FORM 4

Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5 obligations may continue. See

## UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

| Washington, | D.C. 20549 |  |
|-------------|------------|--|
|-------------|------------|--|

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP

|  | OMB APP   | ROVAL |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|--|---|-------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
|  | OMB Number: 3235-0287<br>Estimated average burden |       |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |   |       |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | hours per response                                | . 05  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

| Instruction 1(b).  |                  |                                   | Filed p  |   | nt to Section 16(a) of<br>ction 30(h) of the Inv   |      |     |   |   | 34  | Hours                              | рег гезропзе.  | 0.5           |  |
|--|------------------|-----------------------------------|--|---|--|------|-----|---|---|---|------------------------------------|----------------|---------------|--|
| 1. Name and Address of Reporting Person*  COBEN LAWRENCE S                       |                  |                                   | 2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol NRG ENERGY, INC. [ NRG ] |   |  |      |     |   |   | ationship of Reportir<br>k all applicable)<br>Director      | ng Person(s) to<br>10% C           |                |               |  |
| (Last)<br>804 CARNEGI  | (First) E CENTER | (Middle)                          |  | 3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year) 02/01/2022 |  |      |     |   |   |   | Officer (give title below)         | Other<br>below | (specify<br>) |  |
|  |                  |                                   |  | 4. If Amendment, Date of Original Filed (Month/Day/Year)    |  |      |     |   |   | 6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing (Check Applicable Line) |                                    |                |               |  |
| (Street) PRINCETON   | NJ               | 08540                             |  |   |  |      |     |   |   | X   | Form filed by On                   |                |               |  |
| (City)   | (State)          | (Zip)                             |  |   |  |      |     |   |   |   | Person                             |                |               |  |
| Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned |                  |                                   |  |   |  |      |     |   |   |   |                                    |                |               |  |
| Date   |                  | 2. Transact<br>Date<br>(Month/Day | Execution Date,  |   | 3. 4. Securities Acquired ( Transaction Code (Instr. 8)  4. Securities Acquired ( Disposed Of (D) (Instr. 3)  5) |      |     | 5. Amount of<br>Securities<br>Beneficially<br>Owned Following<br>Reported | 6. Ownership<br>Form: Direct<br>(D) or Indirect<br>(I) (Instr. 4) | 7. Nature<br>of Indirect<br>Beneficial<br>Ownership         |                                    |                |               |  |
|  |                  |                                   |  |   |  | Code | v   | Amount  | (A) or<br>(D)   | Price   | Transaction(s)<br>(Instr. 3 and 4) |                | (Instr. 4)    |  |
| Common Stock, par value \$.01 per share 0  |                  | 02/01/2                           | .022   |   | A  |      | 704 | A   | <b>\$0</b> <sup>(1)</sup>   | 126,860 <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 | 3. Transaction<br>Date<br>(Month/Day/Year) | 3A. Deemed<br>Execution Date,<br>if any<br>(Month/Day/Year) | 4.<br>Transa<br>Code (<br>8) |   | of  |     | 6. Date Exerc<br>Expiration Da<br>(Month/Day/\ | 7. Title and<br>Amount of<br>Securities<br>Underlying<br>Derivative<br>Security (Instr.<br>3 and 4) |       | 8. Price of<br>Derivative<br>Security<br>(Instr. 5) | 9. Number of<br>derivative<br>Securities<br>Beneficially<br>Owned<br>Following<br>Reported<br>Transaction(s)<br>(Instr. 4) | 10.<br>Ownership<br>Form:<br>Direct (D)<br>or Indirect<br>(I) (Instr. 4) | 11. Nature<br>of Indirect<br>Beneficial<br>Ownership<br>(Instr. 4) |  |
|---|---|--|---|------------------------------|---|-----|-----|--|---|-------|---|--|--|--|--|
|   |   |  |   | Code                         | v | (A) | (D) | Date<br>Exercisable                            | Expiration<br>Date  | Title | Amount<br>or<br>Number<br>of<br>Shares              |  |  |  |  |

## **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 7,314 dividend equivalent rights

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

02/03/2022

\*\* 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 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.