FORM 4

UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

| Washington, 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

| Name and Address of Reporting Person* Donohue Elisabeth B | | | | | 2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol NRG ENERGY, INC. [NRG] | | | | | | | | | ck all app Direc | tor | ng Pers | 10% O | wner | |
|---|--|---------|---|----------|---|---|---------------|------------------------------|---------------------|--|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|---|--|----------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|---|------------|
| (Last) | (Fir | , | ⁄iiddle) | | | 3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year) 06/01/2021 | | | | | | | | Office below | er (give title | | Other (below) | specify | |
| 40 LA RIVIERE DRIVE, SUITE 300 | | | | | 4. If Amendment, Date of Original Filed (Month/Day/Year) | | | | | | | | 6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing (Check Applicable Line) | | | | | | |
| (Street) BUFFAL | O NY | 7 1 | 4202 | | | | | | | | | | 1 7 | X Form filed by One Reporting Person Form filed by More than One Reporting Person | | | | | |
| (City) | (Sta | ate) (Z | Zip) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | Table | I - Nor | n-Deriva | ative S | Secu | rities | Acq | uired, | Dis | posed of | , or E | Bene | ficial | ly Own | ed | | | |
| 1. Title of Security (Instr. 3) 2. Transact Date (Month/Day | | | | | Execution D | | | 3. Transa Code (8) | | Disposed (| es Acquired (A Of (D) (Instr. 3, | | | Benefic | ies cially Following | Form: | Direct Indirect str. 4) | 7. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4) | |
| | | | | | | | | | | v | Amount | (A) (D) | or F | Price | Transa | action(s) 3 and 4) | | | (11301. 4) |
| Common Stock, par value \$.01 per share 06/01/2 | | | | | /2021 | | | | A | | 5,176(1) |) A : | | \$0 ⁽²⁾ | 10,656(3) | | | D | |
| | | Tal | | | | | | | | | osed of, onvertib | | | | Owne | d | | | |
| 1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 3) | ve Conversion Date or Exercise (Month/Day/Year) if any | | 4. Transaction Code (Instr. 8) | | of Deriv Secu Acqu (A) o Disp of (D | irities uired or osed) r. 3, 4 | Expiration Da | | te | 7. Title and Amount of Securities Underlying Derivative Security (Ins 3 and 4) | | str. | Price of erivative ecurity nstr. 5) | 9. Number derivative Securities Beneficiall Owned Following Reported Transactio (Instr. 4) | y C | 10. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4) | Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4) | | |
| | | | | | Code V | | (A) | (D) | Date Exercisable | | Expiration Date | or Numl of Title Share | | . | | | | | |

Explanation of Responses:

- 1. Represents 5,176 Deferred Stock Units issued to the Reporting Person under NRG Energy, Inc.'s Amended and Restated Long-Term Incentive Plan.
- 2. Each Deferred Stock Unit is equivalent in value to one share of NRG Energy, Inc.'s Common Stock, par value \$.01 per share. The Reporting Person will receive from NRG Energy, Inc. one such share of Common Stock for each Deferred Stock Unit he owns upon termination of his service on NRG Energy, Inc.'s Board of Directors.
- 3. Includes 139 dividend equivalent rights.

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

06/03/2021

** Signature of Reporting Person

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.