

FORM 4

[] Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5 obligations may continue. *See* Instruction 1(b).

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

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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 [*] NICHOLS FRED R (Last) (First) (Middle) | | 2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol CENTURYTEL INC [CTL] | | 5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Director <input type="checkbox"/> 10% Owner <input type="checkbox"/> Officer (give title below) <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify below) | |
| 7311 HOLLYTREE DRIVE (Street) | | 3. Date of Earliest Transaction (MM/DD/YYYY) 5/21/2010 | | | |
| TYLER, TX 75703 (City) (State) (Zip) | | 4. If Amendment, Date Original Filed (MM/DD/YYYY) | | 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 | |

| 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 | 5/21/2010 | | A | | 2948 | A | \$0 | 12948 | 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 | | | | Date Exercisable | Expiration Date | | | | |

Explanation of Responses:

Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address | Relationships | | | |
|---|---------------|-----------|---------|-------|
| | Director | 10% Owner | Officer | Other |
| NICHOLS FRED R 7311 HOLLYTREE DRIVE TYLER, TX 75703 | X | | | |

Signatures

Kay C. Buchar, Attorney-In-Fact **5/24/2010**

^{**}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.