/01/2 | | | | | 2023 | | | A | | 166 | A | A | \$0 (1) | 0(1) 17,890 | | | D | | |
| Table II - Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned (e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 3) | tive Conversion Date Execution Date, or Exercise (Month/Day/Year) if any | | | on Date, | 4. Transaction Code (Instr. 8) | | of Deriv Secu Acqu (A) o Dispo of (D (Instr | of E | | 6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year) | | 7. Title and Amount of Securities Underlying Derivative Security (Ins 3 and 4) | | str. | Price of erivative ecurity nstr. 5) | 9. Number of derivative Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction (Instr. 4) | y 0 | 10. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4) | Beneficial Ownership t (Instr. 4) |
| | | | | | Code | v | V (A) (D) | | | | Expiration Date | Title Share | | | | | | | |

Explanation of Responses:

1. Represents dividend equivalent rights accrued on the Reporting Person's deferred stock units, which become exercisable proportionately with the deferred stock units to which they relate and may only be settled in NRG common stock. Each dividend equivalent right is the economic equivalent of one share of NRG common stock. Includes 938 dividend equivalent rights.

Christine Zoino, by Power of <u>Attorney</u>

02/03/2023

** Signature of Reporting Person Date

Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially owned directly or indirectly.

- * If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, see Instruction 4 (b)(v).
- ** Intentional misstatements or omissions of facts constitute Federal Criminal Violations See 18 U.S.C. 1001 and 15 U.S.C. 78ff(a).

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, see Instruction 6 for procedure.

Persons who respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB Number.