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CENTURYTEL INC  
Form 8-K  
August 28, 2001

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) August 28, 2001

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.)

100 Century Park Drive, Monroe, Louisiana  
(Address of principal executive offices)

71203  
(Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code (318) 388-9000

Item 5: Other Events

The following press release was issued by the Registrant in response to a letter dated August 27, 2001, from Mr. Scott T. Ford, President and Chief Operating Officer of ALLTEL Corporation.

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Tuesday August 28, 12:58 pm Eastern Time

Press Release

SOURCE: CenturyTel

CenturyTel Issues Letter to ALLTEL

MONROE, La. -- (BUSINESS WIRE) -- Aug. 28, 2001 -- CenturyTel, Inc. (NYSE: CTL - news) sent the following letter today to Scott Ford, President and Chief Operating Officer of ALLTEL Corporation (NYSE: AT - news):

August 28, 2001

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

Mr. Scott T. Ford  
President and Chief Operating Officer  
ALLTEL Corporation  
One Allied Drive  
Little Rock, AR 72202

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Dear Scott:

I received your letter, which was faxed to me as you were releasing it to the press. Your letter does nothing more than urge us to reconsider the same proposal that our Board unanimously determined, after careful consideration, was not in the best interests of CenturyTel. There is no reason to reconsider that decision.

While we also believe that your letter is clearly misleading, we have no intention of engaging in your public letter writing campaign.

We are fully aware of our responsibilities to our shareholders and other constituencies, and we will continue to respect those obligations as we pursue our growth strategies.

Sincerely,

/s/ Glen F. Post, III  
Glen F. Post, III  
Vice Chairman, President and CEO

CenturyTel, Inc. provides communications services including local exchange, wireless, long distance, Internet access and data services to more than three million customers in 21 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, and the 8th largest cellular company, based on population equivalents owned, in the United States. Visit CenturyTel's corporate Web site at ([www.centurytel.com](http://www.centurytel.com)).

Contact:

CenturyTel  
Investors:  
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318/388-9648  
Media:  
Annmarie Sartor  
318/388-9671  
or  
Joele Frank, Wilkinson Brimmer Katcher  
Joele Frank, Andy Brimmer  
212/355-4449

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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

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Neil A. Sweasy  
Vice President and Controller