

GOFF STACEY W  
Form 4  
December 19, 2005

**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 \*  
GOFF STACEY W

(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)  
12/16/2005

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)  
Sr. VP, Gen. Counsel

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 Ownership (Instr. 4)
			Code	V Amount (A) or (D) Price			
Common Stock	12/16/2005		M	373.8 A \$ 0	24,373.8	D	
Common Stock	12/16/2005		D <sup>(1)</sup>	373.8 D \$ 32.87	24,000	D	
Common Stock					803.04	I	By 401(k) <sup>(2)</sup>
Common Stock					1,147.94	I	By ESOP <sup>(3)</sup>
Common Stock					365.48	I	By Stock Bonus Plan <sup>(4)</sup>

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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 Security (Instr. 3 and 4)		
				Code	V (A) (D)	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of Shares
Phantom Stock Units	(5)	12/16/2005		A	2.6	(6)	(6)	Common Stock	2.6
Phantom Stock Units	(5)	12/16/2005		M	373.8	(6)	(6)	Common Stock	373.8
Employee Stock Option (right to buy)	\$ 34.63					02/21/2001(7)	02/21/2010	Common Stock	9,400
Employee Stock Option (right to buy)	\$ 32.99					02/25/2003(8)	02/25/2012	Common Stock	18,000
Employee Stock Option (right to buy)	\$ 26.95					03/14/2004	03/14/2013	Common Stock	9,600
Employee Stock Option (right to buy)	\$ 34.2					08/26/2004	08/26/2013	Common Stock	50,000
Employee Stock	\$ 28.34					02/25/2004(9)	02/25/2014	Common Stock	13,400

