

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

[] 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 or
Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

| | | |
|---|--|--|
| 1. Name and Address of Reporting Person * COLE DAVID D (Last) (First) (Middle) C/O CENTURYLINK, INC., 100 CENTURYLINK DRIVE (Street) MONROE, LA 71203 (City) (State) (Zip) | 2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol CENTURYLINK, INC [CTL] | 5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable) ____ Director _____ 10% Owner ____ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Officer (give title below) _____ Other (specify below) EVP, Controller & Ops Support |
| 3. Date of Earliest Transaction (MM/DD/YYYY) 2/21/2017 | | 6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing (Check Applicable Line) ____ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Form filed by One Reporting Person ____ Form filed by More than One Reporting Person |
| 4. If Amendment, Date Original Filed (MM/DD/YYYY) | | |

Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned

| 1. Title of Security (Instr. 3) | 2. Trans. Date | 2A. Deemed Execution Date, if any | 3. Trans. 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 | 2/21/2017 | | A (1) | | 45386 | A | \$0.00 |
| | | | | | 229503 (2) | D | |

Table II - Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned (e.g. , puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)

| 1. Title of Derivate Security (Instr. 3) | 2. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security | 3. Trans. Date | 3A. Deemed Execution Date, if any | 4. Trans. 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 | 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 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 |

Explanation of Responses:

- (1) Represents a grant of restricted stock (40% time-based and 60% performance-based). The time-based portion will vest in three equal annual installments beginning one year from the date of grant. The performance-based portion is divided among two separate three-year performance metrics, which will vest on February 21, 2020 to the extent that the applicable metric is achieved.
- (2) Includes 10,002 shares held in the Issuer's ESPP for the benefit of the Reporting Person as of the date of this report.

Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address | Relationships |
|--|----------------------------------|
| | Director 10% Owner Officer Other |
| COLE DAVID D C/O CENTURYLINK, INC. 100 CENTURYLINK DRIVE MONROE, LA 71203 | EVP, Controller & Ops Support |

Signatures

/s/ Hope M. Spencer, as Attorney-in-Fact for David D. Cole

2/23/2017

**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 control number.