

# 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 - *	2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol	5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable)
<b>COLE DAVID D</b>	<b>CENTURYTEL INC [ CTL ]</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Director <input type="checkbox"/> 10% Owner <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Officer (give title below) <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify below) <b>Sr.VP-Operations Support</b>
(Last) (First) (Middle)	3. Date of Earliest Transaction (MM/DD/YYYY)	
<b>100 CENTURYTEL DRIVE</b>	<b>2/21/2009</b>	
(Street)	4. If Amendment, Date Original Filed (MM/DD/YYYY)	6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing (Check Applicable Line)
<b>MONROE, LA 71203</b>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Form filed by One Reporting Person <input type="checkbox"/> Form filed by More than One Reporting Person
(City) (State) (Zip)		

**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	2/21/2009		F		2222	D	\$26.17	72048.6561	D	
Common Stock								5313.1147	I	By 401(k)
Common Stock								12051.7486	I	By ESOP
Common Stock								1663.7262	I	By ESOP Spouse
Common Stock								2141.9424	I	By PAYSOP
Common Stock								703.3217	I	By PAYSOP Spouse
Common Stock								11190.9058	I	By Stock Bonus Plan
Common Stock								2962.5566	I	By Stock Bonus Plan Spouse

**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	Title	Amount or Number of Shares				

#### Explanation of Responses:

#### Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships			
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other
<b>COLE DAVID D</b> <b>100 CENTURYTEL DRIVE</b> <b>MONROE, LA 71203</b>			<b>Sr.VP-Operations Support</b>	

#### Signatures

**Kay C. Buchart, Attorney-In-Fact**

**2/24/2009**

\*\*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.