PATEL SUNIT S Form 4 November 03, 2017

FORM 4

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

OMB APPROVAL OMB

Check this box if no longer subject to

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF

3235-0287 Number: January 31, Expires: 2005

Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5 obligations

SECURITIES

Estimated average burden hours per response... 0.5

may continue. See Instruction

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

1(b).

(Print or Type Responses)

| 1. Name and Address of Reporting Person * PATEL SUNIT S | | | 2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol CENTURYLINK, INC [CTL] | 5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable) | | | |
|---|----------|----------|--|--|--|--|--|
| (Last) | (First) | (Middle) | 3. Date of Earliest Transaction | (Check all applicable) | | | |
| C/O CENTURYLINK, INC., 100 CENTURYLINK DRIVE | | | (Month/Day/Year) 11/01/2017 | Director 10% Owner X Officer (give title Other (specify below) Executive Vice President & CFO | | | |
| (Street) | | | 4. If Amendment, Date Original | 6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check | | | |
| MONROE, I | LA 71203 | | Filed(Month/Day/Year) | Applicable Line) _X_ Form filed by One Reporting Person Form filed by More than One Reporting Person | | | |

| (City) | (State) | (Zip) 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. 4. Securities Acquired (Transaction Disposed of (D) Code (Instr. 3, 4 and 5) (Instr. 8) (A) or | | | 0) | 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) | | |
| Common Stock | 11/01/2017 | | Code V A | Amount 644,892 | (D) | Price (1) | 644,892 | D | | | |
| Common Stock | 11/01/2017 | | A | 533,699 | A | <u>(2)</u> | 1,178,591 | D | | | |
| Common Stock | 11/01/2017 | | D | 387,437 | D | \$ 17.85 (3) | 791,154 | D | | | |
| Common Stock | 11/01/2017 | | A(4) | 77,742 | A | \$ 0 | 868,896 | D | | | |
| Common Stock | 11/01/2017 | | A(5) | 67,377 | A | \$ 0 | 936,273 | D | | | |

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| Common Stock | 11/01/2017 | A | 8,538 | A | <u>(1)</u> | 8,538 | I | By 401(k) |
|-----------------|------------|---|-------|---|------------|-------|---|-----------|
| Common Stock | 11/01/2017 | A | 1,428 | A | <u>(1)</u> | 1,428 | I | By IRA |

Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially owned directly or indirectly.

Persons who respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB control number.

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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. Transa Code (Instr. | ection 8) | 5. inNumber of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5) | | ate | Secur | unt of rlying | 8. Price of Derivative Security (Instr. 5) |
|---|---|--------------------------------------|---|---------------------------------|--------------|---|---------------------|--------------------|-------|--|---|
| | | | | Code | V | (A) (D) | Date Exercisable | Expiration Date | Title | Amount or Number of Shares | |

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address Relationships

Director 10% Owner Officer Other

PATEL SUNIT S C/O CENTURYLINK, INC. 100 CENTURYLINK DRIVE MONROE, LA 71203

Executive Vice President & CFO

Signatures

/s/ Hope M. Spencer at Attorney-in-Fact for Sunit S.
Patel 11/03/2017

**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) On November 1, 2017, the Issuer acquired Level 3 Communications, Inc. ("Level 3" and such acquisition, the "Merger") pursuant to the Agreement and Plan of Merger (the "Merger Agreement") by and among the Issuer, Level 3, Wildcat Merger Sub I LLC and WWG

Reporting Owners 2

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Merger Sub LLC. Upon the Effective Time (as defined in the Merger Agreement), each outstanding Level 3 common share held by the Reporting Person was converted into the right to receive (a) \$26.50 in cash, without interest, and (b) 1.4286 shares of the Issuer's common stock, with cash paid in lieu of fractional shares.

- Pursuant to the terms of the Merger Agreement, at the Effective Time, each outstanding Level 3 restricted stock unit award was converted into a restricted stock unit award (the "RSUs") relating to a number of shares of the Issuer's common stock (rounded up to the nearest whole share) equal to the product of (a) 2.8386 (the Equity Award Exchange Ratio, calculated as provided in the Merger Agreement) multiplied by (b) the number of Level 3 common shares subject to the award immediately prior to the Effective Time.
- (3) Effective immediately following the Merger, pursuant to an agreement between the Issuer and the Reporting Person, these RSUs were fully vested and converted to a deferred cash award, which will pay out in accordance with the original award payout schedule.
- (4) Represents a grant of restricted stock that will vest on November 1, 2020, with payout ranging between 0-200% based on the level of achievement on two separate but equally-weighted performance criteria (one qualitative and one quantitative).
- (5) Represents a grant of restricted stock that will vest on November 1, 2018.

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, *see* Instruction 6 for procedure. Potential persons who are to respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB number.