Instruction 1(b).

FORM 4

## UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

| Washington, | D.C. 20549 |  |
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STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5 obligations may continue. See

## OMB APPROVAL 3235-0287 Estimated average burden hours per response: 0.5

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*     Curci Brian |  |  |              |                                |  | 2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol NRG ENERGY, INC. [ NRG ] |  |  |                                 |                    |  |                          |        |   | ck all app<br>Direc  | licable)  |   | rson(s) to Is<br>10% O<br>Other (:                                | wner      |
|---|--|--|--------------|--------------------------------|--|--|--|--|---------------------------------|--------------------|--|--------------------------|--------|---|--|---|---|---|-----------|
| (Last)<br>804 CAF                                     | (Fi<br>RNEGIE CI   | ,  | Middle)      |                                |  | 3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year) 11/01/2021          |  |  |                                 |                    |  |                          |        | X   | belov  | below)  Exec VP & G   |   | below)  | ` '       |
| (Street) PRINCE (City)                                |  |  | 8540<br>Zip) |                                | 4. If A  | 4. If Amendment, Date of Original Filed (Month/Day/Year)             |  |  |                                 |                    |  |                          |        | 6. Ind<br>Line)                                 |  |   |   |   |           |
|   |  | Table  | I - Nor      | n-Deriva                       | tive S   | Secu   | rities   | Acq  | uired,                          | Dis                | posed of   | , or E                   | Bene   | ficiall   | y Own  | ed  |   |   |           |
| Date  |  |  |              | 2. Transa<br>Date<br>(Month/Da |  | Exe<br>if ar   | Deemed<br>ecution Date,<br>ny<br>onth/Day/Year)        |  | 3. 4. Securitie Disposed (5) 5) |                    |  |                          |        | 5. Amo<br>Securit<br>Benefic<br>Owned<br>Report | ties<br>cially<br>Following  | 6. Ownership<br>Form: Direct<br>(D) or Indirect<br>(I) (Instr. 4) |   | 7. Nature<br>of Indirect<br>Beneficial<br>Ownership<br>(Instr. 4) |           |
|   |  |  |              |                                |  |  |  |  | Code                            | v                  | Amount   | (A)<br>(D)               | or     | Price   | Transa   | action(s)<br>3 and 4)   |   |   | (11301.4) |
| Common  | on Stock, par value \$.01 per share 1  |  | 11/01/       | 2021                           |  |  | A  |  | 100                             | A                  | 1  | \$0 <sup>(1)</sup>       | 39     | ,990 <sup>(2)</sup>                             |  | D   |   |   |           |
|   | Table II - Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned (e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities) |  |              |                                |  |  |  |  |                                 |                    |  |                          |        |   |  |   |   |   |           |
| 1. Title of<br>Derivative<br>Security<br>(Instr. 3)   | 2.<br>Conversion<br>or Exercise<br>Price of<br>Derivative<br>Security  | onversion Exercise (Month/Day/Year) Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year) Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year) 8) |              | Transa<br>Code (               | 5. Number of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5) |  | vative<br>irities<br>ired<br>r<br>osed<br>)<br>r. 3, 4 | 6. Date Exercisable and<br>Expiration Date<br>(Month/Day/Year) |                                 |                    | 7. Title and<br>Amount of<br>Securities<br>Underlying<br>Derivative<br>Security (Insti<br>3 and 4) |                          | Se (Ir | Price of<br>erivative<br>ecurity<br>estr. 5)    | 9. Number<br>derivative<br>Securities<br>Beneficiall<br>Owned<br>Following<br>Reported<br>Transactio<br>(Instr. 4) | у   | Ownership<br>Form:<br>Direct (D)<br>or Indirect<br>(I) (Instr. 4) | Beneficial<br>Ownership<br>(Instr. 4)                             |           |
|   |  |  | Code V       |                                | v  | (A)  | (D)  | Date<br>Exercisable  |                                 | Expiration<br>Date | Title  | or<br>Num<br>of<br>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.
- 2. Includes 541 dividend equivalent rights.

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

11/03/2021

\*\* 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.