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CENTURYTEL INC
Form 11-K
July 12, 2001

United States
Securities and Exchange Commission
Washington, D.C. 20549

Form 11-K

☒ ANNUAL REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE
ACT OF 1934

For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2000

OR

☐ TRANSITION REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE
ACT OF 1934

Commission file number 1-7784

A. Full title of the plan and the address of the plan, if different from
that of the issuer named below:

CENTURYTEL, INC.
UNION RETIREMENT SAVINGS PLAN AND TRUST

(Formerly Century Telephone Enterprises, Inc. Retirement
Savings Plan For Bargaining Unit Employees and Trust)

B. Name of issuer of the securities held pursuant to the plan and the
address of its principal executive office:

CENTURYTEL, INC.
100 CENTURYTEL DRIVE
MONROE, LA 71203

Independent Auditors' Report

The Board of Directors

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CenturyTel, Inc.:

We have audited the accompanying statements of net assets available for benefits of CenturyTel, Inc. Union Retirement Savings Plan and Trust as of December 31, 2000 and 1999, and the related statement of changes in net assets available for benefits for the year ended December 31, 2000. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Plan's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audits.

We conducted our audits in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the net assets available for benefits of CenturyTel, Inc. Union Retirement Savings Plan and Trust as of December 31, 2000 and 1999, and the changes in net assets available for benefits for the year ended December 31, 2000 in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Our audits were performed for the purpose of forming an opinion on the basic financial statements taken as a whole. The supplemental schedule of assets (held at end of year) is presented for the purpose of additional analysis and is not a required part of the basic financial statements but is supplementary information required by the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974. This supplemental schedule is the responsibility of the Plan's management. The supplemental schedule has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audits of the basic financial statements and, in our opinion, is fairly stated in all material respects in relation to the basic financial statements taken as a whole.

KPMG LLP

/s/ KPMG LLP

Shreveport, Louisiana
June 14, 2001

CENTURYTEL, INC.
UNION RETIREMENT SAVINGS PLAN AND TRUST
Statements of Net Assets Available for Benefits
December 31, 2000 and 1999

2000 1999

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PLAN ASSETS		
Investments, at fair value	\$ 8,772,766	9,696,684
Cash	-	440
Contributions receivable - employer	7,463	16,876
Contributions receivable - participants	17,322	-

NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS	\$ 8,797,551	9,714,000
=====		

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

CENTURYTEL, INC. UNION RETIREMENT SAVINGS PLAN AND TRUST Statement of Changes in Net Assets Available for Benefits For the year ended December 31, 2000

Additions to net assets:	
Investment income (loss)	
Net depreciation in fair value of investments:	
Mutual funds	\$ (489,241)
Common stocks	(987,264)
Dividend and other income	132,689
Interest income	36,028

Net investment income (loss)	(1,307,788)

Contributions:	
Participants	428,005
Company	182,900

Total contributions	610,905

Total investment income (loss) and contributions	(696,883)

Deductions from net assets:	
Participant withdrawals	214,626
Other, net	4,940

Total deductions	219,566

Net decrease	(916,449)
Net assets available for benefits:	
Beginning of year	9,714,000

End of year \$ 8,797,551
=====

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

CENTURYTEL, INC.
UNION RETIREMENT SAVINGS PLAN AND TRUST
Notes to Financial Statements
December 31, 2000

(1) SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES AND PROVISIONS OF THE PLAN

Basis of Presentation

The CenturyTel, Inc. Union Retirement Savings Plan and Trust (the Plan) (formerly the Century Telephone Enterprises, Inc. Retirement Savings Plan for Bargaining Unit Employees and Trust) was established on April 1, 1992. The accompanying financial statements of the Plan have been prepared on the accrual basis of accounting and present the net assets available for benefits as of December 31, 2000 and 1999 and changes in net assets available for benefits for the year ended December 31, 2000. The Plan has made estimates in preparing the accompanying financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

The assets of the Plan are invested by the Trustee in various investment programs (funds) which are described in Note 2.

The following description of the Plan provides only general information. Participants should refer to the Plan Document for a more complete description of the Plan's provisions.

Participation

Participation in the Plan is available to each employee whose compensation and conditions of employment are covered by a collective bargaining agreement between the Communications Workers of America, Local 4370 and CenturyTel of Ohio, Inc. The Plan sponsor is CenturyTel, Inc. (the Company), the parent company of CenturyTel of Ohio, Inc.

In order to participate in the Plan, an employee must execute a Salary Deferral Agreement with the Company. In the Salary Deferral Agreement, an employee agrees to a deferral of between one percent and sixteen percent of his base pay. The amount of compensation deferred by each participant is credited to an account (Elective Deferral Account) maintained for each participant by the Trustee.

As of the end of each payroll period, the Company contributes to an account (Employer Match Account) for each participant a contribution equal to 55% of each such participant's contribution during such payroll period; however, this matching contribution applies only to the first 6% of such participant's base compensation contributed to the Plan by the employee.

During 2000 the Company contributed \$182,900 to the Employer Match Account.

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An employee is permitted to transfer to the Plan as a contribution his interest in another plan qualified under Section 401(k) of the Internal Revenue Code, as amended (the Code). Such contribution must qualify as a "rollover" contribution described in Section 402(c) or 408(d)(3) of the Code. Such a rollover will be credited to a rollover account on behalf of the participant (the Rollover/Transfer Account).

The interest of a participant in his Elective Deferral Account and his Rollover/Transfer Account is fully vested and non-forfeitable at all times.

The interest of a participant in his Employer Match Account becomes fully vested after five years of service. A participant with less than five years of service has no vested interest in this account.

Reports to Participants

Participants are furnished with quarterly statements which set forth the status of their accounts in the Plan.

Forfeitures

A participant's non-vested account balances shall be forfeited as of the date upon which the participant's employment has terminated with the Company. Forfeiture amounts shall be utilized to reduce Company contributions.

Distributions

If the employment of a participant with the employer ceases because of death, retirement, disability, termination of employment or for any other reason, the participant's vested interest in the Plan may be distributed to him or to his beneficiary in a lump sum or in periodic installments. If the participant dies without designating a beneficiary, his beneficiary shall be, in the order listed, (i) his spouse, (ii) his children, or (iii) his estate.

Withdrawals

A participant who is an employee may make withdrawals from his after-tax investment account and may withdraw the entire balance.

A participant who is an employee and over age 59 1/2 may make withdrawals from his vested investment accounts prior to normal distribution requirements being met. In addition, a hardship withdrawal may be made from an Elective Deferral Account or a Rollover/Transfer Account only as a result of financial hardship related to unreimbursable educational expenses, medical expenses which are not reimbursable by insurance, the need to pay for the funeral expenses of a family member, the prevention of eviction or foreclosure from the Participant's principal residence, or for the purchase of the participant's principal residence. The determination of the existence of a financial hardship and the amount required to be distributed to meet the need created by the hardship shall be made uniformly and without discrimination at the sole discretion of the Plan Administrator.

Loans to Participants

The Plan has a provision whereby a participant can borrow from his Elective Deferral Account or Rollover/Transfer Account. The maximum loan is 50% of the vested account balance, up to \$50,000. The loans are repaid

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through payroll deductions and the interest rate is the prime rate published in the Wall Street Journal on the last day of the previous quarter plus 1%. The loan repayment period may not exceed five years except for loans for the purchase of the Participant's principal residence which may be for any period not to exceed fifteen years.

Trustee

The Trustee of the Plan, as of December 31, 2000, was T. Rowe Price Trust Company (T. Rowe Price). Prior to September 1, 2000, the Trustee of the Plan was Merrill Lynch Trust Company, FSB (Merrill Lynch). The Board of Directors of the Company may remove the Trustee and appoint a successor trustee. The Company and the Trustee have entered into a Trust Agreement which provides for the establishment of a Trust for the purpose of holding and investing the contributions to the Trust pursuant to the provisions of the Plan.

Administration

The Company has appointed a committee to administer the Plan. The individuals who administer the Plan serve at the discretion of the Board of Directors of the Company and may be removed by the Board of Directors at any time. The administrative costs of the Plan are paid by the Company.

Market Value Determination

Investments in CenturyTel, Inc. Common Stock (CenturyTel Common Stock) are valued at the closing market price on December 31, 2000 and 1999, respectively. Other investments in the funds, which consist of shares of mutual funds, are valued by the Trustee based on the market value at year-end of the underlying assets of each fund. Purchases and sales of securities are recorded on a trade date basis. Loans to participants are valued at principal amount outstanding which approximates market value.

Plan Termination

Although it has not expressed any intention to do so, the Company has the right under the Plan to change, suspend or terminate the Plan at any time, subject to the provisions set forth in the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974. The Company, however, is required to maintain the Plan under the terms of the applicable labor agreement.

New Accounting Pronouncements

In June 1998, the Financial Accounting Standards Board issued SFAS No. 133, "Accounting for Derivative Instruments and Hedging Activities" ("SFAS No.133"). SFAS No. 133 requires that an entity recognize all derivatives and measure those instruments at fair value.

SFAS No. 133 is effective for fiscal years beginning after June 15, 2000. Pursuant to SFAS No. 137, the Plan is required to adopt SFAS No. 133 effective January 1, 2001. Management has determined that the impact of SFAS No. 133 on the Plan Financial statements would be immaterial.

(2) DESCRIPTION OF THE FUNDS

The following is a description of each of the funds available to Plan participants as of December 31, 2000:

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- (a) T. Rowe Price Equity Index 500 Fund - consists of investments in the same stocks and in substantially the same percentages as the S & P 500 Index (\$3,888,209 at December 31, 2000).
- (b) CenturyTel Common Stock Fund - consists of shares of CenturyTel Common Stock (\$3,351,090 and \$4,206,375 at December 31, 2000 and 1999, respectively).
- (c) Loan Fund - represents loans to participants from the participants' investment accounts (\$348,296 and \$357,246 at December 31, 2000 and 1999, respectively).
- (d) T. Rowe Price Summit Cash Reserve Fund - consists primarily of investments in various money market instruments (\$575,151 at December 31, 2000).
- (e) T. Rowe Price Equity Income Fund - consists primarily of investments in U. S. and foreign common stocks (\$281 at December 31, 2000).
- (f) Janus Overseas Fund - consists primarily of investments in foreign equity securities (\$48,844 at December 31, 2000).
- (g) Janus Fund - consists primarily of investments in U. S. and foreign equity securities (\$70,111 at December 31, 2000).
- (h) T. Rowe Price Mid-Cap Growth Fund - consists primarily of investments in common stocks of companies whose market capitalization falls within the range of companies in the S&P MidCap 400 Index (\$20,919 at December 31, 2000).
- (i) Morgan Stanley Dean Witter Small Company Growth Portfolio Fund - consists primarily of investments in common stocks of small companies (\$39,521 at December 31, 2000).
- (j) PIMCO Total Return Fund - consists primarily of investments in debt securities (\$381,197 at December 31, 2000).
- (k) BGI Asset Allocation Fund - consists primarily of investments in common stocks, U. S. Treasury bonds and money market instruments (\$14,204 at December 31, 2000).
- (l) BGI LifePath Income Fund - consists primarily of investments in U.S. and foreign equity and debt securities and money market instruments and is managed for investors planning to retire (or begin to withdraw substantial portions of their investment) around the year 2000 (\$73 at December 31, 2000).
- (m) BGI LifePath 2010 Fund - consists primarily of investments in U. S. and foreign equity and debt securities and money market instruments and is managed for investors planning to retire (or begin to withdraw substantial portions of their investment) around the year 2010 (\$10,504 at December 31, 2000).
- (n) BGI LifePath 2020 Fund - consists primarily of investments in U.S. and foreign equity and debt securities and money market instruments and is managed for investors planning to retire (or begin to withdraw substantial portions of their investment) around the year 2020 (\$10,998 at December 31, 2000).
- (o) BGI LifePath 2030 Fund - consists primarily of investments in U.S. and foreign equity and debt securities and money market instruments

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and is managed for investors planning to retire (or begin to withdraw substantial portions of their investment) around the year 2030 (\$13,289 at December 31, 2000).

- (p) BGI LifePath 2040 Fund - consists primarily of investments in U. S. and foreign equity and debt securities and money market instruments and is managed for investors planning to retire (or begin to withdraw substantial portions of their investment) around the year 2040 (\$79 at December 31, 2000).

Investments in CenturyTel Common Stock Fund, T. Rowe Price Equity Index 500 Fund and T. Rowe Price Summit Cash Reserve Fund were each greater than 5% of assets available for benefits at December 31, 2000.

A participant may instruct that all contributions to his accounts be allocated among the various funds. A participant may change his investment allocation instructions and contribution percentage at any time.

(3) INCOME TAXES

The Plan and related trust are designed to meet the necessary requirements of Internal Revenue Code Section 401(a) and, accordingly, the trust underlying the Plan is exempt from income taxation pursuant to Internal Revenue Code Section 501(a). A favorable determination letter was received in October 1995 related to the Plan. The Plan has been amended and restated since receiving the determination letter. However, the Plan administrator believes that the Plan is designed and is currently being operated in compliance with the applicable provisions of the Internal Revenue Code.

(4) RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

Certain Plan investments are shares of mutual funds managed by T. Rowe Price, Barclays Global Investors Funds, Inc. (Barclays), Morgan Stanley Dean Witter Investment Management Inc. (Morgan Stanley), Janus Capital Corporation (Janus), or Pacific Investment Management Company (PIMCO). T. Rowe Price is the Trustee as defined by the Plan. Merrill Lynch was Trustee of the Plan until September 1, 2000. Therefore, T. Rowe Price, Barclays, Morgan Stanley, Janus, PIMCO, and Merrill Lynch qualify as parties-in-interest. Fees paid by the Company to T. Rowe Price and Merrill Lynch for trustee, record keeping and other services amounted to \$8,845 and \$12,372, respectively, for the year ended December 31, 2000.

(5) CONCENTRATION OF INVESTMENTS

As of December 31, 2000 and 1999, 38.1% and 43.3%, respectively of the assets available for benefits were invested in CenturyTel Common Stock. Substantially all of the remaining assets available for benefits were invested in mutual funds managed by T. Rowe Price, Barclays, Morgan Stanley, Janus, and PIMCO.

CENTURYTEL, INC.
UNION RETIREMENT SAVINGS PLAN AND TRUST

Schedule H, Line 4i - Schedule of Assets (Held at End of Year)

December 31, 2000

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Identity of issuer, borrower, lessor or similar party	Description of Investment		Current Value	Value P Share
Investment in CenturyTel Common Stock	93,737	shares	\$ 3,351,090 (Note 1)	35.7
Loan Fund (interest rates ranged from 8.75% to 12.50%)	-		348,296	
Investment in Mutual Funds for Qualified Employee Benefit Plans:				
Managed by Barclays:				
Asset Allocation Fund	1,298	shares	14,204	10.9
Lifepath Income Fund	7	shares	73	10.7
Lifepath 2010 Fund	833	shares	10,504	12.6
Lifepath 2020 Fund	731	shares	10,998	15.0
Lifepath 2030 Fund	805	shares	13,289	16.5
Lifepath 2040 Fund	4	shares	79	17.8
Managed by Janus:				
Janus Overseas Fund	1,840	shares	48,844	26.5
Janus Fund	2,106	shares	70,111	33.2
Managed by Morgan Stanley:				
Small Co. Growth Portfolio Fund	3,700	shares	39,521	10.6
Managed by PIMCO:				
PIMCO Total Return Fund	36,689	shares	381,197	10.3
Managed by T. Rowe Price:				
Equity Income Fund	11	shares	281	24.6
Equity Index 500 Fund	109,527	shares	3,888,209 (Note 1)	35.5
Mid-Cap Growth Fund	526	shares	20,919	39.7
Summit Cash Reserve Fund	575,151	shares	575,151 (Note 1)	1.0
			\$ 8,772,766	

Barclays, Janus, Morgan Stanley, PIMCO and T. Rowe Price are considered parties-in-interest. Additionally, CenturyTel, Inc., as sponsor of the Plan, is considered a party-in-interest.

Notes: (1) These investments are greater than 5% of assets available for benefits.

(2) Information on cost of investments is excluded as all investments are participant directed.

SIGNATURE

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

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CenturyTel, Inc.
Union Retirement Savings Plan and Trust

July 12, 2001

/s/ R. Stewart Ewing, Jr.

R. Stewart Ewing, Jr.
Retirement Committee Member and
Executive Officer of Issuer
of Plan Securities

CENTURYTEL, INC.
UNION RETIREMENT SAVINGS PLAN AND TRUST

Index to Exhibit

Exhibit
Number

23.1 Independent Auditors' Consent

EXHIBIT 23.1

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' CONSENT

The Board of Directors
CenturyTel, Inc.:

We consent to incorporation by reference in the registration statement (No. 33-46562) on Form S-8 of CenturyTel, Inc. of our report dated June 14, 2001 relating to the statements of net assets available for benefits of CenturyTel Union Retirement Savings Plan and Trust as of December 31, 2000 and 1999, and the related statement of changes in net assets available for benefits for the year ended December 31, 2000, and related financial statement schedule as of December 31, 2000, which report appears in the December 31, 2000 annual report on Form 11-K of CenturyTel, Inc. Union Retirement Savings Plan and Trust.

KPMG LLP

/s/ KPMG LLP

Shreveport, Louisiana

July 10, 2001