

SWEASY NEIL  
Form 4  
February 22, 2006

**FORM 4**

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

OMB APPROVAL

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Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5 obligations may continue. See Instruction 1(b).

**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 \*  
SWEASY NEIL

(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)  
02/20/2006

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)  
VP and Controller

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)
			Code	V Amount (D) Price			
Common Stock	02/20/2006		A	1,900 A \$ 0	6,591.12	D	
Common Stock					4,167.43	I	By 401(k) (1)
Common Stock					4,662.18	I	By ESOP (2)
Common Stock					1,303.69	I	By Stock Bonus Plan (3)

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)	\$ 35.41	02/20/2006		A	6,500	03/15/2007 <sup>(4)</sup> 02/20/2016	Common Stock 6,500
Employee Stock Option (right to buy)	\$ 13.33					<sup>(5)</sup> 01/02/2007	Common Stock 2,250
Employee Stock Option (right to buy)	\$ 46.19					04/07/2000 04/07/2009	Common Stock 2,820
Employee Stock Option (right to buy)	\$ 34.63					02/21/2001 <sup>(6)</sup> 02/21/2010	Common Stock 12,000
Employee Stock Option (right to buy)	\$ 28.03					05/21/2002 <sup>(7)</sup> 05/21/2011	Common Stock 13,000
Employee Stock Option	\$ 32.99					02/25/2003 <sup>(8)</sup> 02/25/2012	Common Stock 13,000

(right to buy)

Employee Stock

Option \$ 27.48

(right to buy)

02/24/2004<sup>(9)</sup> 02/24/2013

Common Stock 13,000

Employee Stock

Option \$ 28.34

(right to buy)

02/25/2004<sup>(10)</sup> 02/25/2014

Common Stock 6,500

Employee Stock

Option \$ 33.4

(right to buy)

02/17/2005<sup>(11)</sup> 02/17/2015

Common Stock 6,500

## Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships			
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other
SWEASY NEIL 100 CENTURYTEL DRIVE MONROE, LA 71203			VP and Controller	

## Signatures

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

02/22/2006

\_\_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) As of most recent statement available
- (2) As of most recent statement available.
- (3) As of most recent statement available.
- (4) 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.
- (5) Options were 50% exercisable on 01/02/99 and 50% exercisable on 01/02/2000.
- (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.

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(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.

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, *see* Instruction 6 for procedure.

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