

**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): February 25, 2010

**CenturyTel, Inc .**  
(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

**Louisiana**  
(State or other jurisdiction  
of incorporation)

**1-7784**  
(Commission  
File Number)

**72-0651161**  
(IRS Employer  
Identification No.)

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

**71203**  
(Zip Code)

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

Check the appropriate box below if the Form 8-K filing is intended to simultaneously satisfy the filing obligations of the registrant under any of the following provisions:

- ☐ Written communications pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act (17 CFR 230.425)
- ☐ Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14a-12)
- ☐ Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d-2(b) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14d-2(b))
- ☐ Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13e-4(c) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.13e-4(c))

**Item 8.01. Other Events.**

On February 25, 2010, we announced that our Board of Directors declared a quarterly cash dividend of \$.725 per share; a 3.6% increase over the previous \$.70 per share quarterly dividend. See Exhibit 99.1 for the full press release.

**Item 9.01. Financial Statements and Exhibits.**

(d) Exhibits

99.1 Press release announcing increase to quarterly dividend.

**SIGNATURES**

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this Current Report on Form 8-K to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned hereunto duly authorized.

CENTURYTEL, INC .

By: /s/ Neil A. Sweasy  
Neil A. Sweasy  
Vice President and Controller

Dated: February 25, 2010

# News Release



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

February 25, 2010

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:**

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## **CenturyLink increases quarterly cash dividend**

MONROE, La. . . . CenturyLink (CenturyTel, Inc., NYSE: CTL) today announced that its Board of Directors voted to declare a quarterly cash dividend of \$.725 per share, representing a 3.6% increase over the previous \$.70 per share quarterly dividend. The \$.725 per share is payable on March 22, 2010 to shareholders of record on March 9, 2010.

“CenturyLink has a long history of increasing dividend payments to shareholders and we are pleased that our strong operating performance and solid credit profile enable us to announce this 3.6% dividend increase,” said Glen F. Post, III, chief executive officer and president.

CenturyLink is a leading provider of high-quality voice, broadband and video services over its advanced communications networks to consumers and businesses in 33 states. CenturyLink, headquartered in Monroe, La., is an S&P 500 Company and expects to be listed in the Fortune 500 list of America’s largest corporations. For more information on CenturyLink, visit [www.centurylink.com](http://www.centurylink.com).

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