

# 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 *<br><b>MELVILLE C G JR</b><br>(Last) (First) (Middle)<br><b>334 WEST LIVINGSTON PLACE</b><br>(Street)<br><b>METAIRIE, LA 70005</b><br>(City) (State) (Zip) | 2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol<br><b>CENTURYTEL INC [ CTL ]</b> | 5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer<br>(Check all applicable)<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Director<br><input type="checkbox"/> 10% Owner<br><input type="checkbox"/> Officer (give title below)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify below) |
| 3. Date of Earliest Transaction (MM/DD/YYYY)<br><b>5/8/2009</b>   |  | 6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing (Check Applicable Line)<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Form filed by One Reporting Person<br><input type="checkbox"/> 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<br>(Instr. 3)   | 2. Trans. Date | 2A. Deemed<br>Execution<br>Date, if any | 3. Trans. Code<br>(Instr. 8) |   | 4. Securities Acquired (A)<br>or Disposed of (D)<br>(Instr. 3, 4 and 5) |               |       | 5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned<br>Following Reported Transaction(s)<br>(Instr. 3 and 4) | 6. Ownership<br>Form:<br>Direct (D)<br>or Indirect<br>(I) (Instr.<br>4) | 7. Nature<br>of Indirect<br>Beneficial<br>Ownership<br>(Instr. 4) |
|  |                |   | Code                         | V | Amount  | (A) or<br>(D) | Price |   |   |   |
| Common Stock   | 5/8/2009       |   | A                            |   | 3676  | A             | \$0   | 14945.8303  | 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 |
| MELVILLE C G JR<br>334 WEST LIVINGSTON PLACE<br>METAIRIE, LA 70005 | X             |           |         |       |

Signatures

Kay C. Buchart, Attorney-In-Fact

5/11/2009

\*\* 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.