

UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

OMB APPROVAL	
OMB Number:	3235-0104
Estimated average burden hours per response:	0.5

INITIAL STATEMENT OF BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF SECURITIES

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* <u>Picarello Emily</u> (Last) (First) (Middle) 804 CARNEGIE CENTER (Street) PRINCETON NJ 08540 (City) (State) (Zip)	2. Date of Event Requiring Statement (Month/Day/Year) 02/24/2022	3. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol <u>NRG ENERGY, INC. [NRG]</u>	
		4. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable) Director 10% Owner <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Officer (give title below) Other (specify below) Vice Pres & Corp Controller	5. If Amendment, Date of Original Filed (Month/Day/Year) 6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing (Check Applicable Line) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Form filed by One Reporting Person <input type="checkbox"/> Form filed by More than One Reporting Person

Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned

1. Title of Security (Instr. 4)	2. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned (Instr. 4)	3. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 5)	4. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 5)
Common Stock, par value \$.01 per share	6,202 ⁽¹⁾	D	

Table II - Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned (e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)

1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 4)	2. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year)		3. Title and Amount of Securities Underlying Derivative Security (Instr. 4)	4. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security	5. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 5)	6. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 5)
	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date				
Phantom Stock	01/02/2023	01/02/2023	Common Stock, par value \$.01 per share	1,347	(2)	D
Phantom Stock	01/02/2024	01/02/2024	Common Stock, par value \$.01 per share	696	(2)	D

Explanation of Responses:

1. Includes 5,327 Restricted Stock Units ("RSUs") issued by NRG Energy, Inc. under NRG Energy, Inc.'s Amended and Restated Long Term Incentive Plan. Each RSU is equivalent in value to one share of NRG's Common Stock, par value \$.01. Upon vesting of the RSUs, the Reporting Person will receive from NRG the following: 1,773 shares issued on January 2, 2023, 1,774 shares issued on January 2, 2024, and 1,780 shares issued on January 2, 2025. The Reporting Person will also accrue Dividend Equivalent Rights ("DERs") on the RSUs to which they relate that can only be settled in NRG common stock. Each DER is the economic equivalent to one share of NRG common stock. Includes 48 DERs.

2. Each share of phantom stock is the economic equivalent to one share of NRG Energy, Inc. common stock and can only be settled in cash.

Remarks:

ex24picarello.pdf

Christine Zoino, by Power of Attorney. 03/07/2022

** 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 5 (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.