

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

**SCHEDULE 13G**

**Under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934**

(Amendment No. )\*

**CenturyTel, Incorporated**

(Name of Issuer)

**Common Stock**

(Title of Class of Securities)

156700106

(CUSIP Number)

December 31, 2008

(Date of Event Which Requires Filing of this Statement)

Check the appropriate box to designate the rule pursuant to which this

Schedule is filed:

☒ Rule 13d-1(b)

☐ Rule 13d-1(c)

☐ Rule 13d-1(d)

\*The remainder of this cover page shall be filled out for a reporting person's initial filing on this form with respect to the subject class of securities, and for any subsequent amendment containing information which would alter the disclosures provided in a prior cover page.

The information required in the remainder of this cover page shall not be deemed to be "filed" for the purpose of Section 18 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Act") or otherwise subject to the liabilities of that section of the Act but shall be subject to all other provisions of the Act (however, see the Notes).

1 NAMES OF REPORTING PERSONS I.R.S. IDENTIFICATION NOS. OF ABOVE PERSONS (ENTITIES ONLY)  
Capital Research Global Investors \*\*

2 CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOX IF A MEMBER OF A GROUP (SEE INSTRUCTIONS) (a)

(b)

3 SEC USE ONLY

4 CITIZENSHIP OR PLACE OF ORGANIZATION

Delaware

5 SOLE VOTING POWER

9,060,670

NUMBER OF SHARES BENEFICIAL Y OWNED BY	6	SHARED VOTING POWER
		NONE
EACH REPORTING PERSON WITH:	7	SOLE DISPOSITIVE POWER
		9,060,670
	8	SHARED DISPOSITIVE POWER
		NONE

9 AGGREGATE AMOUNT BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON

9,060,670 Beneficial ownership disclaimed pursuant to Rule 13d-4

10 CHECK BOX IF THE AGGREGATE AMOUNT IN ROW (9) EXCLUDES CERTAIN SHARES  
(SEE INSTRUCTIONS)

11 PERCENT OF CLASS REPRESENTED BY AMOUNT IN ROW 9

9.0%

12 TYPE OF REPORTING PERSON (SEE INSTRUCTIONS)

IA

\*\* A division of Capital Research and Management Company (CRMC)

**SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**  
Washington, DC 20549

Schedule 13G

Under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

**Amendment No.**

**Item 1(a) Name of Issuer:**  
**CenturyTel, Incorporated**

**Item 1(b) Address of Issuer's Principal Executive Offices:**  
100 CenturyTel Drive  
Monroe, LA 71203

**Item 2(a) Name of Person(s) Filing:**  
**Capital Research Global Investors**

**Item 2(b) Address of Principal Business Office or, if none,**  
Residence:  
333 South Hope Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90071

**Item 2(c) Citizenship: N/A**

**Item 2(d) Title of Class of Securities:**  
**Common Stock**

**Item 2(e) CUSIP Number:**  
156700106

**Item 3 If this statement is filed pursuant to sections 240.13d-1(b)**  
or 240.13d-2(b) or (c), check whether the person filing is a:  
(e) ☒ An investment adviser in accordance with section 240.13d-1(b)(1)(ii)(E).

**Item 4 Ownership**

Provide the following information regarding the aggregate number and percentage of the class of securities of the issuer identified in Item 1.

- (a) Amount beneficially owned:
- (b) Percent of class:
- (c) Number of shares as to which the person has:
  - (i) Sole power to vote or to direct the vote:
  - (ii) Shared power to vote or to direct the vote:
  - (iii) Sole power to dispose or to direct the disposition of:
  - (iv) Shared power to dispose or to direct the disposition of:

See page 2

Capital Research Global Investors is deemed to be the beneficial owner of 9,060,670 shares or 9.0% of the 100,138,000 shares of Common Stock believed to be outstanding as a result of CRMC acting as investment adviser to various investment companies registered under Section 8 of the Investment Company Act of 1940.

**Item 5 Ownership of Five Percent or Less of a Class. If this**

statement is being filed to report the fact that as of the date hereof the reporting person has ceased to be the beneficial owner of more than five percent of the class of securities, check the following: [ ]

**Item 6 Ownership of More than Five Percent on Behalf of Another**

Person: One or more clients of Capital Research Global Investors have the right to receive or the power to direct the receipt of dividends from, or the proceeds from the sale of, the Common Stock of CenturyTel, Incorporated.

**Item 7 Identification and Classification of the Subsidiary Which**

Acquired the Security Being Reported on By the Parent Holding Company or Control Person. : N/A

**Item 8 Identification and Classification of Members of the Group:**

N/A

**Item 9 Notice of Dissolution of Group: N/A****Item 10 Certification**

By signing below, I certify that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, the securities referred to above were acquired and are held in the ordinary course of business and were not acquired and are not held for the purpose of or with the effect of changing or influencing the control of the issuer of the securities and were not acquired and are not held in connection with or as a participant in any transaction having that purpose or effect.

**Signature**

After reasonable inquiry and to the best of my knowledge and belief, I certify that the information set forth in this statement is true, complete and correct.

Date: February 6, 2009  
Signature: Timothy D. Armour\*\*\*  
Name/Title: Timothy D. Armour - Senior Vice President  
Capital Research Global Investors

\*\*\*By /s/ James P. Ryan  
James P. Ryan  
Attorney-in-fact

Signed pursuant to a Power of Attorney dated December 21, 2007 included as an Exhibit to Schedule 13G filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission by Capital Research Global Investors on January 10, 2008 with respect to Lowes Companies, Incorporated.



