



NEWS RELEASE

CenturyTel Declares Quarterly Cash Dividend

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MONROE, La.--(BUSINESS WIRE)--Aug. 26, 2003--CenturyTel, Inc. (NYSE:CTL) today announced that the Board of Directors voted to declare a quarterly cash dividend of \$.055 per share, payable on September 19, 2003, to shareholders of record on September 8, 2003.

CenturyTel, Inc. provides communications services including local, long distance, Internet access and data services to more than 3 million customers in 22 states. The company, headquartered in Monroe, Louisiana, is publicly traded on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol CTL, and is included in the S&P 500 Index. CenturyTel is the 8th largest local exchange telephone company, based on access lines, in the United States. Visit CenturyTel at www.centurytel.com.

CONTACT: CenturyTel, Inc.
, Monroe
Investors:
Tony Davis, 318-388-9525
tony.davis@centurytel.com

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