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CENTURYTEL INC
Form 8-K
July 26, 2002

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

FORM 8-K

CURRENT REPORT

Pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

Date of Report (Date of earliest event reported) July 25, 2002

CenturyTel, Inc.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Louisiana (State or other jurisdiction of incorporation)	1-7784 (Commission File Number)	72-0651161 (IRS Employer Identification No.)
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100 CenturyTel Drive, Monroe, Louisiana (Address of principal executive offices)	71203 (Zip Code)
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Registrant's telephone number, including area code (318) 388-9000

Item 5. Other Events.

On July 25, 2002, CenturyTel, Inc. issued a press release announcing its second quarter 2002 consolidated operating results. The entire text of the release is reproduced below:

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 25, 2002

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CenturyTel Reports Strong Second Quarter Results

Monroe, LA. . . CenturyTel, Inc. (NYSE Symbol: CTL) announces operating results for second quarter 2002.

- o Revenues from continuing operations increased 7.2% to \$438.7 million.
- o Earnings from continuing operations before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization (EBITDA), excluding nonrecurring items, rose 9.6% to \$221.0 million.
- o Income from continuing operations, excluding nonrecurring items, climbed 20.2% to \$47.5 million. o Diluted earnings per share from continuing operations, excluding nonrecurring items, climbed 17.9% to \$.33.
- o Free cash flow generated in second quarter 2002 was \$53.0 million.

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SECOND QUARTER HIGHLIGHTS

(Excluding nonrecurring items) (In thousands, except per share and customer amounts)	Quarter Ended 06/30/02	Quarter Ended 06/30/01	% Change
Revenues from continuing operations	\$ 438,702	\$ 409,250	7.2%
EBITDA from continuing operations (1)	\$ 221,020	\$ 201,582	9.6%
Income from continuing operations (1)	\$ 47,547	\$ 39,543 (2)	20.2%
Net Income	\$ 86,102	\$ 67,673 (2)	27.2%
Diluted Earnings Per Share from continuing operations (1)	\$.33	\$.28 (2)	17.9%
Diluted Earnings Per Share	\$.60	\$.48 (2)	25.0%
Average Diluted Shares Outstanding	142,705	142,059	0.5%
Telephone Revenues	\$ 380,499	\$ 367,884	3.4%
Other Operations Revenues	\$ 58,203	\$ 41,366	40.7%
Telephone Access Lines	1,795,180	1,807,950	(0.7)%
Long Distance Customers	536,394	414,486	29.4%

- (1) Includes corporate overheads previously allocated to discontinued operations.
- (2) As adjusted to reflect the after-tax effect of eliminating goodwill amortization in accordance with SFAS 142.

"We are pleased with the strong increase in CenturyTel's revenue and cash flow from continuing operations, excluding nonrecurring items," Glen F. Post, III, president and chief executive officer, said. "We continue to experience strong demand for our long distance and DSL services, adding more than 120,000 long distance customers and more than doubling our DSL subscribers since second quarter 2001."

Consolidated revenues from continuing operations for the second quarter rose 7.2% to \$438.7 million from \$409.3 million. EBITDA from continuing operations, excluding nonrecurring items, grew to \$221.0 million from \$201.6 million. The Company achieved a consolidated EBITDA margin of 50.4% during the quarter. Income from continuing operations for the quarter, excluding nonrecurring items, increased 20.2% to \$47.5 million from \$39.5 million in second quarter 2001 (as adjusted). Diluted earnings per share from continuing operations, excluding nonrecurring items, increased 17.9% to \$.33 from \$.28 (as adjusted). Diluted earnings per share, excluding nonrecurring items, increased 25.0% to \$.60 from \$.48 (as adjusted).

Telephone revenues grew 3.4% to \$380.5 million during the quarter, compared with \$367.9 million in second quarter 2001. Revenues for the quarter were driven by an increase in Universal Service Fund payments and internal revenue growth of 2.3%, which was negatively impacted by a decline in intrastate revenue. Telephone operating expenses increased due to acquisition integration, employee-related, network, and depreciation expenses partially offset by a decrease in retail bad debt and access charge expenses. Telephone operating income, excluding nonrecurring items, increased 4.1% to \$118.7 million from \$114.1 million (as adjusted), and telephone EBITDA, excluding nonrecurring items, rose 5.3% to \$208.9 million from \$198.3 million a year ago. CenturyTel's second quarter telephone EBITDA margin was 54.9% while the operating income

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margin was 31.2%.

Other Operations revenues grew 40.7% to \$58.2 million during second quarter 2002, compared with \$41.4 million in second quarter 2001. CenturyTel's long distance revenues increased \$5.9 million, or 20.9%, to \$34.5 million. CenturyTel now serves more than 536,000 long distance customers, adding more than 21,000 during the quarter. Internet revenues increased 68.7% to \$14.7 million in second quarter 2002 from \$8.7 million in second quarter 2001. The Internet business generated positive operating cash flow of \$55,000 for the quarter compared to negative operating cash flow of \$2.7 million for the second quarter 2001. CenturyTel CLEC revenues increased by \$4.7 million, of which \$4.0 million resulted from the acquisition of CLEC assets in Monroe and Shreveport, Louisiana, at the end of February, 2002.

"Revenue from Other Operations, which includes long distance, Internet and CLEC operations, rose 40.7 percent to more than \$58 million during the quarter, reflecting solid revenue growth in all three areas. We believe CenturyTel's strong financial performance this quarter is a good indicator that rural telephony is one of the industry's brightest segments," Post said.

For second quarter 2002, in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP), the Company reported net income of \$78.8 million, or \$.55 per diluted share, compared to net income of \$168.4 million (as adjusted), or \$1.19 per diluted share in second quarter 2001. Nonrecurring items in second quarter 2002 include a \$15 million pre-tax charge (\$9.8 million after-tax) related to a reserve for uncollectible revenues primarily from WorldCom and a nonrecurring \$2.4 million after-tax gain on the sale of a PCS license. Net income in second quarter 2001 includes a net favorable \$100.7 million impact from nonrecurring items which consisted of the gain on sale of PCS licenses to Leap Wireless (\$107.5 million after-tax) and the write down of certain non-operating investments (\$6.8 million after-tax).

For the first six months of 2002, income from continuing operations, excluding nonrecurring items, increased 16.6% to \$92.4 million from \$79.2 million in 2001 (as adjusted) and diluted earnings per share increased 22.0% to \$1.11 from \$.91 (as adjusted). Consolidated revenues increased 5.0% to \$861.6 million from \$820.9 million while EBITDA was \$433.0 million compared to \$409.2 million a year ago, a 5.8% increase.

The Company continues to reflect its wireless business as discontinued operations due to its pending divestiture. As a result of this treatment, depreciation expense for the wireless operations was discontinued effective March 19, 2002, the date of the definitive agreement. This reduction in wireless depreciation contributed approximately \$.05 to earnings per share for second quarter 2002. Income from continuing operations includes total interest expense and \$5.1 million of corporate overheads previously absorbed by the Company's wireless operations.

For the third quarter 2002, the Company expects revenue from continuing operations to be \$515 to \$530 million. Operating cash flow from continuing operations is expected to be \$260 to \$270 million. Diluted earnings per share from continuing operations is anticipated to be \$.40 to \$.44, while total diluted earnings per share is expected to be \$.49 to \$.54 for third quarter 2002. These estimates exclude nonrecurring items and one-time integration costs of \$4.0 to \$6.0 million related to the pending Verizon Missouri acquisition. These estimates also include Alabama telephone properties acquired July 1, 2002, and assume that the sale of the Company's wireless business and the acquisition of Missouri telephone properties occur as scheduled on August 1, 2002, and August 31, 2002, respectively.

For the full year 2002, the Company expects its total diluted earnings per share, excluding nonrecurring items and one-time acquisition integration costs

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of \$8 - \$10 million, to be \$2.08 to \$2.20, an increase from prior full year 2002 earnings per share guidance of \$2.06 to \$2.18. This guidance is based upon several financing, operational and other assumptions, including the timely close of our pending wireless divestiture and Verizon acquisition in Missouri discussed above.

The Company continues to believe the net effect of its wireless divestiture and its Verizon acquisitions will be breakeven to \$.03 accretive to earnings per share during the first full year of operations, based upon current financing, operational and other assumptions.

The Company's financing plans are now substantially complete. We successfully completed a \$500 million equity units offering in May and recently completed a new \$800 million credit facility. We anticipate using a portion of the proceeds from the divestiture of the Company's wireless business to complete the Missouri acquisition. We believe the Company's existing facilities, together with internally generated cash, may be sufficient to fund the December 2002 tax payment related to the wireless sale. The Company also has \$400 million in remarketable debt securities coming due in October 2002. We believe a number of financing options are available to fund these requirements if necessary.

In addition to historical information, this release includes forward-looking statements, estimates and projections that are based on current expectations only, and are subject to a number of risks, uncertainties and assumptions, many of which are beyond the control of CenturyTel. Actual events and results may differ materially from those anticipated, estimated or projected if one or more of these risks or uncertainties materialize, or if underlying assumptions prove incorrect. Factors that could affect actual results include but are not limited to: the Company's ability to effectively manage its growth, including integrating newly acquired businesses into our operations, successfully financing and timely consummating pending acquisitions, hiring adequate numbers of qualified staff and successfully upgrading our billing and other information systems; successfully obtaining all consents and waivers necessary to complete the Company's pending acquisitions and wireless divestiture; the terms upon which the Company finances its pending acquisitions; the inherent risk of rapid technological change; the effects of on-going changes in the regulation of the Company or the communications industry generally; the effects of greater than anticipated competition in the Company's markets; possible changes in the demand for, or pricing of, the Company's products and services; the Company's ability to successfully introduce new offerings on a timely and cost-effective basis; higher than anticipated interest rates; and the effects of more general factors such as changes in overall market or economic conditions or in legislation, regulation or public policy. These and other uncertainties related to the Company's business are described in greater detail in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2001. The information contained in this release is as of July 25, 2002. The Company undertakes no obligation to update or revise any of this information whether as a result of new information, future events or developments, or otherwise.

CenturyTel's management will host a conference call at 10:30 A.M. Central time today. Interested parties can access the call by dialing 800.729.6845 and the call will be accessible for replay by calling 800.642.1687 and entering the conference-id number: 12475. Investors can also listen to CenturyTel's earnings conference call and replay by accessing the Company's Web site at (www.centurytel.com).

CenturyTel, Inc. provides communications services including local exchange, wireless, long distance, Internet access and data services to more than three million customers in 22 states. The company, headquartered in Monroe, Louisiana, is publicly traded on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol CTL. CenturyTel is the 8th largest local exchange telephone company, based on access lines, in the United States.

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Visit CenturyTel's corporate Web site at (www.centurytel.com).

CenturyTel, Inc.
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF INCOME
THREE MONTHS ENDED JUNE 30, 2002 AND 2001
(UNAUDITED)

	AS REPORTED			EXCLUDING NON	
In thousands, except per share amounts	2002	2001	INCREASE (DECREASE)	2002	2001
TELEPHONE OPERATIONS					
Operating revenues					
Local service	\$ 125,357	123,293	1.7%	125,357	123,293
Network access	220,702	212,570	3.8%	220,702	212,570
Other	34,440	32,021	7.6%	34,440	32,021
	380,499	367,884	3.4%	380,499	367,884
Operating expenses					
Plant operations	96,147	93,490	2.8%	96,147	93,490
Customer operations	32,385	28,814	12.4%	32,385	28,814
Corporate and other	58,099	47,271	22.9%	43,099	47,271
Depreciation and amortization	90,159	98,927	(8.9%)	90,159	98,927
	276,790	268,502	3.1%	261,790	268,502
Telephone operating income	103,709	99,382	4.4%	118,709	99,382
OTHER OPERATIONS					
Operating revenues					
Long distance	34,462	28,514	20.9%	34,462	28,514
Internet	14,706	8,718	68.7%	14,706	8,718
Other	9,035	4,134	118.6%	9,035	4,134
	58,203	41,366	40.7%	58,203	41,366
Operating expenses					
Cost of sales and other	43,402	34,897	24.4%	43,402	34,897
Depreciation and amortization	3,845	1,663	131.2%	3,845	1,663
	47,247	36,560	29.2%	47,247	36,560
Other operating income	10,956	4,806	128.0%	10,956	4,806
Corporate overhead costs allocable to discontinued operations	(5,134)	(4,979)	3.1%	(5,134)	(4,979)
TOTAL OPERATING INCOME	109,531	99,209	10.4%	124,531	99,209
OTHER INCOME (EXPENSE)					
Nonrecurring gains and losses	3,709	(10,500)	(135.3%)	-	-

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Interest expense	(54,157)	(57,358)	(5.6%)	(54,157)	(57,358)
Other income and expense	2,485	1,783	39.4%	2,485	1,783
Income tax expense	(21,360)	(12,066)	77.0%	(25,312)	(15,000)
INCOME FROM CONTINUING OPERATIONS	40,208	21,068	90.8%	47,547	27,000
DISCONTINUED OPERATIONS, NET OF TAX	38,555	133,173	(71.0%)	38,555	25,000
NET INCOME	\$ 78,763	154,241	(48.9%)	86,102	53,000
Add: After tax effect of goodwill amortization	-	14,135	-	-	14,135
NET INCOME, AS ADJUSTED	\$ 78,763	168,376	(53.2%)	86,102	67,135
BASIC EARNINGS PER SHARE					
From continuing operations	\$ 0.28	0.15	86.7%	0.34	0.15
From continuing operations, as adjusted (1)	\$ 0.28	0.23	21.7%	0.34	0.23
From discontinued operations	\$ 0.27	0.95	(71.6%)	0.27	0.95
From discontinued operations, as adjusted (1)	\$ 0.27	0.96	(71.9%)	0.27	0.96
Basic earnings per share	\$ 0.56	1.10	(49.1%)	0.61	1.10
Basic earnings per share, as adjusted (1)	\$ 0.56	1.20	(53.3%)	0.61	1.20
DILUTED EARNINGS PER SHARE					
From continuing operations	\$ 0.28	0.15	86.7%	0.33	0.15
From continuing operations, as adjusted (1)	\$ 0.28	0.23	21.7%	0.33	0.23
From discontinued operations	\$ 0.27	0.94	(71.3%)	0.27	0.94
From discontinued operations, as adjusted (1)	\$ 0.27	0.95	(71.6%)	0.27	0.95
Diluted earnings per share	\$ 0.55	1.09	(49.5%)	0.60	1.09
Diluted earnings per share, as adjusted (1)	\$ 0.55	1.19	(53.8%)	0.60	1.19
SHARES OUTSTANDING					
Basic	141,243	140,720	0.4%	141,243	140,720
Diluted	142,705	142,059	0.5%	142,705	142,059
DIVIDENDS PER COMMON SHARE	\$ 0.0525	0.0500	5.0%	0.0525	0.0500

(1) As adjusted to reflect the after-tax effect of eliminating goodwill amortization in accordance with SFAS 142.

CenturyTel, Inc.
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF INCOME
SIX MONTHS ENDED JUNE 30, 2002 AND 2001
(UNAUDITED)

In thousands, except per share amounts	AS REPORTED		INCREASE (DECREASE)	EXCLUDING NO	
	2002	2001		2002	2001

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TELEPHONE OPERATIONS

Operating revenues					
Local service	\$ 249,234	244,454	2.0%	249,234	244,
Network access	437,278	426,437	2.5%	437,278	426,
Other	66,718	68,242	(2.2%)	66,718	68,
	753,230	739,133	1.9%	753,230	739,
Operating expenses					
Plant operations	187,233	187,375	(0.1%)	187,233	185,
Customer operations	62,323	58,071	7.3%	62,323	58,
Corporate and other	102,495	94,036	9.0%	87,495	94,
Depreciation and amortization	179,502	196,288	(8.6%)	179,502	196,
	531,553	535,770	(0.8%)	516,553	533,
Telephone operating income	221,677	203,363	9.0%	236,677	205,

OTHER OPERATIONS

Operating revenues					
Long distance	66,279	56,114	18.1%	66,279	56,
Internet	27,267	17,117	59.3%	27,267	17,
Other	14,844	8,488	74.9%	14,844	8,
	108,390	81,719	32.6%	108,390	81,
Operating expenses					
Cost of sales and other	84,826	68,486	23.9%	84,826	68,
Depreciation and amortization	6,729	3,120	115.7%	6,729	3,
	91,555	71,606	27.9%	91,555	71,
Other operating income	16,835	10,113	66.5%	16,835	10,
Corporate overhead costs allocable to discontinued operations	(9,932)	(9,958)	(0.3%)	(9,932)	(9,
TOTAL OPERATING INCOME	228,580	203,518	12.3%	243,580	205,
OTHER INCOME (EXPENSE)					
Nonrecurring gains and losses	3,709	(10,500)	(135.3%)	-	
Interest expense	(104,805)	(119,061)	(12.0%)	(104,805)	(119,
Other income and expense	217	4,250	(94.9%)	3,217	4,
Income tax expense	(44,636)	(30,288)	47.4%	(49,638)	(34,
INCOME FROM CONTINUING OPERATIONS	83,065	47,919	73.3%	92,354	55,
DISCONTINUED OPERATIONS, NET OF TAX	66,465	153,044	(56.6%)	66,465	45,
NET INCOME	\$ 149,530	200,963	(25.6%)	158,819	101,
Add: After tax effect of goodwill amortization	-	28,218	-	-	28,
NET INCOME, AS ADJUSTED	\$ 149,530	229,181	(34.8%)	158,819	129,

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BASIC EARNINGS PER SHARE						
From continuing operations	\$	0.59	0.34	73.5%	0.65	0
From continuing operations, as adjusted (1)	\$	0.59	0.51	15.7%	0.65	0
From discontinued operations	\$	0.47	1.09	(56.9%)	0.47	0
From discontinued operations, as adjusted (1)	\$	0.47	1.12	(58.0%)	0.47	0
Basic earnings per share	\$	1.06	1.43	(25.9%)	1.12	0
Basic earnings per share, as adjusted (1)	\$	1.06	1.63	(35.0%)	1.12	0
DILUTED EARNINGS PER SHARE						
From continuing operations	\$	0.58	0.34	70.6%	0.65	0
From continuing operations, as adjusted (1)	\$	0.58	0.50	16.0%	0.65	0
From discontinued operations	\$	0.47	1.08	(56.5%)	0.47	0
From discontinued operations, as adjusted (1)	\$	0.47	1.11	(57.7%)	0.47	0
Diluted earnings per share	\$	1.05	1.41	(25.5%)	1.11	0
Diluted earnings per share, as adjusted (1)	\$	1.05	1.61	(34.8%)	1.11	0
SHARES OUTSTANDING						
Basic		141,136	140,656	0.3%	141,136	140,
Diluted		142,679	142,271	0.3%	142,679	142,
DIVIDENDS PER COMMON SHARE	\$	0.1050	0.1000	5.0%	0.1050	0.1

(1) As adjusted to reflect the after-tax effect of eliminating goodwill amortization in accordance with SFAS 142.

CenturyTel, Inc.
CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS
JUNE 30, 2002 AND DECEMBER 31, 2001
(UNAUDITED)

	June 30, 2002	December 31, 2001

(in thousands)		
ASSETS		
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 302,070	3,496
Other current assets	193,748	226,417

Total current assets	495,818	229,913

PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT		
Telephone	5,385,714	5,292,255
Other	488,999	446,920
Accumulated depreciation	(3,149,617)	(3,003,033)

Net property, plant and equipment	2,725,096	2,736,142

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INVESTMENTS AND OTHER ASSETS		
Excess cost of net assets acquired	2,115,313	2,087,158
Other	439,855	420,043

Total investments and other assets	2,555,168	2,507,201

ASSETS HELD FOR SALE	861,226	845,428

TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 6,637,308	6,318,684
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LIABILITIES AND EQUITY

CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Short-term debt and current maturities of long-term debt	\$ 605,772	1,008,834
Other current liabilities	264,157	230,048

Total current liabilities	869,929	1,238,882

LONG-TERM DEBT	2,576,813	2,087,500
DEFERRED CREDITS AND OTHER LIABILITIES	560,797	506,052
LIABILITIES RELATED TO ASSETS HELD FOR SALE	171,680	148,870
STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY	2,458,089	2,337,380

TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	\$ 6,637,308	6,318,684
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CAPITAL EXPENDITURES
SIX MONTHS ENDED JUNE 30, 2002 AND 2001

	2002	2001	INCREASE (DECREASE)

(in thousands)			
Telephone	\$ 145,822	161,817	(9.9%)
Wireless (discontinued operations)	20,264	33,596	(39.7%)
Other	33,212	47,905	(30.7%)

Total capital expenditures	\$ 199,298	243,318	(18.1%)
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CAPITAL EXPENDITURES
THREE MONTHS ENDED JUNE 30, 2002 AND 2001

	2002	2001	INCREASE (DECREASE)

(in thousands)			
Telephone	\$ 78,284	89,137	(12.2%)
Wireless (discontinued operations)	14,127	15,264	(7.4%)
Other	27,218	18,332	48.5%

Total capital expenditures	\$ 119,629	122,733	(2.5%)

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SIGNATURE

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned thereunto duly authorized.

CenturyTel, Inc.

By: /s/ Neil A. Sweasy

Neil A. Sweasy
Vice President and Controller