

Gutierrez Mauricio
 Form 4
 January 05, 2012

FORM 4

**UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
 Washington, D.C. 20549**

OMB APPROVAL

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STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF SECURITIES

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, Section 17(a) of the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935 or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person *
 Gutierrez Mauricio

(Last) (First) (Middle)
 NRG ENERGY, INC., 211
 CARNEGIE CENTER
 (Street)

PRINCETON, NJ 08540

(City) (State) (Zip)

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol
 NRG ENERGY, INC. [NRG]

3. Date of Earliest Transaction
 (Month/Day/Year)
 01/03/2012

4. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year)

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

(Check all applicable)

____ Director _____ 10% Owner
 Officer (give title below) _____ Other (specify below)
 Exec VP & Chief Operating Ofc

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line)
 Form filed by One Reporting Person
 Form filed by More than One Reporting Person

Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned

| 1. Title of Security (Instr. 3) | 2. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year) | 2A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year) | 3. Transaction Code (Instr. 8) | 4. Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5) | 5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4) | 6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4) | 7. Nature of Ownership (Instr. 4) |
|---|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|---|--|-----------------------------------|
| | | | Code | V | Amount | (D) | Price |
| Common Stock, par value \$.01 per share | 01/03/2012 | | A | | 20,700 (1) | A | (2) 125,695 |
| | | | | | | D | |

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

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 (9-02)

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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) | 2. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security | 3. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year) | 3A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year) | 4. Transaction Code (Instr. 8) | 5. Number of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5) | 6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year) | 7. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities (Instr. 3 and 4) | | | | |
|--|--|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|--|---|------------------|-----------------|---|----------------------------|
| | | | | Code | V | (A) | (D) | Date Exercisable | Expiration Date | Title | Amount or Number of Shares |
| Market Stock Units | (3) | 01/03/2012 | | A | 34,500 | 01/03/2015 | 01/03/2015 | | | Common Stock, par value \$.01 per share | 69,000 (4) |

Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address | Relationships | | | |
|--|---------------|-----------|-------------------------------|-------|
| | Director | 10% Owner | Officer | Other |
| Gutierrez Mauricio NRG ENERGY, INC. 211 CARNEGIE CENTER PRINCETON, NJ 08540 | | | Exec VP & Chief Operating Ofc | |

Signatures

/s/ Mauricio Gutierrez 01/05/2012

**Signature of Reporting Person Date

Explanation of Responses:

- * 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).
- (1) Represents Restricted Stock Units issued to the Reporting Person under NRG Energy, Inc.'s Long Term Incentive Plan ("LTIP").
- (2) Each RSU is equivalent in value to one share of NRG's Common Stock, par value \$.01. The Reporting Person will receive from NRG one such share of Common Stock for each RSU on January 3, 2015.
The Reporting Person was issued 34,500 Market Stock Units ("MSUs") by NRG under the LTIP on January 3, 2012. The MSUs will convert to shares of NRG Common Stock on January 3, 2015 only in the event the Company has achieved a certain level of total shareholder return. Total shareholder return will consist of the average of the closing price of NRG's Common Stock on January 3, 2015 and the nineteen preceding trading days and any dividends paid since the grant date as determined by the Compensation Committee.
- (3) The Reporting Person will receive a maximum of 69,000 shares of Common Stock if the Company has achieved a 100% increase in total shareholder return since the grant date (the "Maximum"); 34,500 shares of Common Stock if there is no change in total shareholder return since the grant date (the "Target"); or 17,250 shares of Common Stock if there is a 50% decrease in total shareholder return since the grant date (the "Threshold"). The Reporting Person will not receive any shares of Common Stock if total shareholder return has decreased

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by more than 50% since the grant date. The number of shares of Common Stock that the Reporting Person may receive is interpolated for total shareholder return falling between Threshold, Target, and Maximum levels.

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, *see* Instruction 6 for procedure. Potential persons who are to respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB number.