

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

**SCHEDULE 13G/A**

**UNDER THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934**  
**EXIT FILING**

**CENTURYLINK, INC.**  
(NAME OF ISSUER)

**COMMON STOCK**  
(TITLE OF CLASS OF SECURITIES)

156700106  
(CUSIP NUMBER)

12/31/2017  
(DATE OF EVENT WHICH REQUIRES FILING OF THIS STATEMENT)

**CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOX TO DESIGNATE THE RULE PURSUANT TO WHICH THIS**  
**SCHEDULE IS FILED:**

☒ (X) 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).

CUSIP NO: 156700106 13G Page 2 of 5 Pages

1. NAME OF REPORTING PERSON: STATE STREET CORPORATION I.R.S. IDENTIFICATION NO. OF THE ABOVE PERSON: 04-2456637

2. CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOX IF A MEMBER OF A GROUP

NOT APPLICABLE

3. SEC USE ONLY

4. CITIZENSHIP OR PLACE OF ORGANIZATION

BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

5. SOLE VOTING POWER

**0 SHARES**

6. SHARED VOTING POWER

51,106,333

7. SOLE DISPOSITIVE POWER

**0 SHARES**

8. SHARED DISPOSITIVE POWER

51,106,333

9. AGGREGATED AMOUNT BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON

51,106,333

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

NOT APPLICABLE

11. PERCENT OF CLASS REPRESENTED BY AMOUNT IN ROW 9 4.78%

12. TYPE OF REPORTING PERSON HC

CUSIP NO: 156700106 13G Page 3 of 5 Pages

ITEM 1.

(A) NAME OF ISSUER  
**CENTURYLINK, INC.**  
(B) ADDRESS OF ISSUER’S PRINCIPAL EXECUTIVE OFFICES  
**P O BOX 4065**  
**100 CENTURYLINK**  
**DRIVE MONROE, LA 71203**

ITEM 2.

(A) NAME OF PERSON FILING  
**STATE STREET CORPORATION AND ANY OTHER REPORTING PERSON IDENTIFIED ON THE SECOND PART OF THE COVER PAGES HERETO**

(B) ADDRESS OF PRINCIPAL BUSINESS OFFICE OR, IN NONE,  
**RESIDENCE**  
**STATE STREET FINANCIAL CENTER**  
**ONE LINCOLN STREET**  
**BOSTON, MA 02111**

(FOR ALL REPORTING PERSONS)

(C) CITIZENSHIP: SEE ITEM 4 (CITIZENSHIP OR PLACE OF ORGANIZATION) OF COVER PAGES

(D) TITLE OF CLASS OF SECURITIES

**COMMON STOCK**

(E) CUSIP NUMBER:  
156700106

**ITEM 3.**  
**IF THIS STATEMENT IS FILED PURSUANT TO RULE 13D-1(B), OR 13D-2(B)**  
OR (C), CHECK WHETHER THE PERSON FILING IS A:  
SEE ITEM 12(TYPE OF REPORTING PERSON) OF THE COVER PAGE

FOR EACH REPORTING PERSON AND THE TABLE BELOW, WHICH EXPLAINS THE MEANING OF THE TWO LETTER SYMBOLS APPEARING IN ITEM 12 OF THE COVER PAGES.	
SYMBOL	CATEGORY
BK	BANK AS DEFINED IN SECTION 3(A) (6) OF THE ACT.
IC	INSURANCE COMPANY AS DEFINED IN SECTION 3 (A) (19) OF THE ACT
IC	INVESTMENT COMPANY REGISTERED UNDER SECTION 8 OF THE INVESTMENT COMPANY ACT OF 1940.
IA	AN INVESTMENT ADVISOR IN ACCORDANCE WITH RULE 13D-1(B) (1) (II) (E).
EP	AN EMPLOYEE BENEFIT PLAN OR ENDOWMENT FUND IN ACCORDANCE WITH RULE 13D-1(B) (1) (II) (F) .
HC	A PARENT HOLDING COMPANY OR CONTROL PERSON IN ACCORDANCE WITH RULE 13D-1(B) (1) (II) (G).
SA	A SAVINGS ASSOCIATIONS AS DEFINED IN SECTION 3(B) OF THE FEDERAL DEPOSIT INSURANCE ACT (12 U.S.C. 1813) .
CP	A CHURCH PLAN THAT IS EXCLUDED FROM THE DEFINITION OF AN INVESTMENT COMPANY UNDER SECTION 3(C) (14) OF THE INVESTMENT COMPANY ACT OF 1940.

CUSIP NO: 156700106 13G Page 4 of 5 Pages

ITEM 4. OWNERSHIP

THE INFORMATION SET FORTH IN ROWS 5 THROUGH 11 OF THE COVER PAGE HERETO FOR EACH OF THE REPORTING PERSONS IS INCORPORATED HEREIN BY REFERENCE.

ITEM 5. OWNERSHIP OF FIVE PERCENT OR LESS OF CLASS

NOT APPLICABLE

ITEM 6. OWNERSHIP OF MORE THAN FIVE PERCENT ON BEHALF OF ANOTHER PERSON

NOT APPLICABLE

ITEM 7. IDENTIFICATION AND CLASSIFICATION OF THE SUBSIDIARY WHICH ACQUIRED THE SECURITY BEING REPORTED ON BY THE PARENT HOLDING COMPANY OR CONTROL PERSON

SEE EXHIBIT 1 ATTACHED HERETO

**ITEM 8. IDENTIFICATION AND CLASSIFICATION OF MEMEBERS OF THE GROUP**

NOT APPLICABLE

**ITEM 9. NOTICE OF DISSOLUTION OF GROUP**

NOT APPLICABLE

**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 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.

**SIGNATURES**

AFTER REASONABLE INQUIRY AND TO THE BEST OF HIS KNOWLEDGE AND BELIEF, EACH OF THE UNDERSIGNED CERTIFIES THAT THE INFORMATION SET FORTH IN THIS STATEMENT IS TRUE, COMPLETE AND CORRECT.

FEBRUARY 14, 2018

**STATE STREET CORPORATION**

*/S/ ELIZABETH SCHAEFER  
SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT*

CUSIP NO: 156700106 13G Page 5 of 5 Pages

**EXHIBIT 1**

THE FOLLOWING TABLE LISTS THE IDENTITY AND ITEM 3 CLASSIFICATION OF EACH SUBSIDIARY OF STATE STREET CORPORATION, THE PARENT HOLDING COMPANY, THAT BENEFICIALLY OWNS THE ISSUER'S SECURITIES. PLEASE REFER TO ITEM 3 OF THE ATTACHED SCHEDULE 13G FOR A DESCRIPTION OF

EACH OF THE TWO-LETTER SYMBOLS REPRESENTING THE ITEM 3 CLASSIFICATION BELOW.

SUBSIDIARY	ITEM 3 CLASSIFICATION
STATE STREET BANK AND TRUST COMPANY	BK
SSGA FUNDS MANAGEMENT, INC.	IA
STATE STREET GLOBAL ADVISOR TRUST COMPANY	IA
STATE STREET GLOBAL ADVISORS (JAPAN) CO., LTD.	IA
STATE STREET GLOBAL ADVISORS ASIA LTD	IA
STATE STREET GLOBAL ADVISORS FRANCE S.A.S	IA
STATE STREET GLOBAL ADVISORS SINGAPORE LTD.	IA
STATE STREET GLOBAL ADVISORS LIMITED	IA
STATE STREET GLOBAL ADVISORS GmbH	IA
STATE STREET GLOBAL ADVISORS, AUSTRALIA	IA

**NOTE: ALL OF THE LEGAL ENTITIES ABOVE ARE DIRECT OR INDIRECT SUBSIDIARIES OF STATE STREET CORPORATION.**