

CENTURYTEL INC
 Form 4
 April 25, 2006

FORM 4

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

OMB APPROVAL

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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, Section 17(a) of the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935 or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person *
 POST GLEN F III

(Last) (First) (Middle)
 100 CENTURYTEL DRIVE
 (Street)

MONROE, LA 71203

(City) (State) (Zip)

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol
 CENTURYTEL INC [CTL]

3. Date of Earliest Transaction
 (Month/Day/Year)
 04/25/2006

4. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year)

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

(Check all applicable)

Director 10% Owner
 Officer (give title below) Other (specify below)
 Chairman and CEO

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line)
 Form filed by One Reporting Person
 Form filed by More than One Reporting Person

Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned

| 1. Title of Security (Instr. 3) | 2. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year) | 2A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year) | 3. Transaction 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) |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|---|--|---|
| | | | | (A) or (D) | Price | | |
| | | | | Code V | Amount | | |
| Common Stock | 04/25/2006 | | F | 5,578 | D 37.64 | 252,832.64 | D |
| | | | | | (1) | | |
| Common Stock | | | | | | 6,957.7 | I |
| | | | | | | | By 401(k) (2) |
| Common Stock | | | | | | 20,237.24 | I |
| | | | | | | | By ESOP (3) |
| Common Stock | | | | | | 5,828.52 | I |
| | | | | | | | By PAYSOP (4) |
| | | | | | | 50,125.27 | I |

Common
StockBy Stock
Bonus Plan
(5)

Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially owned directly or indirectly.

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(9-02)**Table II - Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned**
(e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)

| 1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 3) | 2. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security | 3. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year) | 3A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year) | 4. Transaction 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 (Month/Day/Year) | 7. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities (Instr. 3 and 4) | | |
|--|--|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|--|---|--------------|----------------------------|
| | | | | Code | V (A) (D) | Date Exercisable | Expiration Date | Title | Amount or Number of Shares |
| Employee Stock Option (right to buy) | \$ 34.63 | | | | | 02/21/2001 ⁽⁶⁾ | 02/21/2010 | Common Stock | 320,000 |
| Employee Stock Option (right to buy) | \$ 28.03 | | | | | 05/21/2002 ⁽⁷⁾ | 05/21/2011 | Common Stock | 320,000 |
| Employee Stock Option (right to buy) | \$ 32.99 | | | | | 02/25/2003 ⁽⁸⁾ | 02/25/2012 | Common Stock | 320,000 |
| Employee Stock Option (right to buy) | \$ 27.48 | | | | | 02/24/2004 ⁽⁹⁾ | 02/24/2013 | Common Stock | 320,000 |
| Employee Stock Option | \$ 28.34 | | | | | 02/25/2004 ⁽¹⁰⁾ | 02/25/2014 | Common Stock | 160,000 |

(right to buy)

Employee Stock

Option \$ 33.4

(right to buy)

02/17/2005⁽¹¹⁾ 02/17/2015

Common Stock 200,000

Employee Stock

Option \$ 35.41

(right to buy)

03/15/2007⁽¹²⁾ 02/20/2016

Common Stock 200,000

Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address | Relationships | | | |
|---|---------------|-----------|------------------|-------|
| | Director | 10% Owner | Officer | Other |
| POST GLEN F III 100 CENTURYTEL DRIVE MONROE, LA 71203 | X | | Chairman and CEO | |

Signatures

By: Kay C. Buchart,
Attorney-In-Fact

04/25/2006

__Signature of Reporting Person

Date

Explanation of Responses:

- * 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).
- (1) Closing price on vest date.
- (2) As of most recent statement available
- (3) As of most recent statement available.
- (4) As of most recent statement available.
- (5) As of most recent statement available.
- (6) One-third of the Stock Options are exercisable 2/21/2001, one-third are exercisable on 2/21/2002, and one-third are exercisable on 2/21/2003.
- (7) One-third of the Stock Options are exercisable 5/21/02, one-third are exercisable 5/21/03, and one-third are exercisable 5/21/04.
- (8) One-third of the Stock Options are exercisable 2/25/03, one-third are exercisable 2/25/04, and one-third are exercisable 2/25/05.
- (9) One-third of the Stock Options are exercisable 2/24/04, one-third are exercisable 2/24/05, and one-third are exercisable 2/24/06.
- (10) One-third of the options are exercisable immediately, one-third are exercisable 2/25/05, and one-third are exercisable 2/25/06.
- (11) One-third of the options are exercisable immediately, one-third are exercisable 2/17/06, and one-third are exercisable 2/17/07.
- (12) One-third of the options are exercisable 3/15/07, one-third are exercisable 3/15/08, and one-third are exercisable 3/15/09.

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, *see* Instruction 6 for procedure. Potential persons who are to respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB number.