

Takeaways from Vectren/CenterPoint merger

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A new era at Vectren started this week with the company's merger into CenterPoint Energy of Houston.

CenterPoint Energy CEO Scott Prochazka, Vice President of Natural Gas Distribution Scott Doyle and Vectren Director of Corporate Communications Natalie Hedde sat down with Courier & Press editors and reporters Tuesday to answer questions about the newly combined company.

Doyle is the company's senior Evansville-based executive.

Some takeaways from that conversation:

Layoffs are complete

Employment separations that took place in Evansville and other company locations on Friday are over. In total, there were about 300 layoffs across the newly combined company.

Officials declined to specify how many were in Evansville.

"The most obvious space where there was duplication was at the corporate level," Prochazka said. "Since we have, on the CenterPoint side, very similar business at least in the gas area to what Vectren had, there were some redundancies when you look at a unified busi-



Scott M. Prochazka



Scott Doyle

ness. There were less redundancies when you look at the electric, fully integrated business that is here in Evansville versus the business down in the Houston area. There was very little duplication there."

No major change for customers

The Vectren name isn't going away soon. The utility locally will be known as Vectren, a CenterPoint Company. That's the title that will start appearing on your bill.

But aside from a different logo, and perhaps a mailing or two, Vectren cus-

tomers will see nothing new, they said.

"They should see no change in their service, no change in who they call if they have an issue, no change in terms of how we respond to needs in the community," Prochazka said.

Power generation 'mix' seen

In 2019, Vectren is to produce an updated Integrated Resource Plan, which is a long-term outlook for power generation that's filed with the state.

That is a public process that will happen on a schedule yet to be announced.

Company officials, though, said they continue to pursue approval for a large

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