

CARTER STEPHEN M  
Form 4  
January 30, 2006

**FORM 4**

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

Check this box  
if no 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,  
Section 17(a) of the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935 or Section  
30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

## OMB APPROVAL

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(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person \*  
CARTER STEPHEN M

(Last) (First) (Middle)

P.O. BOX 5000

(Street)

PINEVILLE, LA 71361-5000

(City) (State) (Zip)

2. Issuer Name **and** Ticker or Trading  
Symbol  
CLECO CORP [CNL]

3. Date of Earliest Transaction  
(Month/Day/Year)  
01/27/2006

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

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to  
Issuer

(Check all applicable)

\_\_\_\_ Director \_\_\_\_ 10% Owner  
\_\_\_\_X\_\_\_\_ Officer (give title \_\_\_\_ Other (specify  
below) below)  
Vice President

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check  
Applicable Line)  
\_\_\_\_X\_\_\_\_ 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<br>Security<br>(Instr. 3)          | 2. Transaction Date<br>(Month/Day/Year) | 2A. Deemed<br>Execution Date, if<br>any<br>(Month/Day/Year) | 3. Transaction<br>Code<br>(Instr. 8) | 4. Securities Acquired<br>(A) or Disposed of (D)<br>(Instr. 3, 4 and 5) | 5. Amount of<br>Securities<br>Beneficially<br>Owned<br>Following<br>Reported<br>Transaction(s)<br>(Instr. 3 and 4) | 6. Ownership<br>Form:<br>Direct (D)<br>or Indirect<br>(I)<br>(Instr. 4) | 7. Nature of<br>Indirect<br>Beneficial<br>Ownership<br>(Instr. 4) |
|------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Common<br>Stock, \$1 par                       | 12/31/2005                              |                                                             | J <sup>(1)</sup>                     | 46.8961 A <u>(2)</u>                                                    | 9,629.7705                                                                                                         | D                                                                       |                                                                   |
| Convertible<br>Preferred,<br>Series of<br>1991 | 12/31/2005                              |                                                             | J <sup>(3)</sup>                     | 58.1017 A <u>(4)</u>                                                    | 504.3458                                                                                                           | I                                                                       | ESOP                                                              |
| Common<br>Stock, \$1 par                       | 01/27/2006                              |                                                             | A <sup>(5)</sup>                     | 998 A \$ 0                                                              | 10,627.7705                                                                                                        | D                                                                       |                                                                   |
| Common<br>Stock, \$1 par                       | 01/27/2006                              |                                                             | A <sup>(6)</sup>                     | 2,019 A \$ 0                                                            | 12,646.7705                                                                                                        | D                                                                       |                                                                   |

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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)

**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. Conversion<br>or Exercise<br>Price of<br>Derivative<br>Security | 3. Transaction Date<br>(Month/Day/Year) | 3A. Deemed<br>Execution Date, if<br>any<br>(Month/Day/Year) | 4. Transaction<br>Code<br>(Instr. 8) | 5. Number<br>of<br>Derivative<br>Securities<br>Acquired<br>(A) or<br>Disposed<br>of (D)<br>(Instr. 3,<br>4, and 5) | 6. Date Exercisable and<br>Expiration Date<br>(Month/Day/Year) | 7. Title and<br>Amount of<br>Underlying<br>Securities<br>(Instr. 3 and 4) | 8. Price of<br>Derivative<br>Security<br>(Instr. 5) | 9. Number<br>of<br>Derivative<br>Securities<br>Beneficially<br>Owned<br>Following<br>Reported<br>Transaction<br>(Instr. 6) |
|-----------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                     |                                                                    |                                         |                                                             | Code                                 | V (A) (D)                                                                                                          | Date<br>Exercisable                                            | Expiration<br>Date                                                        | Title                                               | Amount<br>or<br>Number<br>of<br>Shares                                                                                     |

## Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address                                | Relationships |           |                |       |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|-----------|----------------|-------|
|                                                               | Director      | 10% Owner | Officer        | Other |
| CARTER STEPHEN M<br>P.O. BOX 5000<br>PINEVILLE, LA 71361-5000 |               |           | Vice President |       |

## Signatures

Judy P. Miller, Atty-in-Fact for Stephen M.  
Carter 01/30/2006

\_\_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) Contributions and/or reinvestment of dividends under the Company's 401(k) plan during 2005.

(2) \$20.85 - \$23.58

(3) Allocation of shares under the Company's ESOP.

(4) \$200.16 - \$226.37

(5) Shares acquired under the Company's 2000 Long-Term Incentive Compensation Plan as the result of the Company's above-target performance during the three-year period ending December 31, 2005.

(6)

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Performance shares granted under the Company's 2000 Long-Term Incentive Compensation Plan. Shares are subject to forfeiture, in whole or in part, based on the Company's performance during a three-year period beginning January 1, 2006 and ending December 31, 2008. For the 2006 - 2008 performance cycle, the Compensation Committee has established total shareholder return (defined as the Company's common stock price appreciation plus dividends paid during the performance cycle) compared to the S&P Small and MidCap Electric Utilities Index as the performance goal. Dividends will be accrued quarterly during the performance cycle, are subject to forfeiture in whole or in part, and will be paid only after the final determination of performance and in proportion to the target shares.

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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