

SECURITIES & EXCHANGE COMMISSION EDGAR FILING

Vertex Energy Inc.

Form: 4

Date Filed: 2019-05-24

Corporate Issuer CIK: 890447

FORM 4

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

OMB APPROVAL

OMB Number: 3235-0287
Estimated average burden hours
per response... 0.5

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longer subject to Section
16. Form 4 or Form 5
obligations may continue.
See Instruction 1(b).

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN 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

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person Stratton Christopher Allen			2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol Vertex Energy Inc. [VTNR]			5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Director <input type="checkbox"/> Officer (give title below) <input type="checkbox"/> 10% Owner <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify below)		
(Last) (First) (Middle) 1331 GEMINI STREET, SUITE 250			3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year) 05/20/2019					
(Street) HOUSTON, TX 77058			4. If Amendment, Date 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		
(City) (State) (Zip)			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 Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4)
Common Stock	05/13/2019		M ⁽¹⁾		5,000 A	\$ 0.45 5,000	D	
Common Stock	05/13/2019		F ⁽¹⁾		1,442 D	\$ 1.56 3,558	D	

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

	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 control number.	SEC 1474 (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)	8. Price of Derivative Security (Instr. 5)	9. Number of Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 4)	10. Ownership Form of Derivative Security: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4)	11. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4)
				Code V (A) (D)		Date Exercisable Expiration Date	Title Amount or Number of Shares				
Stock Option ⁽²⁾	\$ 0.45	05/13/2019		M ⁽¹⁾	5,000	07/15/2010 07/15/2019	Common Stock 5,000	⁽³⁾	20,000	D	
Stock Option ⁽²⁾	\$ 1.45	05/20/2019		A	15,000	05/20/2020 05/20/2029	Common Stock 15,000	⁽³⁾	15,000	D	
Stock Option ⁽²⁾	\$ 1.45	05/20/2019		A	15,000	05/20/2021 05/20/2029	Common Stock 15,000	⁽³⁾	15,000	D	
Stock Option ⁽²⁾	\$ 1.45	05/20/2019		A	15,000	05/20/2022 05/20/2029	Common Stock 15,000	⁽³⁾	15,000	D	
Stock Option ⁽²⁾	\$ 1.45	05/20/2019		A	15,000	05/20/2023 05/20/2029	Common Stock 15,000	⁽³⁾	15,000	D	

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships			
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other
Stratton Christopher Allen 1331 GEMINI STREET SUITE 250 HOUSTON, TX 77058	X			

Signatures

/s/ Christopher Allen Stratton	05/24/2019
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).

Represents a "net exercise" of outstanding stock options. The reporting person received 3,558 shares of common stock upon the net exercise of options to purchase 5,000 shares of common stock.

(1) The Company withheld 1,442 shares of common stock underlying the portion of the option exercised for payment of the exercise price, using the fair market value on May 13, 2019, of \$1.56, pursuant to the terms of the Registrant's 2009 Stock Incentive Plan. Exempt from Section 16 under Rule 16b-3. Small acquisition under Rule 16a-6.

(3) Granted in consideration for services rendered and to be rendered as a member of the board of directors.

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, see Instruction 6 for procedure.

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