

| OMB APPROVAL                                 |           |
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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**

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

|  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| 1. Name and Address of Reporting Person*<br><u>PIGOTT M. JASON</u><br><br>(Last) (First) (Middle)<br>521 E. 2ND STREET, SUITE 1000<br><br>(Street)<br>TULSA OK 74120<br><br>(City) (State) (Zip)   | 2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol<br><u>Vital Energy, Inc. [ VTLE ]</u> | 5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer<br>(Check all applicable)<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Director 10% Owner<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Officer (give title below) Other (specify below)<br><u>President &amp; CEO</u> |
|  | 3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)<br>08/12/2024                    |  |
| 4. If Amendment, Date of Original Filed (Month/Day/Year)   |   |  |
| Rule 10b5-1(c) Transaction Indication<br><input type="checkbox"/> Check this box to indicate that a transaction was made pursuant to a contract, instruction or written plan that is intended to satisfy the affirmative defense conditions of Rule 10b5-1(c). See Instruction 10. |   |  |

**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) |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|---|------------|------------------------|---|--|---|
|                                 |                                      |  | Code                           | V | Amount  | (A) or (D) | Price                  |   |  |   |
| Common Stock                    | 08/12/2024                           |  | P                              |   | 2,500   | A          | \$37.85 <sup>(1)</sup> | 169,389   | D  |   |

**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 Securities Underlying Derivative Security (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: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4) | 11. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4) |
|--|--|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|--|-----|--|-----------------|---|--|--|---|--|
|  |  |                                      |  |                                | (A)  | (D) | Date Exercisable   | Expiration Date |   |  |  |   |  |

**Explanation of Responses:**

1. These shares were purchased in multiple transactions at prices ranging from \$37.78 to \$37.86. The price reported in Column 4 is a weighted average price. The reporting person undertakes to provide Vital Energy, Inc. ("Vital Energy"), any security holder of Vital Energy, or the staff of the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, upon request, full information regarding the number of shares purchased at each separate price.

**Remarks:**

/s/ Mark D. Denny, as attorney-in-fact for M. Jason Pigott 08/12/2024

\*\* 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.