

CENTURYTEL INC

FORM S-8

(Securities Registration: Employee Benefit Plan)

Filed 5/24/2002

Address	P O BOX 4065 100 CENTURYTEL DR MONROE, Louisiana 71203
Telephone	318-388-9000
CIK	0000018926
Industry	Communications Services
Sector	Services
Fiscal Year	12/31

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

FORM S-8
REGISTRATION STATEMENT UNDER THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933

CenturyTel, Inc.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

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

72-0651161
*(I.R.S. Employer
Identification No.)*

**100 CenturyTel Drive
Monroe, Louisiana 71203**
*(Address, including zip code, of
Principal Executive Offices)*

**CenturyTel, Inc. 2002 Directors Stock Option Plan
CenturyTel, Inc. 2002 Management Incentive Compensation Plan**
(Full title of the plans)

Harvey P. Perry
**Executive Vice President, Chief Administrative Officer,
General Counsel and Secretary**
CenturyTel, Inc.
100 CenturyTel Drive
Monroe, Louisiana 71203
(318) 388-9000
*(Name, address, including zip code, and telephone number,
including area code, of agent for service)*

Copy to:
Kenneth J. Najder
Jones, Walker, Waechter, Poitevent, Carrère & Denègre, L.L.P.
201 St. Charles Avenue
New Orleans, Louisiana 70170-5100

CALCULATION OF REGISTRATION FEE

Title of securities to be registered	Amount to be registered ⁽¹⁾	Proposed maximum offering price per share	Proposed maximum aggregate offering price	Amount of registration fee
Common Stock, \$1 par value per share				
2002 Directors Stock Option Plan	356,000 Shares	\$ 29.63 ⁽²⁾	\$ 10,548,280 ⁽²⁾	\$ 970 ⁽²⁾
	44,000 Shares	\$ 29.06 ⁽³⁾	\$ 1,278,640 ⁽³⁾	\$ 118 ⁽³⁾
2002 Management Incentive Compensation Plan	4,500,000 Shares	\$ 29.63 ⁽²⁾	\$133,335,000 ⁽²⁾	\$ 12,267 ⁽²⁾
Preference Share Purchase Rights	4,900,000 Rights	--- ⁽⁴⁾	---	--- ⁽⁴⁾
Total	4,900,000 Shares	---	\$145,161,920 ⁽²⁾	\$ 13,355

- (1) Upon a future stock split, stock dividend or similar transaction involving Common Stock of the Company and during the effectiveness of this Registration Statement, the number of securities registered shall be automatically increased to cover the additional securities in accordance with Rule 416(a) under the Securities Act of 1933.
- (2) Estimated solely for the purpose of calculating the registration fee pursuant to Rule 457(c) under the Securities Act of 1933, based on the average of the high and low price per share of the Common Stock on the Composite Tape for New York Stock Exchange-Listed Stocks on May 22, 2002.
- (3) Estimated solely for the purpose of calculating the registration fee pursuant to Rule 457(h) under the Securities Act of 1933, based upon the price at which currently outstanding options are exercisable.

- (4) Preference Share Purchase Rights are attached to and trade with the Common Stock of the Company. The value attributable to such Rights, if any, is reflected in the market price of such Common Stock. Because no separate consideration is paid for such Rights, the registration fee for such securities is included in the fee for such Common Stock.

PART II

INFORMATION REQUIRED IN THE REGISTRATION STATEMENT

Item 3. Incorporation of Documents by Reference.

The following documents, which have been filed by CenturyTel, Inc. (the "Company") with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "Commission"), are incorporated herein by reference:

- (a) The Company's latest Annual Report on Form 10-K filed pursuant to Section 13 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the "Exchange Act");
- (b) All other reports filed by the Company with the Commission pursuant to Section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Exchange Act since the end of the fiscal year covered by the Annual Report referred to in (a) above;
- (c) The description of the Common Stock of the Company included in Amendment No. 2 on Form 8-A/A to the Registration Statement on Form 8-A of the Company filed on November 19, 1999 under the Exchange Act relating to the Common Stock of the Company; and
- (d) The description of the Preference Share Purchase Rights of the Company included in Amendment No. 1 on Form 8-A/A to the Registration Statement on Form 8-A of the Company filed on November 19, 1999 under the Exchange Act relating to the Preference Share Purchase Rights of the Company.

All documents filed by the Company with the Commission pursuant to Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 and 15(d) of the Exchange Act subsequent to the date of this Registration Statement and prior to the filing of a post-effective amendment hereto that indicates that all securities offered have been sold or that deregisters all securities then remaining unsold shall, except to the extent otherwise provided by Regulation S-K or any other rule promulgated by the Commission, be deemed to be incorporated by reference in this Registration Statement and to be part hereof from the date of filing of such documents. Any statements contained in a document incorporated or deemed to be incorporated by reference shall be deemed to be modified or superseded to the extent that a statement contained herein or in any other document subsequently filed or incorporated by reference herein modifies or supersedes such statement. Any statement so modified or superseded shall not be deemed, except as so modified or superseded, to constitute a part of this Registration Statement.

Item 4. Description of Securities.

Not applicable.

Item 5. Interests of Named Experts and Counsel.

Not applicable.

Item 6. Indemnification of Directors and Officers.

Section 83 of the Louisiana Business Corporation Law provides in part that the Company may indemnify any of its directors, officers, employees or agents against expenses (including attorneys' fees), judgments, fines and amounts paid in settlement actually and reasonably incurred by him in connection with any action, suit or proceeding to which he is or was a party or is threatened to be made a party (including any action by or in the right of the Company) if such action arises out of his acts on the Company's behalf, and he acted in good faith not opposed to the Company's best interests, and, with respect to any criminal action or proceeding, had no reasonable cause to believe his conduct was unlawful. The Company has the power to obtain and maintain insurance, or to create a form of self-insurance, on behalf of any person who is or was acting for the Company, regardless of whether the Company has the legal authority to indemnify the insured person against such liability.

Article II, Section 10 of the Company's by-laws (the "indemnification by-law") provides for mandatory indemnification for its current or former directors and officers to the fullest extent permitted by Louisiana law.

The Company's Articles of Incorporation authorize the Company to enter into contracts with its directors and officers providing for indemnification to the fullest extent permitted by law. The Company has entered into indemnification contracts providing its directors and officers the procedural and substantive rights to indemnification currently set forth in the indemnification by-law ("indemnification contracts"). The right to indemnification provided by an indemnification contract applies to all covered claims, whether such claims arose before or after

the effective date of the contract.

The Company maintains an insurance policy covering the liability of its directors and officers for actions taken in their official capacities. The indemnification contracts provide that, to the extent insurance is reasonably available, the Company will maintain comparable insurance coverage for each contracting party as long as he serves as an officer or director and thereafter for so long as he is subject to possible personal liability for actions taken in such capacity. The indemnification contracts also provide that if the Company does not maintain comparable insurance, the Company will hold harmless and indemnify a contracting party to the full extent of the coverage that would otherwise have been provided for his benefit.

Item 7. Exemption From Registration Claimed.

Not applicable.

Item 8. Exhibits.

5.1 Opinion of Jones, Walker, Waechter, Poitevent, Carrère & Denègre, L.L.P.

23.1 Consent of KPMG LLP.

23.2 Consent of Jones, Walker, Waechter, Poitevent, Carrère & Denègre, L.L.P. (included in Exhibit 5.1).

Item 9. Undertakings.

(a) The undersigned registrant hereby undertakes:

(1) To file, during any period in which offers or sales are being made and to the extent required by the Securities Act of 1933 and the rules and regulations promulgated thereunder, a post-effective amendment to this registration statement:

(i) To include any prospectus required by section 10(a)(3) of the Securities Act of 1933;

(ii) To reflect in the prospectus any facts or events arising after the effective date of this registration statement (or the most recent post-effective amendment thereof) which, individually or in the aggregate, represent a fundamental change in the information set forth in this registration statement. Notwithstanding the foregoing, any increase or decrease in volume of securities offered (if the total dollar value of securities offered would not exceed that which was registered) and any deviation from the low or high end of the estimated maximum offering range may be reflected in the form of prospectus filed with the SEC pursuant to Rule 424(b) if, in the aggregate, the changes in volume and price represent no more than a 20 percent change in the maximum aggregate offering price set forth in the "Calculation of Registration Fee" table in the effective registration statement;

(iii) To include any material information with respect to the plan of distribution not previously disclosed in this registration statement or any material change to such information in this registration statement;

Provided, however, that paragraphs (a)(1)(i) and (a)(1)(ii) do not apply if the information required to be included in a post-effective amendment by those paragraphs is contained in periodic reports filed by the registrant pursuant to Section 13 or Section 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 that are incorporated by reference in this registration statement.

(2) That, for the purpose of determining any liability under the Securities Act of 1933, each such post-effective amendment filed for such purposes shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial *bona fide* offering thereof.

(3) To remove from registration by means of a post-effective amendment any of the securities being registered which remain unsold at the termination of the offering.

(b) The undersigned registrant hereby undertakes that, for purposes of determining any liability under the Securities Act of 1933, each filing of the registrant's annual report pursuant to section 13(a) or section 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (and, where applicable, each filing of an employee benefit plan's annual report pursuant to section 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934) that is incorporated by reference in the registration statement shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial *bona fide* offering thereof.

(c) Insofar as indemnification for liabilities arising under the Securities Act of 1933 may be permitted to directors, officers and

Signature	Title	Date
Clarke M. Williams	Chairman of the Board of Directors	
/s/ Glen F. Post, III	Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors, President and Chief Executive Officer	May 24, 2002
Glen F. Post, III		
/s/ R. Stewart Ewing, Jr.	Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer	May 24 , 2002

R. Stewart Ewing, Jr.

(Principal Financial Officer)

/s/ Neil A. Sweasy

Neil A. Sweasy

Vice President and Controller
(Principal Accounting Officer)

May 24 , 2002

/s/ Harvey P. Perry

Harvey P. Perry

Director

May 24 , 2002

/s/ Jim D. Reppond

Jim D. Reppond

Director

May 24 , 2002

/s/ William R. Boles, Jr.

William R. Boles, Jr.

Director

May 24 , 2002

/s/ Ernest Butler, Jr.

Ernest Butler, Jr.

Director

May 24 , 2002

/s/ Calvin Czeschin

Calvin Czeschin

Director

May 24 , 2002

/s/ James B. Gardner

James B. Gardner

Director

May 24 , 2002

/s/ W. Bruce Hanks

W. Bruce Hanks

Director

May 24 , 2002

/s/ R. L. Hargrove, Jr.

R. L. Hargrove, Jr.

Director

May 24 , 2002

/s/ Johnny Hebert

Johnny Hebert

Director

May 24 , 2002

/s/ F. Earl Hogan

F. Earl Hogan

Director

May 24 , 2002

/s/ C. G. Melville, Jr.

Director

May 24 , 2002

/s/ Virginia Boulet

Virginia Boulet

Director

May 24 , 2002

Exhibit 5.1

[JONES WALKER LETTERHEAD]

May 24, 2002

CenturyTel, Inc.
100 Century Park Drive
Monroe, Louisiana 71203

Gentlemen:

We have acted as counsel for CenturyTel, Inc., a Louisiana corporation (the "Company"), in connection with the preparation of a Registration Statement on Form S-8 (the "Registration Statement") to be filed by the Company with the Securities and Exchange Commission under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, relating to the offering by the Company in accordance with the terms of the CenturyTel, Inc. 2002 Management Incentive Compensation Plan and the CenturyTel, Inc. 2002 Directors Stock Option Plan (the "Plans") of (a) 4,900,000 shares (the "Shares") of the common stock, \$1.00 par value per share, of the Company and (b) related preference share purchase rights.

Based upon the foregoing and upon our examination of such matters as we deem necessary to furnish this opinion, we are of the opinion that the securities registered pursuant to the Registration Statement, when issued for at least par value upon the terms described in the Plan, will be legally issued, fully paid and nonassessable.

We hereby consent to the filing of this opinion as an exhibit to the Registration Statement and any amendment thereto.

Very truly yours,

JONES, WALKER, WAECHTER,
POITEVENT, CARRÈRE & DENÈGRE, L.L.P.

By: /s/ Margaret F. Murphy

Margaret F. Murphy, Partner

Exhibit 23.1

Independent Auditors' Consent

The Board of Directors
CenturyTel, Inc.:

We consent to the incorporation by reference into the Registration Statement on Form S-8 of CenturyTel, Inc. relating to the issuance of up to 4,900,000 shares of common stock pursuant to the CenturyTel, Inc. 2002 Directors Stock Option Plan and 2002 Management Incentive Compensation Plan of our report dated January 30, 2002, relating to the consolidated balance sheets of CenturyTel, Inc. and subsidiaries as of December 31, 2001 and 2000 and the related consolidated statements of income, comprehensive income, stockholders' equity, and cash flows for each of the years in the three-year period ended December 31, 2001, and related financial statement schedules, which report appears in the 2001 Annual Report on Form 10-K of CenturyTel, Inc.

/S/ KPMG LLP

Shreveport, Louisiana
May 24, 2002

End of Filing

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