# UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington D.C. 20549

### FORM 8-K

CURRENT REPORT
Pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d)

of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

Date of Report (Date of earliest event reported): April 30, 2020



(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Louisiana (State or other jurisdiction of incorporation) 001-7784 (Commission File Number)

72-0651161 (IRS Employer Identification No.)

100 CenturyLink Drive Monroe, Louisiana (Address of principal executive offices)

71203 (Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: (318) 388-9000

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Check the appropriate box below if the Form 8-K filing is intefollowing provisions:	ended to simultaneously satisfy the filing	ng obligations of the registrant under any of the
☐ Written communications pursuant to Rule 425 under the	e Securities Act (17 CFR 230.425)	
Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under the Ex	xchange Act (17 CFR 240.14a-12)	
☐ Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 1	4d-2(b) under the Exchange Act (17 C	CFR 240.14d-2(b))
☐ Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 1	3e-4(c) under the Exchange Act (17 C	CFR 240.13e-4(c))
Securities reg	gistered pursuant to Section 12(b) of	the Act:
Title of Each Class	Trading Symbol(s)	Name of Each Exchange on Which Registered
Common Stock, par value \$1.00 per share Preferred Stock Purchase Rights	CTL N/A	New York Stock Exchange New York Stock Exchange
Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is an emerging Rule 12b-2 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (17 CFR §		15 of the Securities Act of 1933 (17 CFR §230.405) or
Emerging growth company		
If an emerging growth company, indicate by check mark if the revised accounting standards provided pursuant to Section 13(	C	xtended transition period for complying with any new or

#### Item 8.01 Other Events.

During the first quarter of 2020, CenturyLink, Inc. ("we" or "our") made certain changes to our financial reporting as detailed below.

Our customers are assigned to one of our five reporting segments based on customer-specific criteria as described in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2019. Over time, changes within a customer's business, including changes caused by mergers and acquisitions or other factors, may result in a customer no longer fitting the criteria of its originally assigned reporting segment. We assess customer assignments to our five reporting segments on an annual basis. We completed our assessment as of the beginning of 2020 and reclassified certain customers within our five reporting segments. The reclassification does not have any impact on the total revenue previously reported. Further, we reclassified certain costs or functions within our reporting segments, impacting previously reported expenses and Adjusted EBITDA at a segment level. Commencing in the first quarter of 2020, we intend to retrospectively report our results reflecting these changes.

In addition to these changes, we have elected to change the presentation for taxes assessed by a governmental authority that are both imposed on and concurrent with a specific revenue-producing transaction, including federal and certain state Universal Service Fund (USF) regulatory fees, to present all such taxes on a net basis in our Consolidated Statements of Operations. Prior to the first quarter of 2020, we presented such USF fees on a gross basis within operating revenue and costs of services and products, and all other significant taxes on a net basis. We changed our policy to present such taxes on the net basis and believe the new policy is preferable because of the historical and potential future regulatory rate changes outside of our control resulting in significant variability in tax and fee revenue that is not indicative of our operating performance. We believe that the net presentation provides the most useful and transparent financial information and improves comparability and consistency of financial results. As a result of this decision, the amount of operating revenue and cost of services and products being reported will be lower than in prior years. These changes do not affect Operating Income (Loss), Net Income (Loss), or Earnings (Loss) per Share on the Consolidated Statements of Operations or reported Adjusted EBITDA. However, these changes do have the effect of increasing Adjusted EBITDA margin. We also expect this change to affect all five reporting segment results going forward. Commencing in the first quarter of 2020, this change in accounting policy will be applied retrospectively.

To enable a comparison between the information to be presented in our first quarter 2020 earnings results with prior periods we have furnished herewith as Exhibit 99.1 unaudited supplemental financial information that recasts our historical operating revenue, cost of services and products, Adjusted EBITDA, and Adjusted EBITDA margin and select revenue, segment and product disclosures to reflect the above-described changes for each of the four quarters comprising the year ended December 31, 2019 and full year periods ended December 31, 2019 and 2018. We are currently scheduled to report our first quarter 2020 results on May 6, 2020.

#### Forward-Looking Statements

Except for historical and factual information, the matters set forth in this Current Report on Form 8-K identified by words such as "will," "should," "expects," "anticipates," "believes," "plans," "intends," and similar expressions are forward-looking statements as defined by the federal securities laws, and are subject to the "safe harbor" protections thereunder. These forward-looking statements are not guarantees of future results and are based on current expectations only, and are subject to various uncertainties. Actual events and results may differ materially from those anticipated by us in those statements. We may change our intentions or plans discussed in our forward-looking statements without notice at any time and for any reason.

#### Item 9.01 Financial Statements and Exhibits.

(d) Exhibits:

Exhibit No.	<u>Description</u>
99.1	Unaudited supplemental historical financial information
104	Cover Page Interactive Data File (formatted in iXBRL in Exhibit 101)

#### **SIGNATURES**

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, CenturyLink, Inc. has duly caused this Current Report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned officer hereunto duly authorized.

#### CENTURYLINK, INC.

By: /s/ Eric J. Mortensen

Eric J. Mortensen

Senior Vice President and Controller

Dated: April 30, 2020

#### CenturyLink, Inc.

(Unaudited)

The following table reflects the retrospective impacts to consolidated financial statement captions and additional disclosures resulting from the change in accounting policy (including certain USF fees) and customer and cost assignment changes:

\$ in millions	1Q19	2Q19	3Q19	4Q19	2019	2018
Operating revenue, as reported	\$ 5,647	5,578	5,606	5,570	22,401	23,443
Reclassifications:						
Change in accounting policy	(220)	(203)	(256)	(264)	(943)	(863)
Customer and cost assignment changes	0	0	0	0	0	0
Operating revenue, as adjusted	\$ 5,427	5,375	5,350	5,306	21,458	22,580
Revenue from contracts with customers, as reported	\$ 5,289	5,222	5,251	4,686	20,448	21,905
Reclassifications:						
Change in accounting policy	(220)	(203)	(256)	(264)	(943)	(863)
Customer and cost assignment changes	0	0	0	0	0	0
Revenue from contracts with customers, as adjusted	\$ 5,069	5,019	4,995	4,422	19,505	21,042
Cost of services and products, as reported	\$ 2,520	2,446	2,590	2,521	10,077	10,862
Reclassifications:						
Change in accounting policy	(220)	(203)	(256)	(264)	(943)	(863)
Customer and cost assignment changes	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cost of services and products, as adjusted	\$ 2,300	2,243	2,334	2,257	9,134	9,999
Operating expenses, as reported	\$11,146	4,602	4,656	4,723	25,127	22,873
Reclassifications:						
Change in accounting policy	(220)	(203)	(256)	(264)	(943)	(863)
Customer and cost assignment changes	0	0	0	0	0	0
Operating expenses, as adjusted	\$10,926	4,399	4,400	4,459	24,184	22,010
Adjusted EBITDA margin, as reported	39.5%	39.7%	39.7%	37.8%	39.2%	36.7%
Adjusted EBITDA margin, as adjusted	41.1%	41.2%	41.6%	39.7%	40.9%	38.1%

The change in accounting policy and customer and cost assignment changes had no impact on Consolidated Operating Income (Loss), Net Income (Loss), Earnings (Loss) per Share, or Adjusted EBITDA.

\$ in millions  By Segment		1Q19	2Q19	3Q19	4Q19	2019	2018
International	Reported Change in accounting policy.	\$ 891	902	899	904	3,596	3,653
and Global Accounts	Change in accounting policy Customer assignment changes	(31)	(28)	(35)	(37)	(131) 11	(121) 11
	Adjusted/New	\$ 863	877	866	870	3,476	3,543
	Reported	\$1,523	1,505	1,550	1,555	6,133	6,133
Enterprise	Change in accounting policy	(105)	(99)	(125)	(129)	(458)	(371)
Enterprise	Customer assignment changes	7	3	3	8	21	3
	Adjusted/New	\$1,425	1,409	1,428	1,434	5,696	5,765
Small and	Reported	\$ 755	736	734	731	2,956	3,144
Medium Business	Change in accounting policy	(44)	(40)	(52)	(53)	(189)	(201)
	Customer assignment changes	(11)	(8)	(8)	(13)	(40)	(25)
Dusiness	Adjusted/New	\$ 700	688	674	665	2,727	2,918
	Reported	\$1,037	1,018	1,025	994	4,074	4,397
Wholesale	Change in accounting policy	(11)	(8)	(12)	(13)	(44)	(49)
wnoiesaie	Customer assignment changes	4	2	4	2	12	12
	Adjusted/New	\$1,030	1,012	1,017	983	4,042	4,360
	Reported	\$1,441	1,417	1,398	1,386	5,642	6,116
Consumer	Change in accounting policy	(29)	(28)	(32)	(32)	(121)	(121)
Consumer	Customer assignment changes	(3)	0	(1)	0	(4)	(1)
	Adjusted/New	\$1,409	1,389	1,365	1,354	5,517	5,994
	Reported	\$5,647	5,578	5,606	5,570	22,401	23,443
Total	Change in accounting policy	(220)	(203)	(256)	(264)	(943)	(863)
Total	Customer assignment changes	0	0	0	0	0	(0)
	Adjusted/New	\$5,427	5,375	5,350	5,306	21,458	22,580

\$ in millions	1Q19	2Q19	3Q19	4Q19	2019	2018
By Segment						
International and Global Accounts						
IP and Data Services Reported	\$420	420	417	419	1,676	1,728
Change in accounting policy	(12)	(11)	(14)	(14)	(51)	(47)
Customer assignment changes	0	0	1	1	2	1
IP and Data Services Adjusted/New	408	409	404	406	1,627	1,682
Transport and Infrastructure Reported	320	333	331	334	1,318	1,276
Change in accounting policy	(12)	(11)	(15)	(15)	(53)	(47)
Customer assignment changes	1	1	1	0	3	1
Transport and Infrastructure Adjusted/New	309	323	317	319	1,268	1,230
Voice and Collaboration Reported	94	94	96	93	377	387
Change in accounting policy	(7)	(6)	(6)	(8)	(27)	(27)
Customer assignment changes	2	1	(1)	2	4	5
Voice and Collaboration Adjusted/New	89	89	89	87	354	365
IT and Managed Services Reported	57	55	55	58	225	262
Change in accounting policy	0	0	0	0	0	0
Customer assignment changes	0	1	1	0	2	4
IT and Managed Services Adjusted/New	57	56	56	58	227	266
Total Reported	891	902	899	904	3,596	3,653
Change in accounting policy	(31)	(28)	(35)	(37)	(131)	(121)
Customer assignment changes	3	3	2	3	11	11
Total Adjusted/New	\$863	877	866	870	3,476	3,543

### Century Link, Inc.

(Unaudited)

\$ in millions	1Q19	2Q19	3Q19	4Q19	2019	2018
By Segment						
Enterprise						
IP and Data Services Reported	\$ 688	681	691	703	2,763	2,673
Change in accounting policy	(52)	(48)	(61)	(62)	(223)	(189)
Customer assignment changes	2	(1)	1	(4)	(2)	1
IP and Data Services Adjusted/New	638	632	631	637	2,538	2,485
Transport and Infrastructure Reported	364	368	405	408	1,545	1,550
Change in accounting policy	(18)	(17)	(22)	(24)	(81)	(63)
Customer assignment changes	1	3	1	10	15	(3)
Transport and Infrastructure Adjusted/New	347	354	384	394	1,479	1,484
Voice and Collaboration Reported	397	390	395	385	1,567	1,607
Change in accounting policy	(35)	(34)	(42)	(43)	(154)	(119)
Customer assignment changes	4	2	1	3	10	7
Voice and Collaboration Adjusted/New	366	358	354	345	1,423	1,495
IT and Managed Services Reported	74	66	59	59	258	303
Change in accounting policy	0	0	0	0	0	0
Customer assignment changes	0	(1)	0	(1)	(2)	(2)
IT and Managed Services Adjusted/New	74	65	59	58	256	301
Total Reported	1,523	1,505	1,550	1,555	6,133	6,133
Change in accounting policy	(105)	(99)	(125)	(129)	(458)	(371)
Customer assignment changes	7	3	3	8	21	3
Total Adjusted/New	\$1,425	1,409	1,428	1,434	5,696	5,765

### Century Link, Inc.

(Unaudited)

\$ in millions	1Q19	2Q19	3Q19	4Q19	2019	2018
By Segment						
Small and Medium Business						
IP and Data Services Reported	\$300	290	295	299	1,184	1,178
Change in accounting policy	(21)	(18)	(24)	(24)	(87)	(91)
Customer assignment changes	(3)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(6)	(9)
IP and Data Services Adjusted/New	276	271	270	274	1,091	1,078
Transport and Infrastructure Reported	107	106	106	101	420	471
Change in accounting policy	(6)	(6)	(8)	(8)	(28)	(30)
Customer assignment changes	(6)	(6)	(5)	(10)	(27)	(17)
Transport and Infrastructure Adjusted/New	95	94	93	83	365	424
Voice and Collaboration Reported	336	328	322	320	1,306	1,443
Change in accounting policy	(17)	(16)	(20)	(21)	(74)	(80)
Customer assignment changes	(2)	0	(2)	(2)	(6)	3
Voice and Collaboration Adjusted/New	317	312	300	297	1,226	1,366
IT and Managed Services Reported	12	12	11	11	46	52
Change in accounting policy	0	0	0	0	0	0
Customer assignment changes	0	(1)	0	0	(1)	(2)
IT and Managed Services Adjusted/New	12	11	11	11	45	50
Total Reported	755	736	734	731	2,956	3,144
Change in accounting policy	(44)	(40)	(52)	(53)	(189)	(201)
Customer assignment changes	(11)	(8)	(8)	(13)	(40)	(25)
Total Adjusted/New	\$700	688	674	665	2,727	2,918

\$ in millions	1Q19	2Q19	3Q19	4Q19	2019	2018
By Segment						
Wholesale						
IP and Data Services Reported	\$ 341	339	357	340	1,377	1,382
Change in accounting policy	(5)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(17)	(17)
Customer assignment changes	2	1	0	2	5	4
IP and Data Services Adjusted/New	338	337	353	337	1,365	1,369
Transport and Infrastructure Reported	499	484	467	470	1,920	2,136
Change in accounting policy	(4)	(3)	(5)	(5)	(17)	(23)
Customer assignment changes	0	1	2	1	4	5
Transport and Infrastructure Adjusted/New	495	482	464	466	1,907	2,118
Voice and Collaboration Reported	196	193	200	182	771	872
Change in accounting policy	(2)	(2)	(3)	(3)	(10)	(9)
Customer assignment changes	1	0	1	0	2	2
Voice and Collaboration Adjusted/New	195	191	198	179	763	865
IT and Managed Services Reported	1	2	1	2	6	7
Change in accounting policy	0	0	0	0	0	0
Customer assignment changes	1	0	1	(1)	1	1
IT and Managed Services Adjusted/New	2	2	2	1	7	8
Total Reported	1,037	1,018	1,025	994	4,074	4,397
Change in accounting policy	(11)	(8)	(12)	(13)	(44)	(49)
Customer assignment changes	4	2	4	2	12	12
Total Adjusted/New	\$1,030	1,012	1,017	983	4,042	4,360

### Century Link, Inc.

(Unaudited)

\$ in millions	1Q19	2Q19	3Q19	4Q19	2019	2018
By Segment						
Consumer						
Broadband Reported	\$ 722	718	718	718	2,876	2,822
Change in accounting policy	0	0	0	0	0	0
Customer assignment changes	0	0	0	0	0	2
Broadband Adjusted/New	722	718	718	718	2,876	2,824
Voice Reported	489	477	462	453	1,881	2,173
Change in accounting policy	(29)	(28)	(32)	(32)	(121)	(121)
Customer assignment changes	17	18	23	19	77	75
Voice Adjusted/New	477	467	453	440	1,837	2,127
Regulatory Reported	159	158	157	160	634	729
Change in accounting policy	0	0	0	0	0	0
Customer assignment changes	(2)	(1)	0	1	(2)	(2)
Regulatory Adjusted/New	157	157	157	161	632	727
Other Reported	71	64	61	55	251	392
Change in accounting policy	0	0	0	0	0	0
Customer assignment changes	(18)	(17)	(24)	(20)	(79)	(76)
Other Adjusted/New	53	47	37	35	172	316
Total Reported	1,441	1,417	1,398	1,386	5,642	6,116
Change in accounting policy	(29)	(28)	(32)	(32)	(121)	(121)
Customer assignment changes	(3)	0	(1)	0	(4)	(1)
Total Adjusted/New	\$1,409	1,389	1,365	1,354	5,517	5,994

The following table reflects the retrospective impacts to segment cost of services and products resulting from the change in accounting policy (including certain USF fees) and customer and cost assignment changes:

\$ in millions		_1	Q19	2Q19	3Q19	4Q19	2019	2018
By Segment	D 4 1	Ф	250	250	260	250	1.044	1.056
International	Reported	\$	259	258	269	258	1,044	1,056
and Global	Change in accounting policy Customer and cost assignment changes		(31)	(28)	(35)	(37)	(131)	(121) 5
Accounts		<u> </u>				222		
	Adjusted/New	\$	231	232	235	222	920	940
	Reported	\$	496	497	544	551	2,088	2,038
Enterprise	Change in accounting policy Customer and cost assignment changes		(105)	(99) 36	(125) 32	(129)	(458) 138	(371) 177
		Φ.						
	Adjusted/New	\$	428	434	451	455	1,768	1,844
Small and	Reported	\$	153	147	155	151	606	614
Medium	Change in accounting policy		(44)	(40)	(52)	(53)	(189)	(201)
Business	Customer and cost assignment changes	_	(4)	(5)	(4)	(5)	(18)	3
	Adjusted/New	\$	105	102	99	93	399	416
Wholesale	Reported	\$	141	145	144	137	567	645
	Change in accounting policy		(11)	(8)	(12)	(13)	(44)	(49)
	Customer and cost assignment changes	Φ.	4	3	2	3	12	(29)
	Adjusted/New	\$	134	140	134	127	535	567
	Reported	\$	87	77	80	69	313	500
Consumer	Change in accounting policy		(29)	(28)	(32)	(32)	(121)	(121)
	Customer and cost assignment changes	Φ.	<u>0</u>	2	2	1 20	5	(23)
	Adjusted/New	\$	58	51	50	38	197	356
	Reported	\$.	1,384	1,322	1,398	1,355	5,459	6,009
Operations and	Change in accounting policy		0	0	0	0	(144)	(122)
Other	Customer and cost assignment changes	Φ:	(40)	(38)	(33)	(33)	(144)	(133)
	Adjusted/New		1,344	1,284	1,365	1,322	5,315	5,876
	Reported Change in accounting ration	\$2	2,520	2,446	2,590	2,521	10,077	10,862
Total	Change in accounting policy		(220)	(203)	(256)	(264)	(943)	(863)
	Customer and cost assignment changes	<u> </u>	0	0	0	0	0 124	0
	Adjusted/New	\$2	2,300	2,243	2,334	2,257	9,134	9,999

The following table reflects the retrospective impacts to segment selling, general and administrative expense resulting from the customer and cost assignment changes:

\$ in millions		1Q19	2Q19	3Q19	4Q19	2019	2018
By Segment							
International	Reported	\$ 68	68	65	65	266	256
and Global	Customer and cost assignment changes	(1)	<u>(1)</u>	(1)	(2)	(5)	<u>(7)</u>
Accounts	Adjusted/New	\$ 67	67	64	63	261	249
	Reported	\$149	143	134	129	555	573
Enterprise	Customer and cost assignment changes	(1)	(2)	(2)	(5)	(10)	(6)
	Adjusted/New	\$148	141	132	124	545	567
Small and	Reported	\$132	120	112	116	480	517
Medium	Customer and cost assignment changes	(8)	(5)	(4)	(4)	(21)	(27)
Business	Adjusted/New	\$124	115	108	112	459	490
	Reported	\$ 20	21	21	18	80	86
Wholesale	Customer and cost assignment changes	(6)	(6)	(6)	(4)	(22)	(24)
	Adjusted/New	\$ 14	15	15	14	58	62
	Reported	\$109	110	102	94	415	511
Consumer	Customer and cost assignment changes	35	27	20	24	106	106
	Adjusted/New	\$144	137	122	118	521	617
0 4: 1	Reported	\$454	498	397	570	1,919	2,222
Operations and	Customer and cost assignment changes	(19)	(13)	(7)	(9)	(48)	(42)
Other	Adjusted/New	\$435	485	390	561	1,871	2,180
	Reported	\$932	960	831	992	3,715	4,165
Total	Customer and cost assignment changes	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Adjusted/New	\$932	960	831	992	3,715	4,165

The following table reflects the retrospective impacts to segment Adjusted EBITDA resulting from the customer and cost assignment changes:

\$ in millions		1Q19	2Q19	3Q19	4Q19	2019	2018
By Segment							
International	Reported	\$ 564	576	565	581	2,286	2,341
and Global	Customer and cost assignment changes	1	2	2	4	9	12
Accounts	Adjusted/New	\$ 565	578	567	585	2,295	2,353
	Reported	\$ 878	865	872	875	3,490	3,522
Enterprise	Customer and cost assignment changes	(29)	(31)	(27)	(20)	(107)	(168)
	Adjusted/New	\$ 849	834	845	855	3,383	3,354
Small and	Reported	\$ 470	469	467	464	1,870	2,013
Medium	Customer and cost assignment changes	1	2	0	(4)	(1)	0
Business	Adjusted/New	\$ 471	471	467	460	1,869	2,013
	Reported	\$ 876	852	860	839	3,427	3,666
Wholesale	Customer and cost assignment changes	6	5	8	3	22	66
	Adjusted/New	\$ 882	857	868	842	3,449	3,732
	Reported	\$ 1,245	1,230	1,216	1,223	4,914	5,105
Consumer	Customer and cost assignment changes	(38)	(29)	(23)	(25)	(115)	(83)
	Adjusted/New	\$ 1,207	1,201	1,193	1,198	4,799	5,022
Onevetions and	Reported	(\$1,805)	(1,777)	(1,757)	(1,877	(7,216)	(8,045)
Operations and Other	Customer and cost assignment changes	59	51	40	42	192	173
Other	Adjusted/New	(\$1,746)	(1,726)	(1,717)	(1,835)	(7,024)	(7,872)
	Reported	\$ 2,228	2,215	2,223	2,105	8,771	8,602
Total	Customer and cost assignment changes	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Adjusted/New	\$ 2,228	2,215	2,223	2,105	8,771	8,602