CENTURYLINK, INC
Form 424B5
March 18, 2013
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The information in this preliminary prospectus supplement is not complete and may be changed. Neither this preliminary prospectus supplement nor the accompanying prospectus is an offer to sell these securities and neither is soliciting any offer to buy these securities in any jurisdiction where the offer or sale is not permitted.

Filed Pursuant to Rule 424(b)(5)

Registration No. 333-179888

SUBJECT TO COMPLETION

PRELIMINARY PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT DATED MARCH 18, 2013

Prospectus Supplement

(To Prospectus dated March 2, 2012)

$

% Senior Notes, Series V, due 20

The Notes being offered by CenturyLink, Inc. pursuant to this prospectus supplement will bear interest at the rate of % per year from the date of issuance to , 20 , when they will mature. We will pay interest on the Notes semi-annually in arrears on and of each year, beginning , 2013.

We may redeem the Notes, at any time in whole or from time to time in part, at the redemption price described in this prospectus supplement. In addition, at any time on or prior to , 2016, we may redeem up to 35% of the principal amount of Notes using the net proceeds of certain equity offerings. For additional information, see Description of the Notes Optional Redemption. Upon the occurrence of a change of control repurchase event as described in this prospectus supplement, we will be required to make an offer to repurchase the Notes at a price equal to 101% of their aggregate principal amount plus accrued and unpaid interest to, but not including, the date of repurchase. For additional information, see Description of the Notes Purchase of Notes upon a Change of Control Repurchase Event.

The Notes will be our senior unsecured obligations and will rank senior to any of our future subordinated debt and rank equally in right of payment with all of our existing and future unsecured and unsubordinated debt. The Notes will not be guaranteed by any of our subsidiaries and therefore will be effectively subordinated to all existing and future indebtedness and other obligations of our subsidiaries (other than indebtedness and obligations owed to us). We do not plan to list the Notes on any national securities exchange.

Investing in the Notes involves risks. See Risk Factors beginning on page S-9 of this prospectus supplement to read about certain risks you should consider before investing in the Notes.

	Price to Public[1]	Underwriting Discount	Net Proceeds to CenturyLink[2]
Per Note	%	%	%
Total	$	$	$

(1) Plus accrued interest, if any, from March , 2013, if settlement occurs after that date.
(2) Excluding our expenses.

Neither the Securities and Exchange Commission nor any state securities commission has approved or disapproved of these securities or determined if this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus is truthful or complete. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

The underwriters expect to deliver the Notes only in book-entry form through the facilities of The Depository Trust Company for the accounts of its participants, including Euroclear Bank S.A./N.V., as operator of the Euroclear System, and Clearstream Banking, *societe anonyme*, against payment in New York, New York on or about March , 2013.

Joint Physical Book-Running Managers

J.P. Morgan **Barclays**

Joint Book-Running Managers

Citigroup **SunTrust Robinson Humphrey**

Co-Managers

Mitsubishi UFJ Securities **Mizuho Securities** **US Bancorp**

The date of this prospectus supplement is March , 2013.

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ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT

This prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus are part of a registration statement that we filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the SEC) using a shelf registration process as a well-known seasoned issuer. Under this process, the document we use to offer securities is divided into two parts. The first part is this prospectus supplement, which describes the specific terms of the offering and also updates and supplements information contained in the accompanying prospectus and the documents incorporated by reference into this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus. The second part is the accompanying prospectus, which provides you with a general description of the securities we may offer from time to time. If the description of the offering varies between this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus, you should rely on the information in this prospectus supplement. Before purchasing the Notes, you should carefully read both this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus, together with the additional information described under the heading Where You Can Find More Information.

You should rely solely on the information contained in this prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus, any related free writing prospectus issued by us and the documents incorporated by reference herein or therein. We have not, and the underwriters have not, authorized any other person to provide you with different information. If anyone provides you with different or inconsistent information, you should not rely on it. We are not, and the underwriters are not, making an offer of the Notes in any jurisdiction where the offer or sale is not permitted. You should assume that the information contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus, any related free writing prospectus issued by us, and any document incorporated by reference herein or therein is accurate only as of the date on the front cover of those documents. Our business, financial condition, results of operations and prospects may have changed since those dates.

Unless otherwise provided in this prospectus supplement or the context requires otherwise, in this prospectus supplement:

CenturyLink, we, us and our refer to CenturyLink, Inc. and not any of its subsidiaries (except in connection with the description of our business under the headings Cautionary Statement Regarding Forward-Looking Statements and Prospectus Supplement Summary CenturyLink in this prospectus supplement, where such terms refer to the consolidated operations of CenturyLink and its subsidiaries);

Embarq refers to Embarq Corporation and its subsidiaries, which we acquired on July 1, 2009;

Notes refers to the % Senior Notes, Series V, due 20 being offered pursuant to this prospectus supplement;

QCII refers to our wholly-owned subsidiary Qwest Communications International Inc. and not any of its subsidiaries;

Qwest refers to QCII and its subsidiaries, which we acquired on April 1, 2011;

recent acquisitions refers to our acquisitions of Embarq, Qwest and Savvis; and

Savvis refers to SAVVIS, Inc. and its subsidiaries, which we acquired on July 15, 2011.

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CAUTIONARY STATEMENT REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus, including the documents incorporated by reference herein and therein, contain forward-looking statements within the meaning of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the Securities Act), and the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the Exchange Act). These statements are intended to be covered by the safe harbor for forward-looking statements provided by the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. Forward-looking statements are all statements other than statements of historical fact, such as statements about our anticipated future operating and financial performance, financial position and liquidity, tax position, contingent liabilities, pension obligations, growth opportunities and growth rates, business plans, integration initiatives, transaction benefits, acquisition and divestiture opportunities, business prospects, regulatory and competitive outlook, investment and expenditure plans, financing sources and general economic and business conditions, as well as other similar statements of our expectations, beliefs, future plans and strategies, anticipated developments and other matters that are not historical facts, many of which are highlighted by words such as may, would, could, should, plan, believes, expects, anticipates, estimates, projects, intends, likely, seeks, hopes, or variations or simi

These forward-looking statements are based upon our judgment and assumptions as of the date such statements are made concerning future developments and events, many of which are beyond our control. These forward-looking statements, and the assumptions upon which they are based, are inherently speculative and are subject to a number of risks and uncertainties. Actual events and results may differ materially from those anticipated, estimated, projected or implied by us in those statements if one or more of these risks or uncertainties materialize, or if our underlying assumptions prove incorrect. Factors that could affect actual results include but are not limited to:

- the timing, success and overall effects of competition from a wide variety of competitive providers;
- the risks inherent in rapid technological change;
- the effects of ongoing changes in the regulation of the communications industry, including the outcome of regulatory or judicial proceedings relating to intercarrier compensation, access charges, universal service, broadband deployment and net neutrality;
- our ability to successfully negotiate collective bargaining agreements on reasonable terms without work stoppages;
- our ability to effectively adjust to changes in the communications industry and changes in the composition of our markets and product mix caused by our recent acquisitions;
- our ability to successfully integrate recently-acquired operations into our incumbent operations, including the possibility that the anticipated benefits from our recent acquisitions cannot be fully realized in a timely manner or at all, or that integrating the acquired operations will be more difficult, disruptive or costly than anticipated;
- our ability to use net operating loss carryovers of Qwest in projected amounts;
- our ability to effectively manage our expansion opportunities, including retaining and hiring key personnel;
- possible changes in the demand for, or pricing of, our products and services, including our ability to effectively respond to increased demands for high-speed broadband service;

our ability to successfully introduce new product or service offerings on a timely and cost-effective basis;

our continued access to credit markets on favorable terms;

our ability to collect our receivables from financially troubled communications companies;

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- any adverse developments in legal or regulatory proceedings involving us;
- our ability to continue to pay common share dividends in accordance with past practices, which may be affected by changes in our cash requirements, capital spending plans, cash flows or financial position;
- unanticipated increases or other changes in our future cash requirements, whether caused by unanticipated increases in capital expenditures, increases in pension funding requirements or otherwise;
- the effects of adverse weather;
- other risks referenced in this prospectus supplement or other of our filings with the SEC; and
- the effects of more general factors such as changes in interest rates, in tax rates, in accounting policies or practices, in operating, medical, pension or administrative costs, in general market, labor or economic conditions, or in legislation, regulation or public policy.

These and other uncertainties related to our business and our recent acquisitions are described in greater detail in Item 1A of our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2012, incorporated by reference into this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus, as may be updated and supplemented by our subsequent SEC reports.

You should be aware that new factors may emerge from time to time and it is not possible for us to identify all such factors nor can we predict the impact of each such factor on the business or the extent to which any one or more factors may cause actual results to differ from those reflected in any forward-looking statements. You are further cautioned not to place undue reliance on our forward-looking statements, which speak only as of the date of the documents in which they appear. Except for meeting our ongoing obligations under the federal securities laws, we undertake no obligation to update or revise our forward-looking statements for any reason.

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WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION

We file annual, quarterly and current reports, proxy statements and other information with the SEC. You may read and copy that information at the Public Reference Room of the SEC, located at 100 F Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20549. You may obtain information on the operation of the Public Reference Room by calling the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330. You may also obtain copies of this information by mail from the SEC at the above address, at prescribed rates. In addition, the SEC maintains an Internet site at *www.sec.gov*, from which interested persons can electronically access the registration statement of which this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus forms a part, including the exhibits and schedules thereto, as well as reports, proxy and information statements and other information about us. In addition, our common stock is listed and traded on the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE), and you may obtain similar information about us at the offices of the NYSE at 20 Broad Street, New York, New York 10005.

We are incorporating by reference into this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus specific documents that we have filed or will file with the SEC, which means that we can disclose important information to you by referring you to those documents that are considered part of this prospectus supplement and accompanying prospectus. We incorporate herein and therein by reference the documents listed below, and any future documents that we file with the SEC under Section 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Exchange Act until the termination or completion of the offering of all of the securities covered by this prospectus supplement (which we refer to collectively below as the incorporated documents). This prospectus supplement and accompanying prospectus are part of a registration statement filed with the SEC, which may contain additional information that you might find important.

We are incorporating by reference into this prospectus supplement the following documents filed by us with the SEC; *provided, however*, we are not incorporating by reference any such documents or portions of such documents that have been furnished but not filed for purposes of the Exchange Act:

CenturyLink Filings	**Period or Date Filed**
Annual Report on Form 10-K	Fiscal year ended December 31, 2012
Current Reports on Form 8-K (excluding certain Current Reports furnished but not filed with the SEC)	Filed on January 14, 2013
Proxy Statement on Schedule 14A	Filed on April 11, 2012

We will provide to each person to whom this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus is delivered, upon written or oral request and without charge, a copy of the incorporated documents referred to above (except for exhibits, unless the exhibits are specifically incorporated by reference into the filing). You can request copies of such documents if you call or write us at the following address or telephone number: CenturyLink, Inc., 100 CenturyLink Drive, Monroe, Louisiana 71203, Attention: Investor Relations, or by telephoning us at (318) 388-9000.

This prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus and the incorporated documents may contain summary descriptions of certain agreements that we have filed as exhibits to various SEC filings, as well as certain agreements that we will enter into in connection with the offering of securities covered by this prospectus supplement. These summary descriptions do not purport to be complete and are subject to, or qualified in their entirety by reference to, the definitive agreements to which they relate. Copies of the definitive agreements will be made available without charge to you by making a written or oral request to us.

Information appearing in this prospectus supplement, the accompanying prospectus or any particular incorporated document is not necessarily complete and is qualified in its entirety by the information and financial statements appearing in all of the incorporated documents and should be read together therewith. Any statement contained in any particular incorporated document will be deemed to be modified or superseded to the extent that a statement contained in this prospectus supplement or in any other incorporated document filed after such particular incorporated document modifies or supersedes such statement.

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PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT SUMMARY

The following summary does not contain all of the information you should consider before investing in the Notes and is qualified in its entirety by reference to the more detailed information, consolidated historical financial statements and pro forma combined financial information appearing elsewhere or incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus, as well as the materials filed with the SEC that are considered to be part of this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus. Before making an investment decision, you should read this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus carefully, including Risk Factors and all incorporated documents.

CenturyLink

We are an integrated communications company engaged primarily in providing an array of communications services to our residential, business, governmental and wholesale customers. Our communications services include local and long-distance, network and public access, private line (including special access), broadband, data, managed hosting (including cloud hosting), colocation, wireless and video services. In certain local and regional markets, we also provide local access and fiber transport services to competitive local exchange carriers and security monitoring.

At December 31, 2012, we operated approximately 13.7 million access lines in 37 states, served approximately 5.8 million broadband subscribers, and operated 54 data centers throughout North America, Europe and Asia.[1]

Our principal executive office is located at 100 CenturyLink Drive, Monroe, Louisiana 71203 and our telephone number is (318) 388-9000. Our website is located at www.CenturyLink.com. The information contained in our website is not a part of this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus.

Ratio of Earnings to Fixed Charges

The information below updates the ratio of consolidated earnings to fixed charges data appearing in the accompanying prospectus. For important information regarding how these ratios are calculated, see Ratio of Earnings to Fixed Charges in the accompanying prospectus.

The table below sets forth our ratio of consolidated earnings to fixed charges for each of the years in the five-year period ended December 31, 2012. These ratios are based on our historical consolidated financial statements incorporated by reference herein, which reflect our recent acquisitions only from and after the respective dates of each such acquisition.

	Year Ended December 31,				
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Ratio of earnings to fixed charges	3.5	2.9	3.5	1.8	1.8

[1] An access line is a telephone line connecting our customers premises to the public switched telephone network and a data center is any facility where we market, sell and deliver either colocation services or multi-tenant managed services.

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The Offering

Issuer	CenturyLink, Inc., a Louisiana corporation.
Notes	Under this prospectus supplement, we are offering $ aggregate principal amount of % Senior Notes, Series V, due 20 .
Maturity Date	The Notes will mature on , 20 .
Interest Rate	The annual interest rate for the Notes will be %.
Interest Payment Dates	and of each year, beginning on , 2013.
No Security or Guarantees	None of our obligations under the Notes will be secured by collateral or guaranteed by any of our subsidiaries or other persons.
Optional Redemption	We may redeem the Notes, at any time in whole or from time to time in part, at a redemption price equal to the greater of (i) 100% of the principal amount of the Notes to be redeemed or (ii) the sum of the present values of the remaining scheduled payments of principal and interest on the Notes being redeemed, discounted to the redemption date at the then current Treasury Rate applicable to the Notes plus basis points, together with any accrued and unpaid interest to, but not including, the redemption date. In addition, at any time on or prior to , 2016, we may redeem up to 35% of the principal amount of the Notes with the net proceeds of certain equity offerings at a redemption price equal to % of the principal amount of the Notes to be redeemed, together with any accrued and unpaid interest to, but not including, the redemption date. For additional information, see Description of the Notes Optional Redemption.
Change of Control Repurchase Event	Upon the occurrence of a Change of Control Repurchase Event, as defined under Description of the Notes Purchase of Notes upon a Change of Control Repurchase Event, we will be required, unless we have elected to redeem the Notes as described above, to make an offer to repurchase the Notes at a price equal to 101% of their aggregate principal amount, plus accrued and unpaid interest to, but not including, the date of repurchase. For additional information, see Description of the Notes Purchase of Notes upon a Change of Control Repurchase Event.
Certain Covenants	The indenture governing the Notes contains covenants that, among other things, will limit our ability to: incur, issue or create liens upon our property, and

consolidate with or merge into, or transfer or lease all or substantially all of our assets to, any other party.

These covenants are subject to important exceptions and qualifications that are described under the heading Description of Debt Securities of CenturyLink Merger and Consolidation and Limitations on Liens in the accompanying prospectus.

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Reopening of Notes	We may reopen the Notes at any time without the consent of the holders of the Notes and issue additional debt securities with the same terms (except the issue price and issue date), which will thereafter constitute a single fungible series with the Notes.
Ranking	The Notes will rank senior to any of our future subordinated debt and rank equally in right of payment with all of our existing and future unsecured and unsubordinated debt. As of December 31, 2012, we had approximately $7.5 billion of unsecured and unsubordinated debt that would have ranked equally with the Notes. We are a holding company and, therefore, the Notes will be effectively subordinated to all existing and future obligations of our subsidiaries (other than indebtedness and obligations owed to us) to the extent of the assets of our subsidiaries. As of December 31, 2012, the aggregate principal amount of long-term debt of our subsidiaries (excluding long-term debt classified as Capital leases and other) was approximately $12.4 billion. For additional information, see Capitalization.
Form of Notes	The Notes will be issued in minimum denominations of $2,000 and any integral multiple of $1,000. The Notes will be represented by one or more global Notes in fully registered form without interest coupons. The global Notes will be deposited with the trustee as custodian for The Depository Trust Company, which we refer to below as DTC, and registered in the name of a nominee of DTC. Holders of Notes may elect to hold interests in a global Note only in the manner described in this prospectus supplement. Any such interest may not be exchanged for certificated securities except in limited circumstances described in this prospectus supplement. For additional information, see Description of the Notes Global Notes and Book-Entry System.
Use of Proceeds	We expect to receive net proceeds from the sale of the Notes in this offering of approximately $, after deducting the underwriting discount and our estimated expenses. We expect to use these net proceeds to repay a portion of the indebtedness outstanding under our $2 billion revolving credit facility, to repay our senior notes maturing on April 1, 2013 and for other general corporate purposes. For additional information, see Use of Proceeds.
No Listing	The Notes are not and are not expected to be listed on any national securities exchange.
Trustee, Registrar and Paying Agent	Regions Bank.

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Risk Factors	Your investment in the Notes will involve risks. You should carefully consider all of the information contained in or incorporated by reference into this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus as well as the specific factors under the heading Risk Factors beginning on the next page.
Conflicts of Interest	We anticipate using the net proceeds of this offering to repay a portion of the indebtedness outstanding under our $2 billion revolving credit facility, including amounts we owe to the underwriters or their affiliates who have extended to us loans under that revolving credit facility. Because more than 5% of the net proceeds of this offering of the Notes will be directed to certain of the underwriters or their affiliates, those underwriters have a conflict of interest with us pursuant to Rule 5121 (Rule 5121) of the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA) and, accordingly, this offering will be conducted in compliance with the requirements of Rule 5121. For additional information, see Underwriting (Conflicts of Interest) Relationships; Conflicts of Interest.

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RISK FACTORS

Before purchasing the Notes, you should carefully consider the risks described below and the risks disclosed in Item 1A of our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2012, as may be updated and supplemented in our subsequent SEC reports, as well as the other information included or incorporated by reference in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus.

Risks Relating to the Notes

We and our affiliates have a significant amount of indebtedness, which could adversely affect our financial performance and impact our ability to make payments on the Notes.

We continue to carry significant debt. As of December 31, 2012, we had total consolidated long-term debt (including the debt of our subsidiaries, but excluding long-term debt classified as Capital leases and other) of approximately $19.9 billion, and we had approximately $7.5 billion of unsecured and unsubordinated debt that would have ranked equally with the Notes. For additional information, see Capitalization. The degree to which we, together with our subsidiaries, are leveraged or incur additional debt could have important consequences to the holders of the Notes. For example, it:

- may limit our ability to obtain additional financing for working capital, capital expenditures or general corporate purposes, particularly if the ratings assigned to our debt securities by nationally recognized credit rating organizations (credit ratings) are revised downward;
- will require us to dedicate a substantial portion of our cash flow from operations to the payment of interest and principal on our debt, reducing the funds available to us for other purposes including acquisitions, capital expenditures, marketing and other growth initiatives;
- may increase our future borrowing costs;
- may limit our flexibility to adjust to changing business and market conditions and make us more vulnerable to a downturn in general economic conditions as compared to our competitors; and
- may put us at a competitive disadvantage to some of our competitors that are not as leveraged.

The Notes will be effectively subordinated to the debt of our subsidiaries.

As a holding company, substantially all of our income and operating cash flow is dependent upon the earnings of our subsidiaries and the distribution of funds to us from our subsidiaries in the form of dividends, loans or other payments. As a result, we rely upon our subsidiaries to generate the funds necessary to meet our obligations, including the payment of amounts owed under the Notes. Our subsidiaries are separate and distinct legal entities and have no obligation to pay any amounts due pursuant to the Notes or, subject to limited exceptions for tax-sharing purposes, to make any funds available to us to repay our obligations, whether by dividends, loans or other payments. State law applicable to each of our subsidiaries restricts the amount of dividends that they may pay. Restrictions that have been or may be imposed by state regulators (either in connection with obtaining necessary approvals for our acquisitions or in connection with our regulated operations), and restrictions imposed by credit agreements applicable to certain of our subsidiaries may limit the amount of funds that our subsidiaries are permitted to transfer to us, including the amount of dividends that may be paid to us. Moreover, our rights to receive assets of any subsidiary upon its liquidation or reorganization (and the ability of holders of Notes to benefit indirectly therefrom) will be effectively subordinated to the claims of creditors of that subsidiary, including trade creditors. As of December 31, 2012, the aggregate principal amount of long-term debt of our subsidiaries (excluding long-term debt classified as Capital leases and other) was approximately $12.4 billion. For additional information, see Capitalization.

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The provisions of the Notes relating to change of control transactions will not necessarily protect you in the event of a highly leveraged transaction.

The terms of the Notes will not necessarily afford you protection in the event of a highly leveraged transaction that may adversely affect you, including a reorganization, recapitalization, restructuring, merger or other similar transactions involving us. As a result, we could enter into any such transaction even though the transaction could increase the total amount of our outstanding indebtedness, adversely affect our capital structure or credit ratings of our debt securities, or otherwise adversely affect the holders of the Notes. These transactions may not involve a change in voting power or beneficial ownership or result in a downgrade in the credit ratings of the Notes, or, even if they do, may not necessarily constitute a Change of Control Repurchase Event that affords you the protections described in this prospectus supplement. See the definition of Change of Control and Change of Control Repurchase Event under Description of the Notes Purchase of Notes upon a Change of Control Event. Except as described under Description of the Notes Purchase of Notes upon a Change of Control Repurchase Event, the indenture does not contain provisions that permit the holders of the Notes to require us to repurchase the Notes in the event of a takeover, recapitalization or similar transaction.

We may not be able to repurchase all of the Notes upon a Change of Control Repurchase Event.

As described under Description of the Notes Purchase of Notes upon a Change of Control Repurchase Event, we will be required to offer to repurchase the Notes upon the occurrence of a Change of Control Repurchase Event. We may not have sufficient funds to repurchase the Notes in cash at such time. In addition, our ability to repurchase the Notes for cash may be limited by law or agreements relating to our indebtedness outstanding at the time.

Subject to certain limited exceptions, the Notes will not contain restrictive covenants.

The indenture governing the Notes does not contain restrictive covenants that would protect you from many kinds of transactions that may adversely affect you, other than certain covenants limiting liens and limiting or relating to certain change of control or other corporate transactions. For instance, the indenture does not contain covenants limiting any of the following:

- the payment of dividends to our shareholders;
- the incurrence of additional indebtedness by us or our subsidiaries;
- the issuance of common or preferred stock by us or our subsidiaries;
- our ability or our subsidiaries ability to enter into sale/leaseback transactions;
- our creation of restrictions on the ability of our subsidiaries to make payments to us;
- our ability or our subsidiaries ability to engage in asset sales;
- our ability or our subsidiaries ability to invest in or loan money to third parties; and
- our ability or our subsidiaries ability to enter into various transactions with affiliates.

As a result, we could enter into any such transaction even though the transaction could increase the total amount of our outstanding indebtedness, adversely affect our capital structure or the credit ratings of our debt securities, or otherwise adversely affect the holders of the Notes.

The Notes are a new issue and do not have an established trading market, which may, among several other factors, negatively affect their market value.

The Notes are a new issue of securities with no established trading market. We do not intend to apply for listing of the Notes on any securities exchange or any automated quotation system. Consequently, we cannot assure you that an active, liquid or sustainable trading market for the Notes will develop, or that you will be able to sell your Notes at an attractive price or at all.

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In addition to the liquidity of any such trading market, the market price for the Notes following this offering will be based on a number of other factors, including:

- our ratings with credit rating agencies;
- the prevailing interest rates being paid by other companies similar to us;
- the market for debt securities similar to the Notes;
- our issuance of additional debt securities;
- our financial condition, results of operations and prospects;
- general economic conditions in our markets, and general industry and regulatory conditions prevailing in the telecommunications industry; and
- the overall condition of the financial markets, many of which have experienced substantial turbulence over the past few years.

The condition of the credit markets and prevailing interest rates have fluctuated historically and are likely to continue to fluctuate in the future, especially if the European sovereign debt markets remain turbulent and worldwide economic uncertainties persist. Fluctuations in these factors could have an adverse effect on the price and liquidity of the Notes. In particular, any increase in market interest rates, which are currently at low levels relative to historical rates, will likely reduce demand for the Notes and depress their market value.

Historically, the market for non-investment grade debt has been subject to periodic disruptions that have caused substantial volatility in the prices of securities similar to the Notes. Any market for the Notes may be subject to similar disruptions, which may adversely affect you as a holder of the Notes.

In addition, credit rating agencies continually revise their ratings for the companies that they follow, including us. We cannot be sure that rating agencies will maintain their current credit ratings on the Notes. A negative change in our credit ratings could have an adverse effect on the market price of the Notes.

Risks Relating to Our Business, Our Recent Acquisitions and Our Regulatory Environment

We face a variety of risks, including (i) an array of financial and operational risks, including the risk of labor strikes, (ii) various competitive, technological and regulatory risks, and (iii) risks related to our recent acquisitions. All of these risks are described in Item 1A of our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2012, as may be updated and supplemented in our subsequent SEC reports, all of which are incorporated by reference herein.

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USE OF PROCEEDS

Our net proceeds from the sale of the Notes offered hereby are expected to be approximately $, after deducting the underwriting discount and our estimated expenses.

We intend to use over half of the net proceeds from this offering to repay a portion of the indebtedness outstanding under our $2 billion revolving credit facility. We had $515 million of indebtedness outstanding under this facility as of March 17, 2013, and expect to incur approximately $300 million of additional indebtedness under this facility between the date of this prospectus supplement and the settlement date of this offering. We incurred this outstanding indebtedness in connection with funding (i) QCII s redemption of $550 million aggregate principal amount of its 8.00% Notes due 2015, (ii) open market repurchases of our common stock under our repurchase program that we publicly announced on February 13, 2013, and (iii) various ordinary course business expenses. As of March 17, 2013, the weighted average interest rate of outstanding indebtedness under our $2 billion revolving credit facility, which is scheduled to expire in April 2017, was 3.01%. For additional information, see Underwriting (Conflicts of Interest) Relationships; Conflicts of Interest.

We expect to use the remainder of the net proceeds from this offering to repay $175.7 million of indebtedness outstanding under our 5.50% Senior Notes, Series O, due on April 1, 2013 and for other general corporate purposes, including funding additional open market repurchases of our common stock. Pending our use of the remaining portion of the net proceeds for these purposes, we intend to invest such proceeds in short-term investment grade, interest-bearing securities.

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CAPITALIZATION

The following table sets forth our consolidated capitalization as of December 31, 2012. You should read the following table in conjunction with Use of Proceeds herein and our consolidated financial statements and the notes thereto, which are incorporated by reference into this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus.

		As of December 31, 2012 (unaudited; in millions)
Long-term debt (including current maturities)[1]:		
CenturyLink revolving credit facility	$	820
CenturyLink term loan		424
CenturyLink senior notes		6,250
Embarq notes		2,669
Qwest notes		9,168
Other subsidiary debt (not reflected above)		522
Subtotal[2]		19,853
Capital leases and other		734
Unamortized premiums and other, net		18
Total long-term debt	$	20,605
Total stockholders equity	$	19,289
Total capitalization	$	39,894

(1) We expect to use the net proceeds from this offering to repay a portion of the indebtedness outstanding under our $2 billion revolving credit facility, to repay our senior notes maturing on April 1, 2013 and for other general corporate purposes. As a result, we do not believe that the effect of this offering will ultimately have a material effect on our consolidated capitalization. For additional information, including with respect to amounts outstanding under our $2 billion revolving credit facility as of a more recent date, see Use of Proceeds.

(2) This subtotal reflects the face amount of long-term debt owed, without giving effect to (i) certain other components of our total consolidated long-term debt reflected in the line item Capital leases and other and (ii) certain adjustments required under U.S. generally accepted accounting principles reflected in the line item Unamortized premiums and other, net .

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MANAGEMENT

Below you can find information about our current executive officers:

Name	Age	Position
Glen F. Post, III	60	Chief Executive Officer and President
Karen A. Puckett	52	Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer
R. Stewart Ewing, Jr.	61	Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer
Stacey W. Goff	47	Executive Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary
James E. Ousley	67	Chief Executive Officer, Savvis Operations
William E. Cheek	57	President Wholesale Operations
David D. Cole	55	Senior Vice President Controller and Operations Support
Maxine Moreau	51	Senior Vice President Network Services
O. Matthew Beal	43	Senior Vice President Corporate Strategy, Product Development and Chief Technology Officer

Glen F. Post, III, has served as our Chief Executive Officer since 1992, and President since July 1, 2009 (and from 1990 to 2002). Mr. Post also served as Chairman of the Board from June 2002 until June 2009, Vice Chairman of the Board between 1993 and 2002, and held various other positions between 1976 and 1993, most notably Treasurer, Chief Financial Officer and Chief Operating Officer. Mr. Post received both his Bachelor s Degree and Master s Degree in Business Administration from Louisiana Tech University.

Karen A. Puckett has served as our Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer since July 2009, and served as President and Chief Operating Officer from September 2002 until July 2009. Ms. Puckett holds her Bachelor s Degree from Indiana State University and a Master s Degree in Business Administration from Bellarmine College.

R. Stewart Ewing, Jr. has served as our Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer since 1999. Mr. Ewing received his Bachelor s Degree from Northwestern State University.

Stacey W. Goff has served as our Executive Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary since July 1, 2009, and served as Senior Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary prior to then. Mr. Goff holds his Bachelor s Degree from Mississippi State University and his Juris Doctorate from the University of Mississippi.

James E. Ousley has served as our Chief Executive Officer, Savvis Operations, since July 2011, and served as President Enterprise Markets Group between March 2012 and January 2013. Prior to our acquisition of Savvis, Mr. Ousley served as chief executive officer of Savvis from January 2010 to July 2011, as chairman of the board of Savvis from May 2006 to July 2011 and as a director of Savvis from April 2002 to July 2011. Mr. Ousley received his Bachelor s Degree from the University of Nebraska.

William E. Cheek has served as our President Wholesale Operations since July 1, 2009. Previously, Mr. Cheek served as President Wholesale Markets for Embarq from May 2006 until July 2009. Mr. Cheek received his Bachelor s Degree from Hendrix College.

David D. Cole has served as our Senior Vice President Operations Support since 1999, and Controller since April 2011. Mr. Cole holds both his Bachelor s Degree and Master s Degree in Business Administration from University of Louisiana at Monroe, Louisiana.

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Maxine Moreau has served as our Senior Vice President Network Services since May 2012. She previously served as Senior Vice President, Integration and Process Improvement, from 2010 to May 2012, as Senior Vice President, Centralized Operations, from 2009 to 2010 and as Vice President of Operations from 2006 to 2009. Ms. Moreau received her Bachelor s Degree from the University of Louisiana at Monroe, Louisiana.

O. Matthew Beal has served as our Senior Vice President Corporate Strategy and Product Development since May 2012, and Chief Technology Officer since 2008. He served as our Senior Vice President Product Development and Network Strategy between 2009 and May 2012, and as Vice President Engineering between 2008 and 2009. Prior to joining CenturyLink, Mr. Beal worked as a technology officer for over ten years with several companies. Mr. Beal received his Bachelor s Degree from Washington University in St. Louis.

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DESCRIPTION OF THE NOTES

The following description of the Notes is only a summary and is not intended to be comprehensive. The description should be read together with the description set forth in the accompanying prospectus under the heading Description of Debt Securities of CenturyLink. In the event that information in this prospectus supplement is inconsistent with information in the accompanying prospectus, you should rely on this prospectus supplement.

General

The Notes will be issued as a separate series of senior debt securities under an indenture, dated as of March 31, 1994, between us and Regions Bank (successor-in-interest to First American Bank and Trust of Louisiana and Regions Bank of Louisiana), as trustee, which we refer to below as the indenture. We have filed the indenture as an exhibit to the registration statement, and you may obtain a copy of it by following the directions described under the caption Where You Can Find More Information. Our description of the Notes below is qualified by reference to the indenture, which we urge you to read.

As a newly-issued series of our debt securities, the Notes will be limited initially to $ million aggregate principal amount. However, we may reopen the Notes at any time without the consent of the holders of the Notes and issue additional debt securities with the same terms (except the issue price and issue date) that will constitute a single series with the Notes.

The Notes will mature on , 20 , unless redeemed or repurchased prior to that date, as described below. Interest on the Notes will accrue from the date of original issuance at the rate of % per year. Interest on the Notes will be computed on the basis of a 360-day year comprised of twelve 30-day months. We will pay interest on the Notes semi-annually in arrears on and of each year, beginning on , 2013, to the registered holders of the Notes at the close of business on the preceding and .

If any interest payment date, maturity date or redemption date falls on a day that is not a business day, the required payment of principal, premium, if any, and interest will be made on the next succeeding business day as if made on the date that the payment was due, and no interest will accrue on the amount so payable for the period from and after the scheduled interest payment date, maturity date or redemption date, as the case may be, to the actual date of that payment on the next succeeding business day.

We do not intend to apply for the listing or quotation of the Notes on any securities exchange or market.

None of our obligations under the Notes will be secured by collateral or guaranteed by any of our subsidiaries or other persons.

We or our affiliates may from time to time repurchase any of our outstanding Notes offered hereunder by tender, in the open market or by private agreement.

Ranking

The Notes will be our senior unsecured obligations. The Notes will rank senior to any of our future subordinated debt and rank equally in right of payment with all of our existing and future unsecured and unsubordinated debt. The indenture does not limit the aggregate principal amount of senior debt securities that we may issue thereunder. As of December 31, 2012, we had approximately $7.5 billion of unsecured and unsubordinated debt that would have ranked equally with the Notes, most of which was issued under the indenture.

As a holding company, substantially all of our income and operating cash flow is dependent upon the earnings of our subsidiaries and the distribution of funds to us from our subsidiaries in the form of dividends, loans or other payments. As a result, we rely upon our subsidiaries to generate the funds necessary to meet our

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obligations, including the payment of amounts owed under the Notes. Our subsidiaries are separate and distinct legal entities and have no obligation to pay any amounts due pursuant to the Notes or, subject to limited exceptions for tax sharing purposes, to make any funds available to us to repay our obligations, whether by dividends, loans or other payments. For a discussion of certain restrictions on the ability of our subsidiaries to distribute funds to us, see Risk Factors Risks Relating to the Notes The Notes will be effectively subordinated to the debt of our subsidiaries.

Optional Redemption

Redemption Terms. The Notes are redeemable, at any time in whole or from time to time in part, at our option, at a redemption price equal to the greater of:

- 100% of the principal amount of the Notes to be redeemed; or
- the sum of the present values of the remaining scheduled payments of principal and interest on the Notes to be redeemed (exclusive of interest accrued to the date of redemption), discounted to the date of redemption on a semi-annual basis (assuming a 360-day year consisting of twelve 30-day months) at the then current Treasury Rate applicable to the Notes plus basis points;

together with any accrued and unpaid interest on the principal amount of the Notes to be redeemed to, but not including, the redemption date.

In addition, at any time on or prior to , 2016, we may redeem up to 35% of the principal amount of the Notes with the net proceeds of an Equity Offering at a redemption price equal to % of the principal amount of the Notes to be redeemed, together with any accrued and unpaid interest on the principal amount of the Notes being redeemed to, but not including, the redemption date; provided that:

- at least 65% of the principal amount of the Notes remains outstanding after each such redemption; and
- the redemption occurs within 90 days after the closing of such Equity Offering.

Notice of an optional redemption will be mailed at least 30 but not more than 60 days before the redemption date to each holder of record of the Notes to be redeemed at its registered address. The notice of optional redemption for the Notes will state, among other things, the amount of Notes to be redeemed, the redemption date, the redemption price and the place or places that payment will be made upon presentation and surrender of Notes to be redeemed.

Notices of redemption may be given prior to the completion of any event or transaction related to such redemption, and any redemption or notice may, at our discretion, be subject to one or more conditions precedent, including, but not limited to, completion of an Equity Offering. In addition, if such redemption or notice is subject to satisfaction of one or more conditions precedent, such notice shall state that, in our discretion, the redemption date may be delayed until such time as any or all such conditions shall be satisfied, or such redemption may not occur and such notice may be rescinded in the event that any or all such conditions shall not have been satisfied by the redemption date, or by the redemption date so delayed.

If we choose to redeem less than all of the Notes, we will notify the trustee at least 45 days before giving notice of optional redemption, or such shorter period as is satisfactory to the trustee, of the aggregate principal amount of Notes to be redeemed and the redemption date. The trustee will select by lot, or in such other manner it deems fair and appropriate, the Notes to be redeemed in part.

If we have given notice of redemption as provided in the indenture and made available funds for the redemption of the Notes (or any portion thereof) called for redemption on or prior the redemption date referred to in such notice, those Notes (or any portion thereof) will cease to bear interest on that redemption date and the only right of the holders of those Notes will be to receive payment of the redemption price.

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Certain Definitions. For purposes of the foregoing discussion of our optional redemption rights, the following definitions are applicable:

Comparable Treasury Issue means the U.S. Treasury security selected by an Independent Investment Banker as having a maturity comparable to the remaining term (the Remaining Life) of the Notes to be redeemed that would be utilized, at the time of selection and in accordance with customary financial practice, in pricing new issues of corporate debt securities of comparable maturity to the remaining term of the Notes.

Comparable Treasury Price means, with respect to any redemption date, (1) the average of the Reference Treasury Dealer Quotations for such redemption date, after excluding the highest and lowest Reference Treasury Dealer Quotations, or (2) if the trustee obtains fewer than four such Reference Treasury Dealer Quotations, the average of all such quotations.

Equity Interests means any and all shares, interests, rights to purchase, warrants, options or other equivalents of or interests in our capital stock, however designated.

Equity Offering means a public or private offering for cash of our Equity Interests, other than (i) public offerings with respect to our Equity Interests registered on Form S-4 or S-8, (ii) an issuance to any of our subsidiaries or (iii) any offering of Equity Interests issued in connection with a transaction that constitutes a Change of Control.

Independent Investment Banker means one of the Reference Treasury Dealers that we appoint to act as the Independent Investment Banker from time to time.

Reference Treasury Dealer means each of J.P. Morgan Securities LLC and Barclays Capital Inc., their respective successors, or any other firm that is a primary U.S. Government securities dealer in New York City (each, a Primary Treasury Dealer) that we specify from time to time; provided, however, that if any of them ceases to be a Primary Treasury Dealer, we will substitute another Primary Treasury Dealer.

Reference Treasury Dealer Quotations means, with respect to each Reference Treasury Dealer and any redemption date, the average, as determined by the trustee, of the bid and asked prices for the Comparable Treasury Issue (expressed in each case as a percentage of its principal amount) quoted in writing to the trustee by such Reference Treasury Dealer at 5:00 p.m., New York City time, on the third business day preceding such redemption date.

Treasury Rate means, with respect to any redemption date, the rate per year equal to: (i) the yield, under the heading which represents the average for the immediately preceding week, appearing in the most recently published statistical release designated H.15(519) or any successor publication which is published weekly by the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System and which establishes yields on actively traded U.S. Treasury securities adjusted to constant maturity under the caption Treasury Constant Maturities, for the maturity corresponding to the Comparable Treasury Issue; provided that, if no maturity is within three months before or after the Remaining Life of the Notes to be redeemed, yields for the two published maturities most closely corresponding to the Comparable Treasury Issue will be determined and the Treasury Rate will be interpolated or extrapolated from those yields on a straight line basis, rounding to the nearest month; or (ii) if such release (or any successor release) is not published during the week preceding the calculation date or does not contain such yields, the rate per year equal to the semi-annual equivalent yield to maturity of the Comparable Treasury Issue, calculated using a price for the Comparable Treasury Issue (expressed as a percentage of its principal amount) equal to the Comparable Treasury Price for such redemption date. The Treasury Rate will be calculated on the third business day preceding the redemption date.

Purchase of Notes upon a Change of Control Repurchase Event

Repurchase Terms. If a Change of Control Repurchase Event occurs, unless we have elected to redeem the Notes as described above, we will be required to make an offer to each holder of Notes to repurchase all or any

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part (in excess of $2,000 and in integral multiples of $1,000) of that holder s Notes at a repurchase price in cash equal to 101% of the aggregate principal amount of the Notes repurchased plus any accrued and unpaid interest on the Notes repurchased to, but not including, the date of repurchase. Within 30 days following any Change of Control Repurchase Event or, at our option, prior to any Change of Control, but after the public announcement of the Change of Control, we will mail a notice to each holder of Notes, with a copy to the Trustee, describing the transaction or transactions that constitute or may constitute the Change of Control Repurchase Event and offering to repurchase the Notes on the payment date specified in the notice, which date will be no earlier than 30 days and no later than 60 days from the date such notice is mailed. The notice shall, if mailed prior to the date of consummation of the Change of Control, state that the offer to purchase is conditioned on a Change of Control Repurchase Event occurring on or prior to the payment date specified in the notice. We will comply with the requirements of Rule 14e-1 under the Exchange Act, and any other securities laws and regulations thereunder to the extent those laws and regulations are applicable in connection with the repurchase of the Notes as a result of a Change of Control Repurchase Event. To the extent that the provisions of any securities laws or regulations conflict with the Change of Control Repurchase Event provisions of the Notes, we will comply with the applicable securities laws and regulations and will not be deemed to have breached our obligations under the Change of Control Repurchase Event provisions of the Notes by virtue of such conflict.

On the repurchase date following a Change of Control Repurchase Event, we will, to the extent lawful:

(1) accept for payment all the Notes or portions of the Notes properly tendered pursuant to our offer;

(2) deposit with the Paying Agent an amount equal to the aggregate purchase price in respect of all the Notes or portions of the Notes properly tendered; and

(3) deliver or cause to be delivered to the Trustee the Notes properly accepted, together with an officers certificate stating the aggregate principal amount of Notes being purchased by us.

The Paying Agent will promptly mail to each holder of Notes properly tendered the purchase price for the Notes, and the trustee will promptly authenticate and mail (or cause to be transferred by book-entry) to each holder a new Note equal in principal amount to any unpurchased portion of any Notes surrendered.

We will not be required to make an offer to repurchase the Notes upon a Change of Control Repurchase Event if a third party makes such an offer in the manner, at the times and otherwise in compliance with the requirements for an offer made by us, and such third party purchases all Notes properly tendered and not withdrawn under its offer.

The Change of Control Repurchase Event feature of the Notes may in certain circumstances make more difficult or discourage a sale or takeover of us and, thus, the removal of incumbent management. The Change of Control Repurchase Event feature is a result of negotiations between us and the underwriters. We have no present intention to engage in a transaction involving a Change of Control, although it is possible that we could decide to do so in the future.

We could, in the future, enter into certain transactions, including acquisitions, refinancings or other recapitalizations, that would not constitute a Change of Control, but that could increase the amount of indebtedness outstanding at such time or otherwise affect our capital structure or credit ratings of the Notes, subject in all such cases to certain restrictions on our ability to incur liens or enter into certain specified merger, consolidation or asset sale transactions. A description of these restrictions is contained under Description of Debt Securities of CenturyLink Merger and Consolidation and Limitations on Liens in the accompanying prospectus. Except for the limitation contained in such covenants and the covenant relating to repurchases upon the occurrence of a Change of Control Repurchase Event, however, the indenture does not contain any covenants or provisions that may afford holders of the Notes protection in the event of a highly leveraged transaction. For additional information, see Risk Factors Risks Relating to the Notes The provisions of the Notes relating to change of control transactions will not necessarily protect you in the event of a highly leveraged transaction.

We may not have sufficient funds to repurchase all the Notes upon a Change of Control Repurchase Event. In addition, even if we have sufficient funds, we may be prohibited from repurchasing the Notes by applicable

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law or under the terms of our debt instruments. See Risk Factors Risks Relating to the Notes We may not be able to repurchase all of the Notes upon a Change of Control Repurchase Event.

Certain Definitions. For purposes of the foregoing discussion of a repurchase at the option of a holder of Notes, the following definitions are applicable:

Change of Control means the occurrence of any of the following: (1) the direct or indirect sale, transfer, conveyance or other disposition (other than by way of merger or consolidation), in one or a series of related transactions, of all or substantially all of our properties or assets and the properties or assets of our subsidiaries, taken as a whole, to any person (as that term is used in Section 13(d)(3) of the Exchange Act) other than us or one of our subsidiaries; (2) the adoption of a plan relating to our liquidation or dissolution; (3) the consummation of any transaction (including, without limitation, any merger or consolidation) the result of which is that any person (as defined above) becomes the beneficial owner, directly or indirectly, of more than 50% of the then outstanding number of shares of our Voting Stock; or (4) the first day on which a majority of the members of our board of directors are not Continuing Directors.

This Change of Control definition includes a disposition of all or substantially all of our properties and assets and the properties and assets of our subsidiaries taken as a whole to any person. Although there is a limited body of case law interpreting the phrase substantially all, there is no precise established definition of the phrase under applicable law. Accordingly, in certain circumstances there may be a degree of uncertainty as to whether a particular transaction would involve a disposition of all or substantially all of the property or assets of a person. As a result, it may be unclear as to whether a change of control has occurred and whether a holder of the Notes may require us to make an offer to repurchase the Notes as described above. Holders may not be entitled to require us to purchase their Notes in certain circumstances involving a significant change in the composition of our board of directors, including in connection with a proxy contest in which our board does not approve a dissident slate of directors but approves them as Continuing Directors, even if our board initially opposed the directors.

Change of Control Repurchase Event means the occurrence of both a Change of Control and a Ratings Event.

Continuing Directors means, as of any date of determination, any member of our board of directors who (1) was a member of such board of directors on the date of the issuance of the Notes; or (2) was nominated for election or elected to such board of directors with the approval of a majority of the Continuing Directors who were members of such board of directors at the time of such nomination or election.

Exchange Act means the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended.

Investment Grade means a rating of Baa3 or better by Moody s (or its equivalent under any successor Rating Categories of Moody s); a rating of BBB- or better by S&P (or its equivalent under any successor Rating Categories of S&P); and the equivalent investment grade credit rating from any additional Rating Agency or Rating Agencies selected by us.

Moody s means Moody s Investors Service Inc.

Paying Agent means the trustee or any other paying agent selected by us to effect the payment of the purchase price of the Notes contemplated in connection with a Change of Control Repurchase Event.

Rating Agency means (1) each of Moody s and S&P; and (2) if either of Moody s or S&P ceases to rate the Notes or fails to make a rating of the Notes publicly available for reasons outside of our control, a nationally recognized statistical rating organization within the meaning of Rule 15c3-l(e)(2)(vi)(F) under the Exchange Act, selected by us (as certified by a resolution of our board of directors) as a replacement agency for Moody s or S&P, or both, as the case may be.

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Rating Category means (i) with respect to S&P, any of the following categories: BBB, BB, B, CCC, CC, C and D (or equivalent successor categories); (ii) with respect to Moody s, any of the following categories: Baa, Ba, B, Caa, Ca, C and D (or equivalent successor categories); and (iii) the equivalent of any such category of S&P or Moody s used by another Rating Agency. In determining whether the rating of the Notes has decreased by one or more gradations, gradations within Rating Categories (+ and - for S&P; 1, 2 and 3 for Moody s; or the equivalent gradations for another Rating Agency) shall be taken into account (e.g., with respect to S&P, a decline in a rating from BB+ to BB, as well as from BB - to B+, will constitute a decrease of one gradation).

Rating Date means the date which is 90 days prior to the earlier of (i) a Change of Control or (ii) public notice of the occurrence of a Change of Control or of our intention to effect a Change of Control.

Ratings Event means the occurrence of the events described in (a) or (b) below on, or within 90 days after the earlier of, (i) the occurrence of a Change of Control or (ii) public notice of the occurrence of a Change of Control or our intention to effect a Change of Control (which period shall be extended so long as the rating of the Notes is under publicly announced consideration for a possible downgrade by any of the Rating Agencies): (a) in the event the Notes are rated by both Rating Agencies on the Rating Date as Investment Grade, the rating of the Notes shall be reduced so that the Notes are rated below Investment Grade by both Rating Agencies, or (b) in the event the Notes (1) are rated Investment Grade by one Rating Agency and below Investment Grade by the other Rating Agency on the Rating Date, the rating of the Notes by either Rating Agency shall be decreased by one or more gradations (including gradations within Rating Categories, as well as between Rating Categories) so that the Notes are then rated below Investment Grade by both Rating Agencies or (2) are rated below Investment Grade by both Rating Agencies on the Rating Date, the rating of the Notes by either Rating Agency shall be decreased by one or more gradations (including gradations within Rating Categories, as well as between Rating Categories).

Notwithstanding the foregoing, a Ratings Event otherwise arising by virtue of a particular reduction in Rating shall not be deemed to have occurred in respect of a particular Change of Control (and thus shall not be deemed a Ratings Event for purposes of the definition of Change of Control Repurchase Event hereunder) if the Rating Agencies making the reduction in Rating to which this definition would otherwise apply do not announce or publicly confirm or inform the Trustee in writing at its request that the reduction was the result, in whole or in part, of any event or circumstance comprised of or arising as a result of, or in respect of, the applicable Change of Control (whether or not the applicable Change of Control shall have occurred at the time of the Ratings Event).

S&P means Standard & Poor s, a division of The McGraw-Hill Companies, Inc.

Voting Stock of any specified person (as that term is used in Section 13(d)(3) of the Exchange Act) as of any date means the capital stock of such person that is at the time entitled to vote generally in the election of the board of directors of such person.

Sinking Fund

The Notes are not be subject to, and do not have the benefit of, a sinking fund.

Global Notes and Book-Entry System

The Notes will be issued only in fully registered form without coupons in minimum denominations of $2,000 and any integral multiples of $1,000.

The Notes will be in book-entry form, will be represented by one or more permanent global certificates in fully registered form without interest coupons and will be deposited with the trustee as custodian for DTC and registered in the name of Cede & Co. or another nominee designated by DTC. Holders of Notes may elect to hold interests in a global Note through DTC, Clearstream Banking, *societe anonyme* (Clearstream) or Euroclear Bank S.A./N.V., as operator of the Euroclear System (Euroclear), if they are participants of such systems, or

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indirectly through organizations which are participants in such systems. Clearstream and Euroclear will hold interests on behalf of their participants through customers securities accounts in Clearstream and Euroclear s names on the books of their respective depositaries, which in turn will hold such interests in customers securities accounts in the depositaries names on DTC s books.

Individual certificates in respect of the Notes will not be issued to holders of beneficial interests therein, except in limited circumstances. If (1) we elect to terminate using the book-entry system, (2) an event of default has occurred and is continuing with respect to the Notes, or (3) DTC notifies us that it is unwilling or unable to continue as a clearing system in connection with the registered global notes or ceases to be a clearing agency registered under the Exchange Act, and a successor clearing system is not appointed by us within 90 days after receiving that notice from DTC or upon becoming aware that DTC is no longer so registered, then we will issue or cause to be issued individual certificates in registered form upon transfer of, or in exchange for, book-entry interests in the Notes represented by registered global notes upon delivery of those registered global notes for cancellation.

For additional information on DTC, Clearstream, Euroclear and applicable global clearance and settlement procedures, please see Form of Securities in the accompanying prospectus.

Supplemental Information Regarding the Trustee

Regions Bank is trustee under the indenture relating to our outstanding Series D, G, M, N, O, P, Q, R, S, T and U senior debt securities. Regions Bank also provides revolving credit and other traditional banking services to CenturyLink. For additional information on the trustee, see Description of Debt Securities of CenturyLink Concerning the Trustee in the accompanying prospectus.

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MATERIAL UNITED STATES FEDERAL INCOME TAX CONSEQUENCES

The following summary describes the material United States federal income tax consequences of the purchase, ownership and disposition of the Notes, but does not purport to be a complete analysis of all potential tax considerations. This section is based on the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the Code), its legislative history, existing regulations under the Code, published rulings and court decisions, all as currently in effect on the date hereof. These laws and interpretations are subject to change, possibly on a retroactive basis. No assurance can be given that the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) will agree with the views expressed in this summary, or that a court will not sustain any challenge by the IRS in the event of litigation.

Unless otherwise stated, this summary deals only with Notes held as capital assets within the meaning of Section 1221 of the Code (generally, assets held for investment) by holders that purchase Notes in this offering at the offering price. The tax treatment of a holder may vary depending on that holder s particular situation. This summary does not address all of the tax consequences that may be relevant to holders that may be subject to special tax treatment such as, for example, insurance companies, broker-dealers, tax-exempt organizations, certain financial institutions, real estate investment trusts, traders in securities that elect to use a mark-to-market method of accounting for its securities holdings, regulated investment companies, persons holding Notes as part of a straddle, hedge, constructive sale, conversion transaction or other integrated transaction for U.S. income tax purposes, persons holding Notes through a partnership or other pass-through entity or arrangement, U.S. holders whose functional currency is not the U.S. dollar, certain former U.S. citizens or long-term residents, persons that acquire their Notes in connection with employment or other performance of personal services, retirement plans (including individual retirement accounts and tax-deferred accounts), and persons subject to the alternative minimum tax. In addition, this summary does not address any aspects of state, local, or foreign tax laws or any U.S. federal tax considerations (such as estate, generation-skipping or gift tax) other than U.S. federal income tax considerations, that may be applicable to particular holders.

If a partnership (including for this purpose any entity or arrangement treated as a partnership for U.S. federal income tax purposes) is a beneficial owner of a Note, the tax treatment of a partner in the partnership will generally depend upon the status of the partner and upon the activities of the partnership. A holder of a Note that is a partnership and any partners in such partnership should consult their own tax advisors.

Each holder is urged to consult its own tax advisors to determine the federal, state, local, foreign and other tax consequences of the purchase, ownership and disposition of the Notes in the light of its own particular circumstances. This summary of the material United States federal income tax considerations is for general information only and is not tax advice.

U.S. Holders

General. For purposes of this summary, the term U.S. holder means a beneficial owner of a Note that is, for United States federal income tax purposes:

- an individual citizen or resident of the United States, including an alien individual who is a lawful permanent resident of the United States or who meets the substantial presence test under Code Section 7701(b);
- a legal entity (1) created or organized in or under the laws of the United States, any state in the United States or the District of Columbia and (2) treated as a corporation for United States federal income tax purposes;
- an estate the income of which is subject to United States federal income taxation regardless of its source; or
- a trust if (1) a court within the United States is able to exercise primary supervision over the administration of the trust and one or more United States persons have the authority to control all substantial decisions of the trust or (2) the trust has in effect a valid election to be treated as a domestic trust for United States federal income tax purposes.

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Repurchase Options. We may redeem the Notes, at any time in whole or from time to time in part, at a redemption price equal to the greater of (i) 100% of the principal amount of the Notes to be redeemed or (ii) the sum of the present values of the remaining scheduled payments of principal and interest on the Notes being redeemed, discounted to the redemption date at the then current Treasury Rate applicable to the Notes plus basis points, together with any accrued and unpaid interest to, but not including, the redemption date. In addition, at any time on or prior to , 2016, we may redeem up to 35% of the principal amount of the Notes using the net proceeds of certain equity offerings. For additional information, see Description of the Notes Optional Redemption. Under special rules governing these types of options, we will be deemed not to exercise these options to redeem the Notes, and the possibility of the receipt of redemption premium on the Notes will not affect the amount of income recognized by you in advance of your receipt of any such redemption premium.

If a Change of Control Repurchase Event occurs, then holders of Notes will have the right to require us to repurchase all or any part of their notes at 101% of the principal amount of the Notes plus accrued and unpaid interest, if any. For additional information, see Description of the Notes Purchase of Notes upon a Change of Control Repurchase Event . If the amount or timing of any payment on a debt instrument is contingent, the debt instrument could be subject to special rules that apply to contingent payment debt instruments. Although not free from doubt, we intend to take the position that a possible or actual payment upon a Change of Control Repurchase Event will not cause a Note to be treated as a contingent payment debt instrument for purposes of the original issue discount provisions of the Code and the U.S. Treasury regulations. Our determination that the Notes are not contingent payment debt instruments is binding on a U.S. holder unless such holder discloses its contrary position in the manner required by applicable Treasury regulations. Our determination is not, however, binding on the IRS, and if the IRS were to challenge this determination, a U.S. holder, under the original issue discount provisions of the Code and the Treasury regulations, might be required to accrue income on its Notes in excess of stated interest and prior to the receipt of cash, and may be required to treat as ordinary income rather than as capital gain any income realized on the taxable disposition of a Note. The remainder of this discussion assumes that our determination is correct.

Stated Interest on the Notes. Generally, stated interest on a Note will be includible in a U.S. holder s gross income and taxable as ordinary income for U.S. federal income tax purposes at the time such interest is paid or accrued in accordance with such holder s regular method of tax accounting. It is anticipated, and the rest of this summary assumes, that the Notes will be issued without original issue discount or, if issued at a discount from the principal amount of the Notes, with an amount of discount that is less than the statutory de minimis amount.

Sale, Exchange, Redemption or Retirement of a Note. Each U.S. holder generally will recognize capital gain or loss upon a sale, exchange, redemption, retirement or other taxable disposition of a Note measured by the difference, if any, between (i) the amount of cash and the fair market value of any property received (except to the extent that the cash or other property received in respect of a Note is attributable to the payment of accrued interest on the Note, which amount will be treated as a payment of interest) and (ii) the U.S. holder s adjusted tax basis in the Note. The gain or loss will be long-term capital gain or loss if the Note has been held for more than one year at the time of the sale, exchange, redemption, retirement or other taxable disposition. Long-term capital gains of non-corporate holders may be eligible for reduced rates of taxation. The deductibility of capital losses by both corporate and non-corporate holders is subject to limitations. A U.S. holder s adjusted basis in a Note generally will be the amount paid for the Note reduced by any principal payments received on the Note.

Unearned Income Medicare Contribution. For taxable years beginning after December 31, 2012, certain U.S. holders who are individuals, estates or trusts are required to pay an additional 3.8% Medicare tax on unearned income. This tax would apply to interest on and capital gains from the sale or other disposition of a Note. U.S. holders should consult their tax advisors regarding the effect, if any, of the 3.8% Medicare tax on their ownership or disposition of a Note.

Information Reporting and Backup Withholding. Information reporting will generally apply to reportable payments, including interest and principal on a Note, to U.S. holders that are not exempt recipients (such as individuals). In addition, backup withholding will apply if the U.S. holder, among other things, (i) fails to furnish

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a social security number or other taxpayer identification number (TIN) certified under penalties of perjury within a reasonable time after the request therefor, (ii) furnishes an incorrect TIN, (iii) fails to properly report the receipt of interest or dividends or (iv) under certain circumstances, fails to provide a certified statement, signed under penalties of perjury, that the TIN furnished is the correct number and that the holder is not subject to backup withholding. A U.S. holder that does not provide its correct TIN also may be subject to penalties imposed by the IRS.

The current backup withholding rate is 28%. Backup withholding is not an additional tax. Any amounts withheld under the backup withholding rules from a payment to a U.S. holder generally will be allowed as a refund or as a credit against that holder s U.S. federal income tax liability, provided the requisite procedures are followed. U.S. holders are encouraged to consult their tax advisors as to their qualification for exemption from backup withholding and the procedure for obtaining such exemption.

Information reporting and backup withholding will not apply with respect to payments made to exempt recipients (such as corporations and tax-exempt organizations) provided, if requested, their exemptions from backup withholding are properly established.

Non-U.S. Holders

The following discussion applies to you if you are a beneficial owner other than a U.S. holder as defined above or a partnership or other entity or arrangement treated as a partnership for U.S. federal income tax purposes (a non-U.S. holder). Special rules may apply to you or your shareholders if you are a controlled foreign corporation or passive foreign investment company. You should consult your own tax advisor to determine the United States federal, state, local and other tax consequences that may be relevant to you in your particular circumstances.

Payments of Interest on the Notes. Under the portfolio interest exemption, the 30% U.S. federal withholding tax that is generally imposed on interest from United States sources should not apply to any payment of principal or interest (including original issue discount) on the Notes, provided that:

- you do not conduct a trade or business within the United States to which the interest is effectively connected;
- you do not actually or constructively own 10% or more of the total combined voting power of all classes of our stock that are entitled to vote within the meaning of the Code and the U.S. Treasury regulations;
- you are not a controlled foreign corporation that is related to us through stock ownership;
- you are not a bank whose receipt of interest on the Notes is described in section 881(c)(3)(A) of the Code; and
- you fully and properly execute an IRS Form W-8BEN (or a suitable substitute form), and certify, under penalties of perjury, that you are not a United States person; or a qualified intermediary holding the Notes on your behalf provides us with an IRS Form W-8IMY (or a suitable substitute form) that, among other things, certifies that it has determined that you are not a U.S. person.

Special certification and other rules apply to certain non-U.S. holders that are pass-through entities rather than individuals.

We do not intend to withhold on payments of interest on the Notes if the above requirements are met.

If you cannot satisfy the requirements described above, interest payments made to you on the Notes generally will be subject to the 30% United States federal withholding tax. If a treaty applies, however, you may be eligible for a reduced rate of withholding. Similarly, payments on the Notes that are effectively connected

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with your conduct of a trade or business within the United States are not subject to the 30% withholding tax, but instead are generally subject to United States federal income tax, on a net income basis, as described below. In order to claim any such exemption or reduction in the 30% withholding tax, you should provide a properly executed IRS Form W-8BEN (or a suitable substitute form) claiming a reduction of or an exemption from withholding under an applicable tax treaty or IRS Form W-8ECI (or a suitable substitute form) stating that such payments are not subject to withholding because they are effectively connected with your conduct of a trade or business in the United States. Such forms are available on the IRS website at *www.irs.gov*. You may be required to update these forms periodically. Special procedures are provided under applicable U.S. Treasury regulations for payments through qualified intermediaries or certain financial institutions that hold customers Notes in the ordinary course of their trade or business.

Except to the extent provided by an applicable income tax treaty, if you are engaged in a trade or business in the United States (and, if a tax treaty applies, you maintain a permanent establishment within the United States) and interest on the Notes is effectively connected with the conduct of that trade or business (and if a treaty applies, attributable to that permanent establishment), you will be subject to United States federal income tax (but not the 30% withholding tax described above) on such income on a net income basis in generally the same manner as if you were a U.S. person. In addition, if you are a foreign corporation, you may be subject to an additional branch profits tax at a 30% rate (or such lower rate or exemption as may be specified by an applicable tax treaty), which is generally imposed on a foreign corporation on the actual and deemed repatriation from the United States of earnings and profits attributable to a United States trade or business.

Sale, Exchange, Redemption or Retirement of a Note. Any gain or income realized on the disposition of a Note generally will not be subject to United States federal income tax unless (1) that gain or income is effectively connected with your conduct of a trade or business in the United States; or (2) you are an individual who is present in the United States for 183 days or more in the taxable year of that disposition, and certain other conditions are met.

Except to the extent provided by an applicable income tax treaty, gain that is effectively connected with the conduct of a U.S. trade or business will be subject to U.S. federal income tax on a net basis at the rates applicable to U.S. persons generally (and, if you are a corporation, may also be subject to the 30% branch profits tax described above unless reduced or exempted by an applicable income tax treaty). Except to the extent provided by an applicable income tax treaty, if you are an individual present in the United States for 183 days or more in the taxable year and meet certain other conditions, then you will be subject to U.S. federal income tax at a rate of 30% on the amount by which capital gains from U.S. sources (including gains from the sale or other disposition of the Notes) exceed capital losses allocable to U.S. sources.

Information Reporting and Backup Withholding. Generally, if you are a non-U.S. holder we or our agent must report annually to you and to the IRS the amount of any payments of interest to you, your name and address, and the amount of tax withheld, if any. Copies of the information returns reporting those interest payments and amounts withheld may be available to the tax authorities in the country in which you reside under the provisions of any applicable income tax treaty or exchange of information agreement.

If you provide the applicable IRS Form W-8BEN, IRS Form W-8IMY or other applicable form, together with all appropriate attachments, signed under penalties of perjury, identifying yourself and stating that you are not a United States person, you generally will not be subject to U.S. backup withholding with respect to interest payments (provided that neither our Company nor our agent knows or has reason to know that you are a U.S. person or that the conditions of any other exemptions are not in fact satisfied).

Under current Treasury Regulations, payments on the sale, exchange, redemption or other taxable disposition of a note made to or through a U.S. office of a broker generally will be subject to information reporting and backup withholding unless you either certify your status as a non-U.S. holder under penalties of perjury on the applicable IRS Form W-8BEN, IRS Form W-8IMY or other applicable form (as described above)

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or otherwise establish an exemption. The payment of the proceeds on the disposition of a note by you to or through a non-U.S. office of a non-U.S. broker generally will not be subject to backup withholding or information reporting. However, the payment of proceeds on the disposition of a note to or through a non-U.S. office of a U.S. broker or a U.S. Related Person (as defined below) generally will be subject to information reporting (but not backup withholding) unless you certify your status as a non-U.S. holder under penalties of perjury or otherwise establish an exemption, or unless the broker has certain documentary evidence in its files as to your foreign status and has no actual knowledge or reason to know that you are a U.S. person or that the conditions of any other exemptions are not in fact satisfied.

For this purpose, a U.S. Related Person is (i) a controlled foreign corporation for U.S. federal income tax purposes, (ii) a foreign person 50% or more of whose gross income from all sources for a specified three-year period is derived from activities that are effectively connected with the conduct of a U.S. trade or business, (iii) a foreign partnership with certain connections to the United States, or (iv) a U.S. branch of a foreign bank or insurance company.

Backup withholding is not an additional tax and may be refunded (or credited against the holder s U.S. federal income tax liability, if any), provided that certain required information is timely furnished to the IRS. You should consult your own tax advisor as to the application of withholding and backup withholding in your particular circumstance and your qualification for obtaining an exemption from backup withholding and information reporting under current Treasury regulations.

FATCA Withholding. The Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act provisions of the Hiring Incentives to Restore Employment Act (generally referred to as FATCA), when applicable, will impose a U.S. federal withholding tax of 30% on certain payments to foreign financial institutions and other non-U.S. persons that fail to comply with certain certification and information reporting requirements. The obligation to withhold under FATCA is scheduled to apply to interest payments made on or after January 1, 2014 and the gross proceeds from the sale or other disposition of debt instruments received on or after January 1, 2017. However, FATCA will not apply to obligations issued before, and not the subject of a significant modification on or after, January 1, 2014. Because the Notes will be issued before January 1, 2014, FATCA withholding tax is not expected to apply to the Notes unless they are significantly modified on or after January 1, 2014 in such a way that they were considered to be re-issued for U.S. federal income tax purposes, in which case payments on, and the gross proceeds from the sale or other disposition of, the Notes to certain foreign entities could become subject to the FATCA withholding tax. We will not pay any additional amounts in respect of any amounts withheld under FATCA. Prospective investors are encouraged to consult with their own tax advisors regarding the possible implications of this legislation on their investment in the Notes.

THE PRECEDING DISCUSSION OF CERTAIN MATERIAL U.S. FEDERAL INCOME TAX CONSIDERATIONS IS FOR GENERAL INFORMATION ONLY AND IS NOT TAX ADVICE. WE URGE EACH PROSPECTIVE INVESTOR TO CONSULT ITS OWN TAX ADVISOR REGARDING THE PARTICULAR FEDERAL, STATE, LOCAL AND FOREIGN TAX CONSEQUENCES OF THE ACQUISITION, OWNERSHIP AND DISPOSITION OF NOTES, INCLUDING THE CONSEQUENCES OF ANY PROPOSED CHANGE IN APPLICABLE LAWS.

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UNDERWRITING (CONFLICTS OF INTEREST)

General

Under the terms and conditions set forth in the underwriting agreement, dated the date of this prospectus supplement, we have agreed to sell to each of the underwriters named below, and each of the underwriters has agreed, severally but not jointly, to purchase, the principal amount of Notes set forth opposite its name below:

Underwriter	Principal Amount of Notes
J.P. Morgan Securities LLC	$
Barclays Capital Inc.	
Citigroup Global Markets Inc.	
SunTrust Robinson Humphrey, Inc.	
Mitsubishi UFJ Securities (USA), Inc.	
Mizuho Securities USA Inc.	
U.S. Bancorp Investments, Inc.	
Total	$

In the underwriting agreement, the underwriters have agreed, subject to the terms and conditions set forth therein, to purchase all of the Notes offered hereby if any of the Notes are purchased. The obligations of the underwriters, including their agreement to purchase the Notes from us, are several and not joint. The underwriting agreement provides that the obligations of the underwriters pursuant thereto are subject to certain conditions and to approval of certain legal matters by counsel.

We have agreed to indemnify the underwriters against, or contribute to payments the underwriters may be required to make in respect of, certain liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act.

The underwriters have advised us that they propose to offer all or part of the Notes directly to purchasers at the price to public set forth on the cover page of this prospectus supplement and may offer the Notes to certain securities dealers at such price less a concession not in excess of % of the principal amount of the Notes. The underwriters may allow, and such dealers may reallow to certain brokers and dealers, a concession not in excess of % of the principal amount of the Notes. After the Notes are released for sale to the public, the price to public and other selling terms may from time to time be varied by the underwriters.

The following table shows the underwriting discount that we are to pay to the underwriters in connection with this offering (expressed as a percentage of the principal amount of the Notes):

	Paid by CenturyLink
Per Note	%

We estimate that our total expenses for this offering, not including the underwriting discount, will be approximately $.

There is presently no trading market for the Notes and there is no assurance that a market will develop since we do not intend to apply for listing of the Notes on any securities exchange or market or automated quotation system. Although they are under no obligation to do so, certain of the underwriters presently intend to act as market makers for the Notes in the secondary trading market, but may discontinue such market-making at any time without notice. No assurance can be given as to the liquidity of the trading market for the Notes.

In order to facilitate the offering of the Notes, the underwriters may engage in transactions that stabilize, maintain or otherwise affect the price of the Notes. Specifically, the underwriters may overallot in connection with the offering, creating a short position in the Notes for their own accounts. In addition, to cover overallotments or to stabilize the price of the Notes, the underwriters may bid for, and purchase, the Notes in the

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open market. Any of these activities may stabilize or maintain the market price of the Notes above independent market levels. The underwriters are not required to engage in these activities and may end any of these activities at any time without notice.

Selling Restrictions

European Economic Area. In relation to each Member State of the European Economic Area which has implemented the Prospectus Directive (each, a Relevant Member State), each underwriter has represented and agreed that with effect from and including the date on which the Prospectus Directive is implemented in that Relevant Member State (the Relevant Implementation Date) it has not made and will not make an offer of Notes which are the subject of the offering contemplated by this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus to the public in that Relevant Member State other than:

(a) to any legal entity which is a qualified investor as defined in the Prospectus Directive;

(b) to fewer than 100 or, if the Relevant Member State has implemented the relevant provision of the 2010 PD Amending Directive, 150, natural or legal persons (other than qualified investors as defined in the Prospectus Directive), as permitted under the Prospectus Directive, subject to obtaining the prior consent of the underwriters for any such offer; or

(c) in any other circumstances falling within Article 3(2) of the Prospectus Directive,

provided that no such offer of Notes shall require us or any underwriter to publish a prospectus pursuant to Article 3 of the Prospectus Directive. For the purposes of this provision, the expression an offer of notes to the public in relation to any Notes in any Relevant Member State means the communication in any form and by any means of sufficient information on the terms of the offer and the Notes to be offered so as to enable an investor to decide to purchase or subscribe the Notes, as the same may be varied in that Member State by any measure implementing the Prospectus Directive in that Member State.

This prospectus supplement and accompanying prospectus have been prepared on the basis that any offer of notes in any Relevant Member State will be made pursuant to an exemption under the Prospectus Directive from the requirement to publish a prospectus for offers of Notes. Accordingly, any person making or intending to make an offer in that Relevant Member State of Notes which are the subject of the placement contemplated in this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus may only do so in circumstances in which no obligation arises for us or any of the underwriters to publish a prospectus pursuant to Article 3 of the Prospectus Directive, in each case, in relation to such offer. Neither we nor the underwriters have authorized, nor do they authorize, the making of any offer of Notes in circumstances in which an obligation arises for us or the underwriters to publish a prospectus for such offer.

The expression Prospectus Directive means Directive 2003/71/EC (and amendments thereto, including the 2010 PD Amending Directive, to the extent implemented in the Relevant Member State), and includes any relevant implementing measure in the Relevant Member State and the expression 2010 PD Amending Directive means Directive 2010/73/EU.

Hong Kong. Each underwriter has represented and agreed that:

(a) it has not offered or sold and will not offer or sell the Notes by means of any document other than (i) to professional investors within the meaning of the Securities and Futures Ordinance (Cap. 571 of Hong Kong) and any rules made thereunder, or (ii) in other circumstances which do not result in the document being a prospectus within the meaning of the Companies Ordinance (Cap. 32 of Hong Kong); and

(b) it has not issued or had in its possession for the purpose of issue, and will not issue or have in its possession for the purpose of issue, whether in Hong Kong or elsewhere, any advertisement, invitation or document relating to the Notes, which advertisement, invitation or document relating to such Notes is directed at, or the contents of which are likely to be accessed or read by, the public of Hong Kong (except if permitted to do

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so under the laws of Hong Kong) other than with respect to Notes which are or are intended to be disposed of only to persons outside Hong Kong or only to professional investors within the meaning of the Securities and Futures Ordinance and any rules made thereunder.

Japan. The Notes have not been and will not be registered under the Financial Instruments and Exchange Act of Japan (the Financial Instruments and Exchange Act) and each underwriter has represented and agreed that it will not offer or sell any Notes, directly or indirectly, in Japan or to, or for the benefit of, any resident of Japan (which term as used herein means any person resident in Japan, including any corporation or other entity organized under the laws of Japan), or to others for re-offering or resale, directly or indirectly, in Japan or to a resident of Japan, except pursuant to an exemption from the registration requirements of, and otherwise in compliance with, the Financial Instruments and Exchange Act and any other applicable laws, regulations and ministerial guidelines of Japan.

Singapore. This prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus have not been registered as a prospectus with the Monetary Authority of Singapore. Accordingly, each underwriter has represented and agreed that (a) it has not circulated or distributed and will not circulate or distribute this prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus and any other document or material in connection with the offer or sale, or invitation for subscription or purchase, of the Notes, (b) has not offered or sold and will not offer or sell the Notes, and (c) has not made and will not make the Notes to be the subject of an invitation for subscription or purchase, whether directly or indirectly, in each of the cases of (a) to (c), to persons in Singapore other than (i) to an institutional investor under Section 274 of the Securities and Futures Act, Chapter 289 of Singapore (the SFA), (ii) to a relevant person pursuant to Section 275(1), or any person pursuant to Section 275(1A), and in accordance with the conditions specified in Section 275 of the SFA or (iii) otherwise pursuant to, and in accordance with the conditions of, any other applicable provision of the SFA.

Where the Notes are subscribed or purchased under Section 275 by a relevant person which is: (a) a corporation (which is not an accredited investor as defined in Section 4(A) of the SFA) the sole business of which is to hold investments and the entire share capital of which is owned by one or more individuals, each of whom is an accredited investor; or (b) a trust (where the trustee is not an accredited investor) whose sole purpose is to hold investments and each beneficiary of the trust is an individual who is an accredited investor, securities (as defined in Section 239(1) of the SFA) of that corporation or the beneficiaries rights and interest (however described) in that trust shall not be transferred within 6 months after that corporation or that trust has acquired the Notes pursuant to an offer made under Section 275 except: (1) to an institutional investor or to a relevant person defined in Section 275(2) of the SFA, or any person arising from an offer referred to in Section 275(1A) or Section 276(4)(i)(B) of the SFA; (2) where no consideration is or will be given for the transfer; (3) where the transfer is by operation of law; or (4) as specified in Section 276(7) of the SFA.

United Kingdom. This prospectus supplement and the accompanying prospectus are only being distributed to, and are only directed at, (1) persons who are outside the United Kingdom or (2) investment professionals falling within Article 19(5) of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 (Financial Promotion) Order 2005 (the Order) or (3) high net worth entities, and other persons to whom it may lawfully be communicated, falling within Article 49(2)(a) to (d) of the Order (each such person being referred to as a relevant person). The Notes are only available to, and any invitation, offer or agreement to subscribe, purchase or otherwise acquire the Notes will be engaged in only with, relevant persons. Any person who is not a relevant person should not act or rely on this prospectus supplement or the accompanying prospectus or any of their contents.

Each underwriter has represented and agreed that:

(a) it has only communicated or caused to be communicated and will only communicate or cause to be communicated an invitation or inducement to engage in investment activity (within the meaning of Section 21 of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 (FSMA) received by it in connection with the issue or sale of the Notes in circumstances in which Section 21(1) of the FSMA does not apply to us; and

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(b) it has complied and will comply with all applicable provisions of the FSMA with respect to anything done by it in relation to the Notes in, from or otherwise involving the United Kingdom.

Relationships; Conflicts of Interest

The underwriters and certain of their affiliates are full service financial institutions engaged in various activities, which may include securities trading, commercial and investment banking, financial advisory, investment management, investment research, principal investment, hedging, financing and brokerage activities. Certain of the underwriters or their affiliates are customers of ours and engage in transactions with us or our affiliates in the ordinary course of business. The underwriters and certain of their affiliates have, from time to time, performed, and may in the future perform, various commercial and investment banking and financial advisory services for us and our affiliates, for which they received or may in the future receive customary fees and expenses. Currently, all of the underwriters, either directly or through their affiliates, are lenders under our $2 billion revolving credit facility. In addition, in the ordinary course of their various business activities, the underwriters and certain of their affiliates may make or hold a broad array of investments and actively trade debt and equity securities (or related derivative securities) and financial instruments (including bank loans) for their own account and for the accounts of their customers, and such investment and securities activities may involve securities or instruments of the issuer or its affiliates. If the underwriters or their affiliates have a lending relationship with us, certain of the underwriters routinely hedge, and certain of the underwriters or their affiliates have hedged and may in the future hedge, their credit exposure to us consistent with their customary risk management policies. The underwriters and their affiliates may hedge such exposure by entering into transactions which consist of either the purchase of credit default swaps or the creation of short positions in our securities or the securities of our affiliates, including potentially the Notes offered hereby. Any such short positions could adversely affect future trading prices of the Notes offered hereby. The underwriters and certain of their affiliates may also communicate independent investment recommendations, market analysis or trading ideas and/or publish or express independent research views in respect of such securities or instruments and may at any time hold, or recommend to clients that they acquire, long or short positions in such securities and instruments.

We intend to use over half of the net proceeds of this offering to repay a portion of the indebtedness outstanding under our $2 billion revolving credit facility, including amounts we owe to the underwriters or their affiliates who have extended to us loans under that revolving credit facility. Because more than 5% of the net proceeds of this offering of the Notes will be directed to J.P. Morgan Securities LLC, Barclays Capital Inc. and Mitsubishi UFJ Securities (USA), Inc. or their respective affiliates, those underwriters have a conflict of interest with us pursuant to Rule 5121 of FINRA and, accordingly, this offering will be conducted in compliance with the requirements of Rule 5121, which means that a qualified independent underwriter meeting certain standards must participate in the preparation of this prospectus supplement and exercise the usual standards of due diligence with respect thereto. Citigroup Global Markets Inc. is assuming the responsibilities of acting as the qualified independent underwriter in this offering and, in this role, has performed a due diligence investigation and review and participated in the preparation of this prospectus supplement. Citigroup Global Markets Inc. will not receive any additional fees for serving as qualified independent underwriter in connection with this offering. We have agreed to indemnify Citigroup Global Markets Inc. against certain liabilities incurred in connection with acting as a qualified independent underwriter, including liabilities under the Securities Act. The underwriters who have a conflict of interest within the meaning of Rule 5121 will not confirm sales to any accounts over which they exercise discretionary authority without first receiving the specific written approval of the account holder.

LEGAL MATTERS

Stacey W. Goff, our Executive Vice President and General Counsel, and Jones Walker L.L.P., New Orleans, Louisiana, will pass on certain legal matters for us relating to the offering of the Notes. Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman LLP, New York, New York, will pass on certain legal matters for the underwriters.

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EXPERTS

The consolidated financial statements of CenturyLink, Inc. as of December 31, 2012 and 2011 and for each of the years in the three-year period ended December 31, 2012 and management s assessment of the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2012 have been incorporated into this document by reference to CenturyLink, Inc. s Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2012 in reliance upon the reports of KPMG LLP, independent registered public accounting firm, incorporated by reference herein, and upon the authority of said firm as experts in accounting and auditing.

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PROSPECTUS

CENTURYLINK, INC.

DEBT SECURITIES

PREFERRED STOCK

DEPOSITARY SHARES

COMMON STOCK

WARRANTS

UNITS

QWEST CORPORATION

DEBT SECURITIES

CenturyLink, Inc. may offer and sell the following securities, from time to time, in one or more offerings and series, either separately, together or in combination with other such securities:

- Unsecured senior or subordinated debt securities
- Preferred stock
- Depositary shares representing fractional interests in our preferred stock
- Common stock
- Warrants to purchase debt securities, preferred stock, depositary shares or common stock
- Units consisting of certain specified securities.

Qwest Corporation may offer and sell unsecured senior debt securities, from time to time, in one or more offerings and series.

When we offer securities we will provide you with a prospectus supplement describing the specific terms of the securities, including the offering price. You should carefully read this prospectus and the prospectus supplements relating to the specific issue of securities before you decide to invest in any of these securities. A prospectus supplement may also update or change information contained in this prospectus.

CenturyLink s common stock trades on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol CTL.

Investing in these securities involves certain risks, including those referenced under the heading Risk Factors on page 2 of this prospectus. You should consider the risk factors described in any accompanying prospectus supplement and any documents incorporated by reference herein or therein before investing in any securities offered hereunder.

Neither the Securities and Exchange Commission nor any state securities commission has approved or disapproved of these securities or passed upon the adequacy or accuracy of this prospectus. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

The date of this prospectus is March 2, 2012.

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You should rely only on the information contained in or incorporated by reference in this prospectus, in any accompanying prospectus supplement or in any free writing prospectus filed by us with the Securities and Exchange Commission, or the SEC. We have not authorized anyone to provide you with different information. We are not making an offer of these securities in any state where the offer is not permitted. You should not assume that the information contained in or incorporated by reference in this prospectus, in any accompanying prospectus supplement or in any free writing prospectus is accurate as of any date other than the date on the front cover of those documents. Our business, financial condition, results of operations and prospects may have changed since those dates. The information contained in our website, *www.centurylink.com*, is not a part of this prospectus, any prospectus supplement or any free writing prospectus.

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Unless otherwise provided in this prospectus or the context requires otherwise:

we, us and our refer either to CenturyLink or QC, in its capacity as an issuer of the securities offered hereunder;

CenturyLink refers to CenturyLink, Inc. and not any of its subsidiaries (except in connection with the description of its business under the headings The Companies CenturyLink and Cautionary Statement Regarding Forward-Looking Statements , where such term refers to the consolidated operations of CenturyLink and its subsidiaries);

QC refers to Qwest Corporation and not any of its subsidiaries (except in connection with the description of its business under the heading The Companies QC , where such term refers to the consolidated operations of QC and its subsidiaries);

Embarq refers to Embarq Corporation and its subsidiaries, which CenturyLink acquired on July 1, 2009;

Qwest refers to Qwest Communications International Inc. and its subsidiaries (including QC), which CenturyLink acquired on April 1, 2011;

Savvis refers to SAVVIS, Inc. and its subsidiaries, which CenturyLink acquired on July 15, 2011; and

securities refers to any security that we might sell under this prospectus or any prospectus supplement.

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ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS

This prospectus is part of a registration statement that we have filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission, or the SEC, utilizing a shelf registration process. Under this shelf registration process, we may, from time to time over the next three years, sell any of the securities described in this prospectus in one or more offerings.

This prospectus contains a general summary of the debt securities, preferred stock, depositary shares, common stock, warrants and units that CenturyLink may offer from time to time, and the debt securities that QC may offer from time to time. These summaries are not meant to be a complete description of such securities. We plan to describe the particular terms of any such offered securities in a prospectus supplement, which may update or change information contained in this prospectus concerning the offered securities, our business or other matters. You should read both this prospectus and any prospectus supplement together with additional information described under the heading Where You Can Find More Information.

Any securities of CenturyLink sold hereunder will not be obligations of, or guaranteed by, any other person, including QC, and any securities of QC sold hereunder will not be obligations of, or guaranteed by, any other person, including CenturyLink.

Any of the CenturyLink securities described herein and in a prospectus supplement may be issued separately, together or as part of a unit consisting of two or more securities, which may or may not be separate from one another. These securities may include new or hybrid securities developed in the future that combine features of any of the securities described in this prospectus.

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THE COMPANIES

CenturyLink

CenturyLink is an integrated communications company engaged primarily in providing an array of communications services to our residential, business, governmental and wholesale customers. CenturyLink s communications services include local and long-distance, network and public access, private line (including special access), broadband, data, managed hosting (including cloud hosting), colocation, and video services. In certain local and regional markets, CenturyLink also provides local access and fiber transport services to competitive local exchange carriers, and security monitoring.

As of December 31, 2011, CenturyLink operated in 37 states approximately 14.6 million access lines, which are telephone lines reaching from the customers premises to a connection with the public switched telephone network. CenturyLink also served approximately 5.6 million broadband subscribers as of December 31, 2011.

QC

QC is an integrated communications company engaged primarily in providing an array of communications services to its residential, business, governmental and wholesale customers, including local voice, network access, private line (including special access), broadband, data and video services. In certain local and regional markets, QC also provides fiber transport and other telecommunications services to competitive local exchange carriers. As of December 31, 2011, QC operated approximately 8.5 million access lines in 14 states principally in the western United States, and served approximately 3.1 million broadband subscribers.

Since CenturyLink s acquisition of Qwest on April 1, 2011, QC has operated as an indirect wholly owned subsidiary of CenturyLink.

The principal executive offices of CenturyLink and QC are located at 100 CenturyLink Drive, Monroe, Louisiana 71203, and the telephone number is (318) 388-9000.

RISK FACTORS

An investment in our securities involves risks. You should carefully consider the risks described in our respective SEC filings referred to under the heading Where You Can Find More Information, including the risk factors incorporated by reference herein from our respective most recently-filed Annual Reports on Form 10-K, as updated by any other reports and documents that we file with the SEC after the date of such annual reports. In addition, any accompanying prospectus supplement may include a discussion of any risk factors or other special considerations applicable to the securities being offered thereby.

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WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION

CenturyLink files annual, quarterly and current reports, proxy statements and other information with the SEC. QC also files annual, quarterly and current reports with the SEC. You may read and copy this information at the Public Reference Room of the SEC, located at 100 F Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20549. You may obtain information on the operation of the Public Reference Room by calling the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330. You may also obtain copies of this information by mail from the SEC at the above address, at prescribed rates. In addition, the SEC maintains an Internet site at *www.sec.gov*, from which interested persons can electronically access the registration statement of which this prospectus forms a part, including the exhibits thereto, as well as reports, proxy and information statements and other information about CenturyLink and QC. In addition, CenturyLink s common stock is listed and traded on the New York Stock Exchange, or NYSE, and you may obtain similar information about CenturyLink at the offices of the NYSE at 20 Broad Street, New York, New York 10005.

The SEC allows us to incorporate by reference the information we file with them, which means that we can disclose important information to you by referring to documents on file with the SEC. The information incorporated by reference is considered a part of this prospectus (except for any information that is superseded by information included directly in this prospectus), and information that we file later with the SEC will automatically update and supersede this information. In the event of conflicting information in these documents, the information in the latest filed documents should be considered correct. We incorporate by reference the documents listed below and any future filings we make with the SEC under Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14, or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, or Exchange Act, prior to the termination of the offering under this prospectus; *provided, however*, that we are not incorporating by reference any documents, portions of documents, or other information deemed to have been furnished and not filed in accordance with SEC rules:

CenturyLink Filings	**Period or Date Filed**
Annual Report on Form 10-K	Fiscal year ended December 31, 2011
Current Reports on Form 8-K	Filed on February 15, 2012 and March 2, 2012.
Proxy Statement on Schedule 14A	Filed on April 6, 2011, as amended April 6, 2011 (which contains information that has been updated by the Current Report on Form 8-K filed on July 15, 2011 with respect to the appointment of James E. Ousley as an executive officer of CenturyLink, which is incorporated by reference into this prospectus).
Description of CenturyLink s Common Stock on Form 8-A/A	Filed on July 1, 2009

QC Filings	**Period or Date Filed**
Annual Report on Form 10-K	Fiscal year ended December 31, 2011

At your request, we will provide you with a free copy of any of these filings (except for exhibits, unless the exhibits are specifically incorporated by reference into the filing). You may request copies by writing us at 100 CenturyLink Drive, Monroe, Louisiana 71203, Attention: Stacey W. Goff, or by telephoning us at (318) 388-9000.

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CAUTIONARY STATEMENT REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

Certain non-historical statements made in this prospectus and the documents incorporated herein by reference are intended to be forward-looking statements within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. Forward-looking statements are all statements other than statements of historical fact, such as statements regarding our anticipated performance, prospects, financial plans, business plans, indebtedness, pension obligations, integration initiatives, and general economic and business conditions. Words such as anticipates, may, can, plans, feels, believes, estimates, expects, projects, intends, likely, should, to be and similar expressions are intended to identify forward-looking

Our forward-looking statements are based on current expectations only, and are subject to a number of risks, uncertainties and assumptions, many of which are beyond our control. Actual events and results may differ materially from those anticipated, estimated or projected if one or more of these risks or uncertainties materialize, or if underlying assumptions prove incorrect. Factors that could affect actual results include but are not limited to: the timing, success and overall effects of competition from a wide variety of competitive providers; the risks inherent in rapid technological change; the effects of ongoing changes in the regulation of the communications industry (including those arising out of the Federal Communication Commission s October 27, 2011 order regarding intercarrier compensation and the universal service fund); our ability to effectively adjust to changes in the communications industry and changes in the composition of our markets and product mix caused by our recent acquisitions of Savvis, Qwest and Embarq; our ability to successfully integrate the operations of Savvis, Qwest and Embarq into our operations, including the possibility that the anticipated benefits from these acquisitions cannot be fully realized in a timely manner or at all, or that integrating the acquired operations will be more difficult, disruptive or costly than anticipated; our ability to use net operating loss carryovers of Qwest in projected amounts; the effects of changes in our assignment of the Savvis or Qwest purchase price to identifiable assets or liabilities after the date hereof; our ability to effectively manage our expansion opportunities, including retaining and hiring key personnel; possible changes in the demand for, or pricing of, our products and services; our ability to successfully introduce new product or service offerings on a timely and cost-effective basis; our continued access to credit markets on favorable terms; our ability to collect our receivables from financially troubled communications companies; any adverse developments in legal proceedings involving us; our ability to pay a $2.90 per common share dividend annually, which may be affected by changes in our cash requirements, capital spending plans, cash flows or financial position; unanticipated increases or other changes in our future cash requirements, whether caused by unanticipated increases in capital expenditures, increases in pension funding requirements or otherwise; our ability to successfully negotiate collective bargaining agreements on reasonable terms without work stoppages; the effects of adverse weather; other risks referenced from time to time in this prospectus or other of our filings with the SEC; and the effects of more general factors such as changes in interest rates, in tax rates, in accounting policies or practices, in operating, medical, pension or administrative costs, in general market, labor or economic conditions, or in legislation, regulation or public policy. These and other uncertainties are described in greater detail in Item 1A of our respective most recently-filed Annual Reports on Form 10-K , incorporated by reference into this prospectus, as updated by any other reports and documents that we file with the SEC after the date of such annual reports.

You should be aware that new factors may emerge from time to time and it is not possible for us to identify all such factors. Similarly, we cannot predict the impact of each such factor on our business or the extent to which any one or more factors may cause actual results to differ from those reflected in any forward-looking statements. You are further cautioned not to place undue reliance on these forward-looking statements, which speak only as of the date of this prospectus. We undertake no obligation to update any of our forward-looking statements for any reason.

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USE OF PROCEEDS

Unless otherwise indicated in any prospectus supplement, the net proceeds from any sale of the securities described herein will be used for general corporate purposes, including repayment of borrowings, capital expenditures, working capital, acquisitions, pension plan contributions, and redemption or repurchase of equity or debt securities. The net proceeds may be temporarily invested or applied to repay short-term or revolving debt prior to use.

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RATIO OF EARNINGS TO FIXED CHARGES

General

The following tables set forth the unaudited ratio of earnings to fixed charges on a consolidated basis for the periods and issuers indicated. For purposes of the ratios presented below, (i) earnings include income before income tax expense before adjustment for income or loss from equity investees, fixed charges, amortization of capitalized interest, and distributed income of equity investees, net of interest capitalized and preferred stock dividend requirements, and (ii) fixed charges include interest expensed and capitalized, amortized premiums, discounts and capitalized expenses relating to indebtedness, an estimate of interest included as rental expense, and, with respect to CenturyLink only, preferred stock dividend requirements. We have assumed that CenturyLink s preferred stock dividend requirements were equal to the pre-tax earnings that would be required to fund those dividend requirements. We computed those pre-tax earnings using actual tax rates for each year.

CenturyLink

The table below sets forth CenturyLink s ratio of consolidated earnings to fixed charges for each of the years in the five-year period ended December 31, 2011, which ratios are based on CenturyLink s historical consolidated financial statements incorporated by reference herein without giving effect to the Qwest acquisition for any period prior to April 1, 2011 or the Savvis acquisition for any period prior to July 15, 2011. Due to the immaterial amount of CenturyLink preferred stock outstanding, the ratio of consolidated earnings to fixed charges presented below does not differ materially from the ratio of consolidated earnings to fixed charges and preferred stock dividends for any of the periods reflected below.

	Year Ended December 31,				
	2011	**2010**	**2009**	**2008**	**2007**
Ratio of earnings to fixed charges	1.8	3.5	2.9	3.5	3.5

The table below sets forth CenturyLink s pro forma combined ratio of consolidated earnings to fixed charges for the year ended December 31, 2011, which ratio is based on CenturyLink s pro forma combined condensed financial information incorporated by reference herein and gives effect to the acquisitions of Qwest and Savvis as if they had occurred on January 1, 2011. The pro forma combined ratio of consolidated earnings to fixed charges is presented for comparative purposes only and is not intended to be indicative of actual results had the Qwest acquisition occurred as of such date, nor does it purport to indicate results that may be attained in the future. Due to the immaterial amount of CenturyLink preferred stock outstanding, the pro forma combined ratio of consolidated earnings to fixed charges presented below does not differ materially from the pro forma combined ratio of consolidated earnings to fixed charges and preferred stock dividends for the period reflected below.

	Year Ended December 31, 2011
Pro forma combined ratio of earnings to fixed charges	1.7

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QC

The table below sets forth QC s ratio of consolidated earnings to fixed charges for the Successor and Predecessor periods, as described below. As a result of CenturyLink s April 1, 2011 acquisition of Qwest, QC became an indirect wholly-owned subsidiary of CenturyLink. In accordance with applicable SEC rules, CenturyLink has elected to push down its accounting of the Qwest acquisition to QC s consolidated financial statements. Consequently, even though the acquisition did not change CenturyLink s status as a distinct and continuing legal entity, QC s ratio of consolidated earnings to fixed charges for the nine-month period after the acquisition (referred to below as the Successor period) is presented on a different cost basis than, and is therefore not comparable to, QC s ratio of consolidated earnings to fixed charges for the periods before the acquisition (referred to below as the Predecessor periods). The ratios are based on QC s historical consolidated financial statements incorporated by reference herein.

	Successor		Predecessor			
	Nine Months Ended December 31, 2011	Three Months Ended March 31, 2011	Years ended December 31, 2010	2009	2008	2007
Ratio of earnings to fixed charges	3.6	3.9	3.7	3.7	4.4	4.6

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DESCRIPTION OF CAPITAL STOCK OF CENTURYLINK

The following summary of the terms of CenturyLink s capital stock is not meant to be complete and is qualified by reference to the relevant provisions of the Louisiana Business Corporation Law and CenturyLink s articles of incorporation and bylaws. Copies of CenturyLink s articles of incorporation and bylaws are incorporated herein by reference and will be sent to you at no charge upon request, as provided under the heading Where You Can Find More Information.

Authorized Capital Stock

CenturyLink is currently authorized under its articles of incorporation to issue an aggregate of 802 million shares of capital stock, consisting of 800 million shares of common stock, $1.00 par value per share, and two million shares of preferred stock, $25.00 par value per share.

As of December 31, 2011, 618,514,334 shares of CenturyLink s common stock were outstanding. CenturyLink s common stock is listed for trading on the New York Stock Exchange. As of December 31, 2011, 9,434 shares of preferred stock were outstanding.

Description of Common Stock

We may issue, separately or together with or upon conversion of or exchange for other securities, common stock, all as set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement.

Voting Rights. Under our articles of incorporation, each share of its common stock entitles the holder thereof to one vote per share on all matters duly submitted to shareholders for their vote or consent. Holders of our stock do not have cumulative voting rights. As a result, the holders of more than 50% of the voting power are able to elect all of the directors.

Dividends. Holders of our common stock are entitled to receive dividends when, as and if declared by our board of directors, out of funds legally available therefor, subject to the preferences applicable to any outstanding preferred stock. Our ability to pay dividends depends primarily upon the ability of our subsidiaries to pay dividends or otherwise transfer funds to us. Certain of our subsidiaries loan agreements contain various restrictions on the transfer of funds to us, including certain provisions that restrict the amount of dividends that may be paid to us.

Other Rights and Provisions. In the event we liquidate, dissolve or wind up our affairs, holders of our common stock are entitled to receive ratably all of our assets remaining after satisfying the preferences of our creditors and the holders of any outstanding preferred stock. Our common stock is not redeemable and has no subscription, conversion or preemptive rights. All of our outstanding shares of common stock have been fully paid and are non-assessable.

Certain Provisions Affecting Takeovers

Our articles of incorporation and bylaws contain certain provisions that are intended to enhance the likelihood of continuity and stability in the composition of our board of directors and that may have the effect of delaying, deferring or preventing a future takeover or change in control of CenturyLink unless the takeover or change of control is approved by our board of directors. Such provisions may also render more difficult the removal of our directors or officers. Certain of our agreements and certain provisions of applicable law may have similar effects.

Board Structure. Currently, our articles of incorporation provide for three classes of directors serving staggered three-year terms, all of whom are elected pursuant to our bylaws by a majority vote of shareholders.

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Subject to the receipt of all required corporate authorizations, we plan to amend our articles of incorporation in May 2012 to provide for the annual election of directors. Under our articles of incorporation, directors can be removed from office only for cause and generally only by the affirmative vote of both the holders of a majority of the total voting power, voting together as a single class, and, at any time that there is a related person (as defined in the articles), the holders of a majority of the votes entitled to be cast by all shareholders other than the related person, voting as a separate group.

Limits on Shareholder Actions. Our articles of incorporation provide that shareholder action may be taken only at an annual or special meeting of shareholders, and may not be taken by written consent of the shareholders. This provision prevents consent solicitations by persons desiring to acquire us or change the composition of our board of directors. In addition, our articles of incorporation provide that shareholders may call a special meeting of shareholders only if they hold at least a majority of our total voting power.

Fair Price Provisions. Our articles of incorporation contain provisions designed to provide safeguards for our shareholders when certain current or former beneficial holders of our stock, which we sometimes refer to as related persons, attempt to effect a business combination with us. In general, subject to various exceptions, a business combination between CenturyLink and a related person must be approved by:

- a majority of CenturyLink s directors
- a majority of CenturyLink s continuing directors (as defined in CenturyLink s articles)
- 80% of the total voting power of all shareholders, and
- two-thirds of the total voting power of shareholders, other than the related person, present or represented at the shareholders meeting, voting as a separate group.

Evaluation of Tender Offers. Our board of directors is required by our articles of incorporation, and expressly permitted by Louisiana law, to consider various factors when evaluating a business combination, tender or exchange offer, or a proposal by another person to make a tender or exchange offer, including the social and economic effects of the transaction on CenturyLink and its subsidiaries, as well as on our respective employees, customers, creditors, and other elements of the communities in which we operate or are located.

Advance Notice. Our bylaws establish an advance notice procedure with regard to the nomination, other than by or at the direction of our board of directors, of candidates for election as directors and with regard to other matters to be brought before a meeting of our shareholders. Our bylaws provide that any shareholder of record entitled to vote thereon may nominate one or more persons for election as directors and properly bring other matters before a meeting of the shareholders only if written notice has been received by the secretary of CenturyLink, in the event of an annual meeting of shareholders, not more than 180 days and not less than 90 days in advance of the first anniversary of the preceding year s annual meeting of shareholders or, in the event of a special meeting of shareholders or annual meeting scheduled to be held either 30 days earlier or later than such anniversary date, within 15 days of the earlier of the date on which notice of such meeting is first mailed to shareholders or public disclosure of the meeting date is made. In addition, the notice must contain certain specified information concerning, among other things, the person to be nominated or the matter to be brought before the meeting and concerning the shareholder submitting the proposal.

Amendment of CenturyLink s Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws. Various provisions of our articles of incorporation, including the fair price provisions and those provisions limiting the ability of shareholders to act by written consent, may not be amended except upon the affirmative vote of both:

- 80% of the total voting power of all shareholders, and
- two-thirds of the total voting power of shareholders, other than a related person, present or represented at a shareholders meeting, voting as a separate group.

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Our bylaws may be adopted, amended, or repealed and new bylaws may be adopted by either:

- a majority of our directors and a majority of our continuing directors, voting as a separate group, or
- the holders of at least 80% of the total voting power of all shareholders and two-thirds of the total voting power of shareholders, other than the related person, present or duly represented at a shareholders meeting, voting as a separate group.

Other. For additional information about these and other provisions of our organizational documents and applicable laws that could have an effect of delaying, deferring, discouraging or preventing a change in control of CenturyLink, you should refer to our registration statement relating to our common stock, as amended and restated on Form 8-A/A, which is incorporated by reference herein. See Where You Can Find More Information.

Listing

CenturyLink s common stock trades on the NYSE under the symbol CTL.

Description of Preferred Stock

CenturyLink may issue hereunder preferred stock in one or more series on terms to be described in the applicable prospectus supplement. The specific description of any particular series of preferred stock in the applicable prospectus supplement will not be complete. You should refer to the applicable provisions in our articles of incorporation, our bylaws and the articles of amendment relating to each series of preferred stock, all of which we have filed or will file with the SEC, as well as the relevant provisions of the Louisiana Business Corporation Law.

General. Our articles of incorporation authorize the board of directors to issue from time to time, without shareholder approval, shares of preferred stock in one or more series. The rights, preferences, designation and size of each series will be described in an amendment to our articles of incorporation. A prospectus supplement relating to each series will specify the terms of the preferred stock as determined by our board of directors, including the following:

- the specific designation, number of shares, rank and purchase price
- any per share liquidation preference
- any redemption, payment or sinking fund provisions
- any dividend rates (fixed or variable) and the dates on which any dividends will be payable (or the method by which the rates or dates will be determined)
- any voting rights
- the methods by which amounts payable in respect of the preferred stock may be calculated
- information with respect to any book-entry procedures

whether the preferred stock will be listed on a national securities exchange

whether the preferred stock is convertible or exchangeable and, if so, a description of (i) the securities into which the preferred stock is convertible or exchangeable, (ii) the terms and conditions upon which conversions or exchanges may be effected, including the initial conversion or exchange prices or ratios, and (iii) any other related provisions

a description of any material United States federal income tax consequences relating to the series

the place or places where dividends and other payments on the preferred stock will be payable

any additional voting, dividend, liquidation, redemption, sinking fund or other rights, preferences, qualifications, limitations and restrictions.

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Unless the applicable prospectus supplement states otherwise, the preferred stock will not have preemptive rights. Neither the par value nor the liquidation preference of the preferred stock is indicative of the price at which the preferred stock may actually trade on or after the date of issuance. Unless the applicable prospectus supplement states otherwise, there will be no restriction on our ability to repurchase or redeem preferred stock while there is any arrearage in payment of dividends or sinking fund installments.

Our rights and the rights of holders of any preferred stock issued by us to participate in the distribution of assets of any subsidiary of CenturyLink upon its liquidation or recapitalization will be subject to the prior claims of the subsidiary s creditors and preferred shareholders, except to the extent we ourselves are a creditor with recognized claims against the subsidiary or a holder of preferred stock of the subsidiary.

Although it has no present intention to do so, our board of directors could authorize CenturyLink to issue preferred stock with voting, conversion and other rights that could adversely affect the voting power and other rights of holders of our common stock or other series of preferred stock. Also, the issuance of preferred stock could have the effect of delaying, deferring or preventing a change in control.

Outstanding Preferred Stock. As of December 31, 2011, CenturyLink had outstanding 9,434 shares of 5% Cumulative Convertible Series L Preferred Stock. At such time, such shares were convertible into a total of approximately 12,864 shares of CenturyLink common stock. Each share of Series L Preferred Stock entitles the holder thereof to one vote on all matters duly submitted to a vote of shareholders. The holder of each share of Series L Preferred Stock is entitled to receive an annual cash dividend of $1.25, payable in quarterly installments. Dividends on Series L Preferred Stock are cumulative and dividends cannot be paid with respect to common stock unless all cumulative dividends on all shares of Series L Preferred Stock shall have been paid. In the event we liquidate, dissolve or wind up our affairs, the holders of Series L Preferred Stock are entitled to receive, equally and ratably with all other holders of preferred stock of equal rank, $25.00 per share plus accrued and unpaid dividends, before any payment is made to holders of common stock. Each share of Series L Preferred Stock is convertible, at the option of the holder, into the number of shares of common stock derived by dividing $25.00 by the conversion price (which, as of the date of this prospectus, is approximately $18.33, as adjusted).

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DESCRIPTION OF DEBT SECURITIES OF CENTURYLINK

The following description of the terms of CenturyLink s debt securities that may be issued under this prospectus contains certain general terms that may apply to such securities. The specific terms of any of CenturyLink s debt securities will be described in one or more prospectus supplements relating to those debt securities.

CenturyLink may periodically issue senior debt securities in one or more series under an indenture, dated as of March 31, 1994, between it and Regions Bank (as successor-in-interest to First American Bank & Trust of Louisiana and Regions Bank of Louisiana), as trustee, as supplemented through the date hereof. We refer to this indenture in this section as the senior indenture. CenturyLink may also periodically issue subordinated debt securities in one or more series under a subordinated indenture to be entered into between it and a bank or trust company selected by it to act as trustee. We refer to this indenture in this section as the subordinated indenture. Together, the senior indenture and the subordinated indenture are referred to in this section as the indentures. The trustees under the indentures are sometimes collectively referred to in this section as the trustees.

The particular terms of each series of debt securities issued under the indentures will be set forth in a resolution of a committee of our board of directors specifically authorizing that series, or in one or more supplemental indentures or other instruments under the applicable indenture. The following summary is not complete and is subject to the provisions of, and is qualified in its entirety by express reference to, the indentures and the applicable resolutions, supplemental indentures or other instruments specifying the particular terms of any such series. We have filed a copy of the senior indenture and a form of the subordinated indenture as exhibits to the registration statement of which this prospectus forms a part, and suggest that you review these carefully.

There is no requirement under the senior indenture, nor will there be any such requirement under the subordinated indenture, that our future issuances of debt securities be issued exclusively under either indenture, and we will be free to employ other indentures or documentation containing provisions different from those included in either of the indentures or applicable to one or more issuances of debt securities hereunder in connection with any future issuances of other debt securities. The senior indenture provides, and the subordinated indenture will provide, that the applicable debt securities will be issued in one or more series, may be issued at various times, may have differing maturity dates and may bear interest at differing rates. We need not issue all debt securities of one series at the same time and, unless otherwise provided, we may reopen a series of senior or subordinated debt securities without the consent of the holders of that series, for additional issuances of securities of that series.

Unless otherwise indicated, each reference italicized in parentheses below or in any prospectus supplement applies to section numbers in the applicable indenture and each capitalized term not otherwise defined herein has the meaning assigned to it in the applicable indenture.

General

The debt securities issued under the indentures will be general unsecured obligations of CenturyLink. Senior debt securities will rank senior to any of our future subordinated debt and will rank equally in right of payment with all of our existing and future unsecured and unsubordinated debt. Subordinated debt securities will be subordinated in right of payment to the prior payment in full of all of our senior debt as described in the applicable prospectus supplement. See Subordinated Debt Securities. The indentures do not limit the aggregate principal amount of debt securities that we may issue thereunder. As of December 31, 2011, we had (1) approximately $4.5 billion aggregate principal amount of unsecured senior debt securities outstanding under the senior indenture and (2) no subordinated debt outstanding.

As a holding company, substantially all of our income and operating cash flow is dependent upon the earnings of our subsidiaries and the distribution of those earnings to, or upon loans or other payments of funds by

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those subsidiaries to, us. As a result, we rely upon our subsidiaries to generate the funds necessary to meet our obligations, including the payment of principal and interest on any debt securities that may be issued hereunder. Our subsidiaries (including QC) are separate and distinct legal entities and have no obligation to pay any amounts due pursuant to our debt securities or, subject to limited exceptions for tax sharing purposes, to make any funds available to us to repay our obligations, whether by dividends, loans or other payments. Certain of our subsidiaries loan agreements may contain various restrictions on the transfer of funds to us, including certain provisions that restrict the amount of dividends that may be paid to us**.** Moreover, our rights to receive assets of any subsidiary upon its liquidation or reorganization (and the ability of holders of our debt securities to benefit indirectly therefrom) will be effectively subordinated to the claims of creditors of that subsidiary, including trade creditors. As of December 31, 2011, the aggregate principal amount of long-term debt of our subsidiaries (excluding long-term debt classified as Capital leases and other) was approximately $16.1 billion.

Unless we state otherwise below or in any prospectus supplement, neither of the indentures nor the debt securities to be offered thereby (1) limit the amount of secured or unsecured indebtedness that we or any of our subsidiaries may issue or incur, (2) restrict our ability to pay dividends or sell or transfer our assets or (3) contain provisions that would afford debt holders protection in the event of a change in control, highly leveraged transaction, recapitalization or similar transaction involving CenturyLink, any of which could adversely affect holders of our debt securities.

If we sell any series of debt securities under the indentures, each related prospectus supplement will describe the terms of the series, including some or all of the following:

- the title and ranking of the series, including a description of any applicable subordination provisions
- any limit on the aggregate principal amount of the debt securities or the series of which they are a part
- our net proceeds from the sale thereof
- the price or prices at which the series will be issued
- the date or dates of maturity
- the rate or rates per annum, if any, at which the series will bear interest or the method of determining the rate or rates
- the date or dates from which interest will accrue and the date or dates at which interest will be payable
- the terms of any conversion or exchange rights
- the terms for redemption or early payment, if any, including any mandatory or optional sinking fund or similar provisions
- any special United States federal income tax considerations applicable to the series
- any special provisions relating to the defeasance of the series

any special considerations, additional covenants or other specific provisions applicable to the series.

The debt securities may bear interest at a fixed or floating rate. Debt securities bearing no interest or interest at a rate that at the time of issuance is below the prevailing market rate may be sold at a discount below their stated principal amount.

The listing above is not intended to be an exclusive list of the terms that may be applicable to any debt securities sold under the indentures, and we are not limited in any respect in our ability to issue debt securities with terms different from or in addition to those described above or elsewhere in this prospectus, provided that the terms are not inconsistent with the applicable indenture.

The indentures are, and the debt securities will be, governed by Louisiana law. The indentures are subject to and governed by the Trust Indenture Act of 1939.

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Denominations, Registration and Transfer

The debt securities issued under the indentures will be issued in fully registered form and, unless we state otherwise in any prospectus supplement, in denominations of $1,000 or any multiples thereof (*Section 2.03*). The debt securities may be issued partly or wholly in the form of one or more global registered securities, as described below under Form of Securities.

The applicable trustee will act as the registrar of debt securities issued under the applicable indenture (*Section 2.05*). No service charge will be made for any registration of transfer or exchange of debt securities, or issue of new debt securities in the event of a partial redemption of any series, but we may generally require payment of a sum sufficient to cover any tax or other governmental charge payable in connection therewith (*Section 2.05*). The applicable trustee may appoint an authenticating agent for any series to act on the trustee s behalf in connection with authenticating debt securities of that series issued upon the exchange, transfer or partial redemption thereof (*Section 2.10*). The applicable trustee may at any time rescind the designation of any such agent (*Section 2.10*).

We will not be required to issue, register the transfer of or exchange the debt securities of any series during a period beginning 15 days before any selection of debt securities of that series to be redeemed and ending at the close of business on the day of mailing of the relevant redemption notice or to register the transfer of or exchange any debt securities of any series, or portions thereof, called for redemption (*Section 2.05*).

Payment and Paying Agents

Unless we state otherwise in the applicable prospectus supplement, payment of principal of (and premium, if any) and interest on debt securities of any series will be made in U.S. dollars at the principal office of our Paying Agent (*Section 2.03*).

Unless we state otherwise in the applicable prospectus supplement, the applicable trustee will act as our sole Paying Agent and 1500 North 18th Street, Monroe, Louisiana, will be designated as the agent s office for purposes of payments with respect to any series of debt securities. Any other Paying Agents initially designated by us with respect to any series will be named in the related prospectus supplement (*Sections 4.02 and 4.03*).

Any money set aside by us for the payment of principal (and premium, if any) or interest on any debt securities that remains unclaimed two years after such payment has become due and payable will be repaid to us on May 31 following the expiration of the two-year period and the holder of the debt security may thereafter look only to us for payment thereof (*Section 11.05*).

Conversion or Exchange Rights

The debt securities may be convertible into or exchangeable for shares of common stock, preferred stock or other securities of CenturyLink or any other issuer. The terms and conditions of exchange or conversion will be stated in the applicable prospectus supplement. The terms will include, among other things, the following:

- the type of security into which the debt securities are convertible or exchangeable
- the conversion or exchange price or ratio (or manner of calculation thereof)
- the conversion or exchange period
- provisions as to whether the conversion or exchange rights will be at the option of the debt holders, CenturyLink, or both
- the events requiring an adjustment of the conversion or exchange price or ratio

any restrictions on conversion or exchange (*Section 2.05*).

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Redemption and Sinking Fund Provisions

A series may be redeemed, in whole or in part, upon not less than 30 days and not more than 60 days notice at the redemption prices and subject to the terms and conditions (including those relating to any sinking fund established with respect to such series) that may be set forth in a board resolution or supplemental indenture and in the prospectus supplement relating to such series (*Sections 3.01 and 3.02*). If less than all of the debt securities of the series are to be redeemed, the applicable trustee shall select the debt securities of such series, or portions thereof, to be redeemed by lot or by any other method such trustee shall deem appropriate and fair (*Section 3.02*).

Not less than 45 days prior to any sinking fund payment date for a series of debt securities, we will deliver to the trustee an officers certificate specifying the amount of the next sinking fund payment pursuant to the terms of such series of debt securities (*Section 3.06*).

Replacement of Securities

We will replace any debt security that becomes mutilated, destroyed, lost or stolen at the expense of the holder. The holder should deliver the debt security or satisfactory evidence of the destruction, loss or theft thereof to us and the applicable trustee. An indemnity satisfactory to us and such trustee may be required before a replacement security will be issued (*Section 2.07*).

Events of Default

Unless we state otherwise in the applicable prospectus supplement, the terms and conditions set forth under this heading will govern defaults under the applicable indenture. The indentures provide that an Event of Default means that one or more of the following events has occurred and is continuing with respect to debt securities of a particular series:

- failure for 30 business days to pay interest on the debt securities of that series when due
- failure to pay principal of (or premium, if any, on) the debt securities of that series when due (whether at maturity, upon redemption, by declaration or otherwise) or to make any sinking or analogous fund payment with respect to that series unless caused solely by a wire transfer malfunction or similar problem outside our control
- failure to observe or perform any other covenant of that series for 60 days after written notice with respect thereto by the trustee or to us and the trustee by the holders of at least 25% in principal amount of the securities of such series at the time outstanding
- occurrence of certain events relating to bankruptcy, insolvency or reorganization with respect to CenturyLink (*Section 6.01*).

No Event of Default with respect to the debt securities of a particular series necessarily constitutes an Event of Default with respect to the debt securities of any other series issued under the applicable indenture.

If an Event of Default shall occur and be continuing with respect to any series and if it is known to the applicable trustee, such trustee is required to mail to each holder of that series a notice of the Event of Default within 90 days of such default. The trustee may withhold from holders notice of any continuing default (except a default in the payment of monies owed) if it determines that withholding notice is in their interests (*Section 6.07*).

If an Event of Default with respect to a series of debt securities occurs and is continuing, the trustee or the holders of at least 25% in aggregate principal amount of that series of debt securities then outstanding may declare the principal of that series of debt securities to be due and payable immediately. The holders of a majority in aggregate outstanding principal amount of such series may rescind such declaration and waive the default if

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the default has been cured and a sum sufficient to pay all matured installments of interest and principal (and premium, if any) has been deposited with such trustee before any judgment or decree for such payment has been obtained or entered (*Section 6.01*).

Holders of debt securities may not enforce the applicable indenture, except as provided therein. Subject to the provisions of the applicable indenture relating to the duties of the applicable trustee, if an Event of Default occurs and is continuing such trustee will be under no obligation to exercise any of the rights or powers under the applicable indenture at the request or direction of any holders of the affected series, unless, among other things, the holders shall have offered such trustee indemnity reasonably satisfactory to it. Subject to the indemnification provisions and certain limitations contained in the applicable indenture, the holders of a majority in aggregate principal amount of the debt securities of such series then outstanding will have the right to direct the time, method and place of conducting any proceeding for any remedy available to the applicable trustee or exercising any trust or power conferred on such trustee with respect to such series. The holders of a majority in aggregate principal amount of the then outstanding debt securities of any series affected by a default may, in certain cases, waive such default except a default in payment of principal of, or any premium, if any, or interest on, the debt securities of that series or a call for redemption of the debt securities of that series (*Sections 6.04 and 6.06*).

We are required to furnish to the trustees annually a statement regarding our performance of certain of our obligations under the indenture (*Section 5.03*).

Discharge and Defeasance

Unless the prospectus supplement states otherwise, we may discharge our obligations with respect to any series of our debt securities, subject to certain exceptions, if at any time:

- we deliver to the applicable trustee for cancellation all outstanding debt securities of that series and for which payment in monies or U.S. Government Obligations has been deposited in trust by us, or
- all outstanding debt securities of that series not previously delivered to the applicable trustee for cancellation by us shall have become due and payable or are to become due and payable or called for redemption within one year and we have deposited with such trustee the entire amount in moneys or U.S. Government Obligations sufficient, without reinvestment, to pay at maturity or upon redemption the outstanding debt securities, including principal (and premium, if any) and interest due or to become due to the date of maturity or redemption, and if we shall also pay or cause to be paid all other sums payable thereunder with respect to that series (*Section 11.01*).

Additionally, each indenture provides that we may discharge all of our obligations under the indenture with respect to any series, subject to certain exceptions, if at any time all outstanding debt securities of that series not previously delivered to the applicable trustee for cancellation by us or that have not become due and payable as described above shall have been paid by us by depositing irrevocably with such trustee moneys or U.S. Government Obligations sufficient to pay at maturity or upon redemption the outstanding debt securities, including principal (and premium, if any) and interest due or to become due to the date of maturity or redemption, and if we shall also pay all other sums payable thereunder with respect to that series (*Section 11.02*).

Merger and Consolidation

Nothing in the indentures prevents us from consolidating or merging with or into, or selling or otherwise disposing of all or substantially all of our assets to, another corporation, provided that:

- we agree to obtain a supplemental indenture pursuant to which the surviving entity or transferee agrees to assume our obligations under all outstanding debt securities issued under the applicable indenture, and
- the surviving entity or transferee is organized under the laws of the United States, any state thereof or the District of Columbia (*Section 10.01*).

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Subordinated Debt Securities

In general, our subordinated debt securities will be subordinate in right of payment to the prior payment in full of all of our senior indebtedness *(Section 14.01 of the subordinated indenture).* In general, this means that in the event we become subject to any insolvency, bankruptcy, receivership, liquidation, reorganization or similar proceeding or we liquidate, dissolve or otherwise wind up our affairs, then the holders of any debt senior to our subordinated debt securities will be entitled to be paid in full, before the holders of any subordinated debt securities are paid. In addition, unless otherwise provided in the applicable prospectus supplement, (1) if we default in the payment of any debt that is senior to our subordinated debt securities or if any event of default shall have occurred and be continuing permitting the holders of such senior indebtedness to accelerate payment of such senior indebtedness, then, so long as any such default continues, we cannot make any payment on our subordinated debt securities, and (2) if any series of subordinated debt securities is declared due and payable before its stated maturity date, then generally no payment on our subordinated debt securities can be made unless the holders of all debt senior to the subordinated debt securities are paid in full.

A prospectus supplement relating to a particular series of subordinated debt securities will summarize the subordination provisions applicable to that series, including:

- the applicability and effect of such provisions upon any payment or distribution of our assets to creditors upon any liquidation, bankruptcy, insolvency or similar proceedings
- the applicability and effect of such provisions in the event of specified defaults with respect to senior indebtedness, including the circumstances under which and the period in which we will be prohibited from making payments on subordinated debt securities
- the definition of senior indebtedness applicable to that series of subordinated debt securities
- the aggregate amount of outstanding indebtedness as of the most recent practicable date that would rank senior to, and on parity with, that series of subordinated debt securities.

The particular terms of subordination of a series of subordinated debt securities may supersede the general subordination provisions of the subordinated indenture. There are no restrictions in the subordinated indenture on the creation of additional senior debt securities or any other indebtedness.

The failure to make any required payment on any of the subordinated debt securities due to the subordination provisions of such securities and the subordinated indenture will not prevent the occurrence of an Event of Default under the subordinated debt securities.

Modification of Indentures

Each indenture contains provisions permitting us, when authorized by a board resolution, and the applicable trustee, with the consent of the holders of not less than a majority in aggregate principal amount of the debt securities of any series at the time outstanding and affected by such modification, to modify the indenture or any supplemental indenture affecting that series. However, no such modification may:

- extend the fixed maturity of any debt securities of any series, reduce the principal amount thereof, reduce the rate or extend the time of payment of interest thereon or reduce any premium payable upon the redemption thereof, without the consent of the holder of each debt security so affected, or
- reduce the aforesaid percentage of debt securities, the holders of which are required to consent to any such supplemental indenture, without the consent of the holder of each debt security then outstanding and affected thereby (*Section 9.02*).

We and the applicable trustee may amend or supplement the indentures, without the consent of any holder of any series of debt securities, to:

create a new series

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- evidence the assumption by any successor to CenturyLink of our obligations under an indenture
- add covenants to an indenture for the protection of the holders of debt securities
- cure any ambiguity or inconsistency in an Indenture, or making other provisions as shall not adversely affect the interests of the holders of the debt securities of any series
- change or eliminate any provisions of an indenture provided that there is no outstanding debt security of any series created prior to such change that benefits therefrom (*Section 9.01*).

In addition, we may not modify or amend the subordination provisions of the subordinated indenture if doing so would adversely affect the rights under Article XIV of the subordinated indenture of the holders of senior indebtedness without the consent of the requisite holders of senior indebtedness required under the terms of such senior indebtedness. (*Section 9.02 of the subordinated indenture*.)

Limitations on Liens

The indentures provide that CenturyLink will not, while any of the debt securities remain outstanding, create or suffer to exist any mortgage, lien, pledge, security interest or other encumbrance (which we collectively refer to below as liens) upon our property, whether now owned or hereafter acquired, unless we shall secure the debt securities then outstanding by such lien equally and ratably with all obligations and indebtedness thereby secured so long as such obligations and indebtedness remain so secured.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, neither indenture will restrict us from creating or suffering to exist the following liens permitted under the indentures:

- liens upon property hereafter acquired by us or liens on such property at the time of the acquisition thereof, or conditional sales agreements or title retention agreements with respect to any such property
- liens on the stock of a corporation that, when such liens arise, concurrently becomes our subsidiary, or liens on all or substantially all of the assets of a corporation arising in connection with our purchase thereof
- liens for taxes and similar levies, deposits to secure performance or obligations under certain specified circumstances and laws, mechanics liens and similar liens arising in the ordinary course of business, liens created by or resulting from legal proceedings being contested in good faith, certain specified zoning restrictions and other restrictions on the use of real property, interests of lessors in property subject to any capitalized lease, and certain other similar liens generally arising in the ordinary course of business
- liens existing on the date of an indenture
- liens that replace, extend or renew any lien otherwise permitted under an indenture (*Sections 4.05 and 4.06*).

The restrictions in the indentures described above would not protect the debt holders in the event of a highly leveraged transaction in which unsecured indebtedness was incurred or in which the liens arising in connection therewith were freely permitted under the applicable indenture, nor would it afford protection in the event of one or more highly leveraged transactions in which secured indebtedness was incurred by our subsidiaries.

Concerning the Trustees

The trustees, prior to the occurrence of an Event of Default, undertake to perform only such duties as are specifically set forth in the applicable indenture and, after the occurrence of an Event of Default, shall exercise the same degree of care as a prudent person would exercise in the conduct of such person s own affairs (*Section 7.01*). Subject to such provision, the trustees are not required to exercise any of the rights or powers

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vested in them by the applicable indenture at the request, order or direction of any debt holders, unless offered reasonable security or indemnity by such holders against the costs, expenses and liabilities which might be incurred thereby (*Section 7.02*). A trustee is not required to expend or risk its own funds or incur personal financial liability in the performance of its duties if such trustee reasonably believes that repayment of such funds or liability or adequate indemnity is not reasonably assured to it (*Section 7.01*). We will pay the trustees reasonable compensation and reimburse them for reasonable expenses incurred in accordance with the applicable indenture (*Section 7.06*).

A trustee may resign with respect to one or more series and a successor trustee may be appointed to act with respect to such series (*Section 7.10*).

Regions Bank is trustee under the senior indenture relating to CenturyLink s Series D, G, L, M, N, O, P, Q, R and S senior debt securities. Regions Bank also provides revolving credit and other traditional banking services to CenturyLink.

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DESCRIPTION OF DEBT SECURITIES OF QC

The following description of the terms of QC s debt securities that may be issued under this prospectus contains certain general terms that may apply to such securities. The specific terms of any of QC s debt securities will be described in one or more prospectus supplements relating to those debt securities.

QC may periodically issue debt securities in one or more series under an indenture, dated as of October 15, 1999, between QC (formerly named U.S. WEST Communications, Inc.), as issuer, and Bank of New York Trust Company, National Association (as successor in interest to Bank One Trust Company, N.A. and J.P. Morgan Trust Company, National Association), as previously amended and supplemented through the date hereof. We refer to this indenture in this section as the QC indenture. U.S. Bank National Association is currently the trustee under the QC indenture.

The particular terms of each series of debt securities issued under the QC indenture will be set forth in a resolution of our board of directors (or a duly authorized committee thereof) specifically authorizing that series, or in one or more supplemental indentures or other instruments under the QC indenture. The following summary is not complete and is subject to the provisions of, and is qualified in its entirety by express reference to, the QC indenture and the applicable resolutions, supplemental indentures or other instruments specifying the particular terms of any such series. We have filed a copy of the QC indenture as an exhibit hereto, and suggest that you review it carefully.

There is no requirement under the QC indenture that our future issuances of debt securities be issued exclusively under the QC indenture, and we will be free to employ other indentures or documentation containing provisions different from those included in the QC indenture or applicable to one or more issuances of debt securities hereunder in connection with any future issuances of other debt securities. The QC indenture provides that the applicable debt securities will be issued in one or more series, may be issued at various times, may have differing maturity dates and may bear interest at differing rates. We need not issue all debt securities of one series at the same time and, unless otherwise provided, we may reopen a series of debt securities without the consent of the holders of that series, for additional issuances of securities of that series.

Unless otherwise indicated, each reference italicized in parentheses below or in any prospectus supplement applies to section numbers in the QC indenture and each capitalized term not otherwise defined herein has the meaning assigned to it in the QC indenture.

General

The debt securities issued under the QC indenture will be senior unsecured obligations of QC. The debt securities will rank senior to any of our future subordinated debt and will rank equally in right of payment with all of our existing and future unsecured and unsubordinated debt. The QC indenture does not limit the aggregate principal amount of debt securities that we may issue thereunder. As of December 31, 2011, we had approximately $5.2 billion aggregate principal amount of unsecured debt securities outstanding under the QC indenture, and an additional $2.6 billion aggregate principal amount of unsecured debt securities outstanding under a separate indenture.

Unless we state otherwise below or in any prospectus supplement, neither the QC indenture nor the debt securities to be offered thereby (1) limit the amount of secured or unsecured indebtedness that we or any of our subsidiaries may issue or incur, (2) restrict our ability to pay dividends or sell or transfer our assets or (3) contain provisions that would afford debt holders protection in the event of a change in control, highly leveraged transaction, recapitalization or similar transaction involving QC, any of which could adversely affect holders of our debt securities.

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If we sell any series of debt securities under the QC indenture, each related prospectus supplement will describe the terms of the series, including some or all of the following:

- the title and ranking of the series
- any limit on the aggregate principal amount of the debt securities or the series of which they are a part
- our net proceeds from the sale thereof
- the price or prices at which the series will be issued
- the date or dates of maturity
- the rate or rates per annum, if any, at which the series will bear interest or the method of determining the rate or rates
- the date or dates from which interest will accrue and the date or dates at which interest will be payable
- the terms of any transfer or exchange rights
- the terms for redemption or early payment, if any, including any mandatory or optional sinking fund or similar provisions
- any special United States federal income tax considerations applicable to the series
- any special provisions relating to the defeasance of the series
- any special considerations, additional covenants or other specific provisions applicable to the series.

The debt securities may bear interest at a fixed or floating rate. Debt securities bearing no interest or interest at a rate that at the time of issuance is below the prevailing market rate may be sold at a discount below their stated principal amount.

The listing above is not intended to be an exclusive list of the terms that may be applicable to any debt securities sold under the QC indenture, and we are not limited in any respect in our ability to issue debt securities with terms different from or in addition to those described above or elsewhere in this prospectus, provided that the terms are not inconsistent with the QC indenture.

The QC indenture is, and the debt securities will be, governed by New York law. The QC indenture is subject to and governed by the Trust Indenture Act of 1939.

Denominations, Registration and Transfer

The debt securities will be issued in registered or unregistered form and, unless we state otherwise in any prospectus supplement, in denominations of $1,000 or any multiples thereof (*Section 2.02*). The debt securities may be issued partly or wholly in the form of one or more global registered securities, as described below under Form of Securities.

The trustee will act initially as the registrar of debt securities issued under the QC indenture (*Section 2.04*). No service charge will be made for any registration of transfer or exchange of debt securities, but we may require payment of a sum sufficient to cover any tax or other governmental charge payable in connection therewith (*Section 2.08(c)*). The trustee may appoint an authenticating agent for any series to act on the trustee s behalf in connection with authenticating debt securities of that series issued upon the exchange, transfer or partial redemption thereof (*Section 2.03(f)* and *2.08(c)*).

We will not be required to issue, register the transfer of or exchange the debt securities of any series during a period beginning 15 days before any selection of debt securities of that series to be redeemed or to register the transfer of or exchange any debt securities of any series, or portions thereof, called for redemption (*Section 2.08(d)*).

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Payment and Paying Agents

Unless we state otherwise in the applicable prospectus supplement, payment of principal of (and premium, if any) and interest on debt securities of any series will be made in U.S. dollars at the principal office of our Paying Agent (*Section 2.05*).

Unless we state otherwise in the applicable prospectus supplement, the trustee will act as our sole Paying Agent and 950 17th Street, Suite 300, Denver, Colorado 80202 will be designated as the agent s office for purposes of payments with respect to any series of debt securities. Any other Paying Agents initially designated by us with respect to any series will be named in the related prospectus supplement. We may at any time designate additional Paying Agents (*Section 2.04*).

Conversion, Exchange or Transfer Rights

The debt securities may be convertible into or exchangeable for other securities of QC or any other issuer on terms and conditions to be stated in the applicable prospectus supplement. The QC indenture also permits:

Registered Securities to be transferred for an equal principal amount of Unregistered Securities of the same series and date of maturity in any authorized denominations

Unregistered Securities to be transferred for an equal principal amount of Registered or Unregistered Securities containing identical terms and provisions of the same series and date of maturity in any authorized denominations (*Section 2.08*).

Redemption and Sinking Fund Provisions

A series may be redeemed at any time, in whole or in part, upon, unless we state otherwise in the applicable prospectus supplement, not less than 30 days and not more than 90 days notice prior to the date of redemption at the redemption prices and subject to the terms and conditions that may be set forth in a board resolution or supplemental indenture and in the prospectus supplement relating to such series (*Sections 3.01 and 3.03*). If less than all of the debt securities of the series are to be redeemed, the trustee shall select the debt securities of such series, or portions thereof, to be redeemed by such method as the trustee shall deem appropriate and fair (*Section 3.02*).

Not less than 60 days prior to any sinking fund payment date for a series of debt securities, we will deliver to the trustee an officers certificate specifying the amount of the next mandatory sinking fund payment pursuant to the terms of such series of debt securities (*Section 10.03*).

Replacement of Securities

We will replace any debt security that becomes mutilated, destroyed, lost or stolen at the expense of the holder. The holder should deliver the debt security or satisfactory evidence of the destruction, loss or theft thereof to us and the trustee. An indemnity satisfactory to us and such trustee may be required before a replacement security will be issued (*Section 2.09*).

Events of Default

Unless we state otherwise in the prospectus supplement, the terms and conditions set forth under this heading will govern defaults under the QC indenture. The QC indenture provides that an Event of Default means that one or more of the following events has occurred and is continuing with respect to debt securities of a particular series:

failure for 90 days to pay interest on the debt securities of that series when due

failure to pay principal on the debt securities of that series when due and payable upon maturity, upon redemption or otherwise

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failure to comply with any of our other agreements with respect to the debt securities or in the QC indenture, which failure continues for 90 days after we receive notice from the trustee or the holders of at least 25% of the aggregate principal amount of such series of debt securities then outstanding

occurrence of certain events relating to bankruptcy or insolvency with respect to QC (*Section 6.01*).

No Event of Default with respect to the debt securities of a particular series necessarily constitutes an Event of Default with respect to the debt securities of any other series issued under the indenture.

If an Event of Default shall occur and be continuing with respect to any series and if it is known to the trustee, the trustee is required to mail to each holder of that series a notice of the Event of Default within 90 days of such default. The trustee may withhold from holders notice of any continuing default (except a default in the payment of monies owed) if it determines that withholding notice is in their interests (*Section 7.05*).

If an Event of Default with respect to a series of debt securities occurs and is continuing, the trustee or the holders of at least 25% in aggregate principal amount of that series of debt securities then outstanding may declare the principal of that series of debt securities to be due and payable immediately. The holders of a majority in principal amount of a series of debt securities may rescind such declaration and its consequences if the rescission would not conflict with any judgment or decree and if all existing Events of Default have been cured or waived except nonpayment of principal or interest that has become due solely as a result of such acceleration (*Section 6.02*).

Holders of debt securities may not enforce the QC indenture, except as provided therein. Subject to the provisions of the applicable indenture relating to the duties of the trustee, if an Event of Default occurs and is continuing the trustee will be under no obligation to exercise any of the rights or powers under the QC indenture at the request or direction of any holders of the affected series, unless, among other things, the holders shall have offered the trustee indemnity reasonably satisfactory to it. Subject to certain limitations, the holders of a majority in aggregate principal amount of a series of debt securities then outstanding may direct the time, method and place of conducting any proceeding for any remedy available to the trustee or exercising any trust or power conferred upon the trustee. The holders of a majority in aggregate principal amount of the then outstanding debt securities of any series affected by a default may, in certain cases, waive such default except a default in payment of principal of, or any premium, if any, or interest on, the debt securities of that series or a call for redemption of the debt securities of that series (*Sections 6.04, 6.05 and 6.06*).

Discharge and Defeasance

Unless the prospectus supplement states otherwise, we may terminate all of our obligations with respect to any series of debt securities and the QC indenture or any installment of principal (and premium, if any) or interest on any series of debt securities if we irrevocably deposit in trust with the trustee money or U.S. government obligations sufficient to pay, when due, principal and interest on that series of debt securities to maturity or redemption or such installment of principal or interest, as the case may be, and if all other conditions set forth in the QC indenture are met (*Section 8.01*).

Merger and Consolidation

Under the QC indenture, we may consolidate or merge with or transfer or lease our property and assets substantially as an entirety to another entity, provided that:

the successor entity is a corporation and assumes by supplemental indenture all of our obligations under each series of debt securities issued under the QC indenture, and

after giving effect to the transaction, no default or Event of Default has occurred and is continuing (*Section 5.01*).

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Modification of Indenture

With the written consent of the holders of a majority in principal amount of the debt securities of each series issued under the QC indenture then outstanding (with each series voting as a class), we and the trustee may amend or supplement the QC indenture or modify the rights of the holders of debt securities; provided that any such amendment that affects the terms of a series of debt securities as distinct from the other series of debt securities issued under the QC indenture will require only the consent of at least a majority in aggregate principal amount of that series of debt securities then outstanding. Such majority holders may also waive compliance by us of any provision of the QC indenture or any supplemental indenture, except a default in the payment of principal or interest. However, without the consent of the holder of each debt security affected, an amendment or waiver may not:

- reduce the amount of debt securities whose holders must consent to an amendment or waiver
- change the rate or the time for payment of interest
- change the principal or the fixed maturity
- waive a default in the payment of principal or interest
- make any series of debt securities payable in a different currency, or
- make any change in the provisions of the QC indenture concerning (a) waiver of existing defaults, (b) rights of holders of debt securities to receive payment or (c) amendments and waivers without the consent of the holder of each debt security affected (*Section 9.02*).

We and the trustee may amend or supplement the QC indenture without the consent of any holder of any of series of debt securities to:

- cure any ambiguity, defect or inconsistency in the QC indenture or any debt securities issued thereunder
- provide for the assumption of all of our obligations under the QC indenture or any debt securities issued thereunder by any corporation in connection with a merger, consolidation or transfer or lease of our property and assets substantially as an entirety
- provide for uncertificated debt securities in addition to or instead of certificated debt securities
- add to the covenants made by us for the benefit of the holders of any series of debt securities (and if such covenants are to be for the benefit of less than all series of debt securities, stating that such covenants are included solely for the benefit of such series) or to surrender any right or power conferred upon us
- add to, delete from, or revise the conditions, limitations, and restrictions on the authorized amount, terms, or purposes of issue, authentication and delivery of the debt securities, as set forth in the QC indenture

secure any debt securities pursuant to the covenant described under Limitation on Liens

provide for the issuance of and establish the form and terms and conditions of a series of debt securities or to establish the form of any certifications required to be furnished pursuant to the terms of the QC indenture or any series of debt securities or to add to the rights of the holders of any series of debt securities, or

make any change that does not adversely affect the rights of any holder of debt securities in any material respect (*Section 9.01*).

Limitation on Liens

The QC indenture contains a covenant that if we mortgage, pledge or otherwise subject to any Lien (other than Permitted Liens) all or some of our property or assets, we will secure any series of debt securities under the QC indenture and any of our other obligations which may then be outstanding and entitled to the benefit of a

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covenant similar in effect to such covenant contained in the QC indenture, equally and proportionally with the indebtedness or obligations secured by such Lien, for as long as any such indebtedness or obligation is so secured. Lien means, with respect to any asset, any mortgage, lien, pledge, charge, security interest or encumbrance of any kind, or any other type of preferential arrangement that has the practical effect of creating a security interest, in respect of such asset (*Section 4.03*)

Permitted Liens, as defined in the First Supplemental Indenture dated August 19, 2004 between QC and the trustee, means any of the following Liens permitted under the QC indenture:

Liens existing on the date of the initial issuance of debt securities

Liens on any asset existing at the time such asset is acquired, if not created in contemplation of such acquisition

Liens on any asset (a) created within 180 days after such asset is acquired, or (b) securing the cost of acquisition, construction or improvement of such asset; provided, in either case, that such Lien extends to no property or asset other than the asset so acquired, constructed or improved and property incidental thereto

(a) Liens incidental to the conduct of our business or the ownership of our properties or otherwise incurred in the ordinary course of business which (i) do not secure debt, and (ii) do not in the aggregate materially detract from the value of our assets taken as a whole or materially impair the use thereof in the operation of our business, and (b) Liens not described in clause (a) on cash, cash equivalents or securities that secure any obligation with respect to letters of credit or surety bonds or similar arrangements, which obligation in each case does not exceed $100 million

any Lien to secure public or statutory obligations or with any governmental agency at any time required by law in order to qualify us to conduct all or some part of our business or in order to entitle us to maintain self-insurance or to obtain the benefits of any law relating to workmen s compensation, unemployment insurance, old age pensions or other social security, or with any court, board, commission or governmental agency as security incident to the proper conduct of any proceeding before it

any Liens for taxes, assessments, governmental charges, levies or claims and similar charges either (a) not delinquent or (b) being contested in good faith by appropriate proceedings and as to which a reserve or other appropriate provision, if any, as shall be required in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles shall have been made

Liens securing the performance of bids, tenders, leases, contracts, sureties, stays, appeals, indemnities, performance or similar bonds or public or statutory obligations of like nature, incurred in the ordinary course of business

materialmen s, mechanics, repairmen s, employees, operators or other similar Liens or charges arising in the ordinary course of business incidental to the acquisition, construction, maintenance or operation of any of our assets which have not at the time been filed pursuant to law and any such Liens and charges incidental to the acquisition, construction, maintenance or operation of any of our assets, which, although filed, relate to obligations not yet due or the payment of which is being withheld as provided by law, or to obligations the validity of which is being contested in good faith by appropriate proceedings

zoning restrictions, servitudes, easements, licenses, reservations, provisions, covenants, conditions, waivers, restrictions on the use of property or minor irregularities of title (and with respect to leasehold interests, mortgages, obligations, Liens and other encumbrances incurred, created assumed or permitted to exist and arising by, through or under or asserted by a landlord or owner of the leased property, with or without consent of the lessee) and other similar charges or encumbrances, which will not individually or in the

aggregate interfere materially and adversely with our business and subsidiaries taken as a whole

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Liens created by or resulting from any litigation or proceeding which is currently being contested in good faith by appropriate proceedings and as to which levy and execution have been stayed and continue to be stayed or for which we are maintaining adequate reserves or other provision in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles

any interest or title of vendor or lessor in the property subject to any lease, conditional sale agreement or other title retention agreement

Liens in connection with the securitization or factoring of our or any of our subsidiaries receivables in a transaction intended to be a true sale

any Lien securing a refinancing, replacement, extension, renewal or refunding of any debt secured by a Lien permitted by any of the foregoing clauses of this definition of Permitted Liens to the extent secured in all material respects by the same asset or assets.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, Permitted Liens shall not include any Lien to secure Debt that is required to be granted on an equal and ratable basis under the negative pledge , or equivalent, provisions of a Debt instrument (including outstanding debt securities) as a result of the creation of a Lien that itself would constitute a Permitted Lien.

Debt of any person means, at any date, without duplication:

all obligations of such person for borrowed money

all obligations of such person evidenced by bonds, debentures, notes or other similar instruments

all obligations of such person as lessee which are capitalized in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles

all Debt secured by a Lien on any asset of such person, whether or not such Debt is otherwise an obligation of such person

all Debt of others guaranteed by such person.

The restrictions in the QC indenture described above would not protect the debt holders in the event of a highly leveraged transaction in which unsecured indebtedness was incurred or in which the Liens arising in connection therewith were freely permitted under the QC indenture, nor would it afford protection in the event of one or more highly leveraged transactions in which secured indebtedness was incurred by our subsidiaries.

Concerning the Trustee

The trustee, prior to the occurrence of an Event of Default, undertakes to perform only such duties as are specifically set forth in the QC indenture and, after the occurrence of an Event of Default, shall exercise the same degree of care as a prudent person would exercise in the conduct of such person s own affairs (*Section 7.01*). Subject to such provision, the trustee may refuse to perform any duty or exercise any right or power unless it receives indemnity satisfactory to it against any loss, liability or expense (*Section 7.01*). We will pay the trustee reasonable compensation and reimburse it for reasonable expenses incurred in accordance with the QC indenture (*Section 7.07*).

A trustee may resign with respect to one or more series and a successor trustee may be appointed to act with respect to such series (*Section 7.08*).

U.S. Bank National Association and certain of its affiliates serve as trustee, authenticating agent, or paying agent with respect to certain other of the debt securities of QC and its affiliates. In addition, QC and certain of its affiliates maintain banking and other business relationships in the ordinary course of business with U.S. Bank National Association.

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DESCRIPTION OF DEPOSITARY SHARES OF CENTURYLINK

CenturyLink may elect to offer fractional shares of its preferred stock rather than full shares of its preferred stock. If so, CenturyLink will issue to the public receipts for depositary shares, each of which will represent an ownership interest in a fraction of a share of a particular series of its preferred stock, and the shares of CenturyLink s preferred stock underlying the depositary shares will be deposited under a deposit agreement between CenturyLink and a bank or trust company selected to act as the depositary.

The following general description of the material terms of depositary shares, and all related deposit agreements and depositary receipts, is only a summary and is not intended to be complete. You should refer to the forms of the deposit agreement and depositary receipts that we will file with the SEC in connection with any offering of specific depositary shares. The specific terms of any series of depositary shares will be described in a prospectus supplement, and may vary from the general description provided below.

General

The depositary selected by us will have its principal office in the United States and a combined capital and surplus of at least $50,000,000. Subject to the terms of the deposit agreement, each owner of a depositary share will be entitled, in proportion to the applicable fraction of a share of preferred stock underlying the depositary share, to all the rights and preferences of the preferred stock underlying that depositary share. Those rights may include dividend, voting, redemption, conversion, exchange and liquidation rights.

The depositary shares will be evidenced by depositary receipts issued under the relevant deposit agreement to those persons purchasing the fractional shares of our preferred stock. Pending the preparation of definitive depositary receipts, the depositary may, upon our order, issue temporary depositary receipts substantially identical to the definitive depositary receipts but not in definitive form.

Dividends and Other Distributions

The depositary will distribute all cash dividends or other cash distributions received with respect to the underlying preferred stock to the record holders of depositary shares in proportion to the number of depositary shares owned by those holders.

If there is a distribution other than in cash, the depositary will distribute property to the record holders of depositary shares that are entitled to receive the distribution, unless the depositary determines that it is not feasible to make the distribution. If this occurs, the depositary may, with our approval, adopt an equitable and practicable method for making that distribution, including any sale of the property and distribution of the net sales proceeds to the applicable holders.

Each deposit agreement may also contain provisions relating to the manner in which any subscription or similar rights we offer to preferred shareholders of the relevant series will be made available to holders of depositary shares.

Withdrawal of Underlying Preferred Stock

Unless we state otherwise in a prospectus supplement, holders may surrender depositary receipts at the principal office of the depositary and, upon payment of any unpaid amount due to the depositary, be entitled to receive the number of whole shares of underlying preferred stock and all cash payments or other rights accrued under or represented by the related depositary shares (but such holders will not afterward be entitled to receive depositary shares in exchange for their whole shares). We will not issue any partial shares of preferred stock. If the holder delivers depositary receipts evidencing a number of depositary shares that represent more than a whole number of shares of preferred stock, the depositary will issue a new depositary receipt evidencing the excess number of depositary shares to that holder.

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Redemption of Depositary Shares

If a series of preferred stock represented by depositary shares is subject to redemption, the depositary shares will be redeemed from the proceeds received by the depositary resulting from the redemption, in whole or in part, of that series of underlying stock held by the depositary. The redemption price per depositary share will be equal to the applicable fraction of the redemption price per share payable with respect to that series of underlying stock. Whenever we redeem shares of underlying stock that are held by the depositary, the depositary will redeem, as of the same redemption date, the number of depositary shares representing the shares of underlying stock so redeemed. If fewer than all the depositary shares are to be redeemed, the depositary shares to be redeemed will be selected in the manner to be described in the deposit agreement.

Voting

Upon receipt of notice of any meeting at which the holders of the underlying preferred stock are entitled to vote, the depositary will mail the information contained in the notice to the record holders of the depositary shares underlying the preferred stock. Each record holder of the depositary shares on the record date (which will be the same date as the record date for the underlying stock) will be entitled to instruct the depositary as to the exercise of the voting rights pertaining to the amount of the underlying stock represented by that holder s depositary shares. The depositary will then attempt, as far as practicable, to vote the number of shares of preferred stock underlying those depositary shares in accordance with those instructions. Unless otherwise provided in a prospectus supplement, the depositary will not vote the underlying shares to the extent it does not receive specific instructions with respect to the depositary shares representing the preferred stock.

Conversion or Exchange of Preferred Stock

If the deposited preferred stock is convertible into or exchangeable for other securities, the depositary shares, as such, will not be convertible into or exchangeable for such other securities. Rather, any holder of the depositary shares may surrender the related depositary receipts, together with any amounts payable by the holder in connection with the conversion or the exchange, to the depositary with written instructions to cause conversion or exchange of the preferred stock represented by the depositary shares into or for such other securities. If only some of the depositary shares are to be converted or exchanged, a new depositary receipt or receipts will be issued for any depositary shares not converted or exchanged.

Taxation

Any holder of depositary shares will be treated for U.S. federal income tax purposes as if they were an owner of the series of preferred stock represented by the depositary shares. Therefore, holders will be required to take into account for U.S. federal income tax purposes income and deductions as if they were a holder of the underlying series of preferred stock. In addition,

- no gain or loss will be recognized for U.S. federal income tax purposes upon the withdrawal of preferred stock in exchange for depositary shares as provided in the deposit agreement
- if any holder exchanges his depositary shares for other securities, the holder s tax basis in the new securities will, upon exchange, be the same as the aggregate tax basis of the depositary shares exchanged for such new securities
- if any holder holds depositary shares as a capital asset at the time of the exchange, the holding period for the new securities will include the period during which the holder owned the depositary shares.

Amendment and Termination of the Deposit Agreement

The form of depositary receipt evidencing the depositary shares and any provision of the deposit agreement may at any time be amended by agreement between us and the depositary. However, any amendment that materially and adversely changes the rights of the holders of depositary shares will not be effective unless the

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amendment has been approved by the holders of at least a majority of the depositary shares then outstanding. The deposit agreement may be terminated by us upon not less than 60 days notice, whereupon the depositary shall deliver or make available to each holder of depositary shares, upon surrender of the depositary receipts held by such holder, the number of whole or fractional shares of preferred stock represented by such receipts. The deposit agreement will automatically terminate if, among other circumstances, all outstanding depositary shares have been redeemed or converted into or exchanged for any other securities into or for which the underlying preferred stock is convertible or exchangeable.

Charges of Depositary

We will pay all transfer and other taxes and governmental charges arising solely from the existence of the depositary arrangements. We will also pay charges of the depositary in connection with its duties under the deposit agreement. Holders of depositary receipts will pay other transfer and other taxes and governmental charges and those other charges, including a fee for any permitted withdrawal of shares of underlying stock upon surrender of depositary receipts, as are expressly provided in the deposit agreement to be for their accounts.

Reports

The depositary will be obligated to forward to holders of depositary receipts all reports and communications from us that we deliver to the depositary and that we are required to furnish to the holders of the underlying preferred stock.

Limitation on Liability

Neither the depositary nor we will be liable if either of us is prevented or delayed by law or any circumstance beyond our control in performing our respective obligations under the deposit agreement. Our obligations and those of the depositary will be limited to performance in good faith of our respective duties under the deposit agreement. Neither the depositary nor we will be obligated to prosecute or defend any legal proceeding in respect of any depositary shares or underlying stock unless satisfactory indemnity is furnished. We and the depositary may rely upon written advice of counsel or accountants, or upon information provided by persons presenting underlying stock for deposit, holders of depositary receipts or other persons believed to be competent and on documents believed to be genuine.

In the event the depositary receives conflicting claims, requests or instructions from any holders of depositary shares, on the one hand, and us, on the other, the depositary will be permitted to act on our claims, requests or instructions.

Resignation and Removal of Depositary

The depositary may resign at any time by delivering notice to us of its election to resign. We may remove the depositary at any time. Any resignation or removal will take effect upon the appointment of a successor depositary and its acceptance of the appointment. The successor depositary must be a bank or trust company having its principal office in the United States and having a combined capital and surplus of at least $50,000,000.

Registered Owners

We, each depositary and any of their agents may treat the registered owner of any depositary share as the absolute owner of that share, whether or not any payment for that depositary share is overdue and despite any notice to the contrary, for any purpose.

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DESCRIPTION OF WARRANTS OF CENTURYLINK

CenturyLink may issue warrants for the purchase of debt securities, preferred stock, depositary shares, common stock, or any combination thereof. Warrants may be issued independently or together with other securities and may be attached to or separate from any offered securities. Each series of warrants will be issued under a separate warrant agreement to be entered into between CenturyLink and a bank or trust company, as warrant agent. The warrant agent will act solely as CenturyLink s agent in connection with the warrants and will not assume any obligation or relationship of agency or trust for or with any holders or beneficial owners of warrants.

This summary of certain provisions of the warrants is not complete. For the complete terms of the warrants and the warrant agreement, you should refer to the provisions of the warrant agreement that we will file with the SEC in connection with the offering of such warrants.

The prospectus supplement relating to any particular issue of warrants will describe the terms of the warrants, including the following:

- the title and aggregate number of warrants
- the offering price for the warrants, if any
- the currency or currencies, including composite currencies, in which the price of the warrants may be payable
- the procedure for exercise of the warrants and the circumstances, if any, that will cause the warrants to be automatically exercised
- the designation and terms of the securities that may be purchased upon exercise of the warrants
- if applicable, the designation and terms of the securities with which the warrants are issued and the number of warrants issued with each other security
- if applicable, the date on and after which the warrants and the related other securities issued therewith will be separately transferable
- the number or amount of securities that may be purchased upon exercise of a warrant and the price at which the securities may be purchased upon exercise, which may be payable in cash, securities or other property
- the dates on which the right to exercise the warrants begins and expires
- if applicable, the minimum or maximum amount of warrants that may be exercised at any one time
- whether the warrants and the securities that may be issued thereunder will be issued in registered or bearer form
- information with respect to book-entry procedures, if any

- a discussion of any material United States federal income tax considerations
- the anti-dilution provisions of the warrants, if any
- any applicable redemption or call provisions applicable to the warrants
- the name of the warrant agent
- any other material terms of the warrants, including terms, procedures and limitations relating to the exchange and exercise of the warrants.

Before their exercise, warrants will not entitle their holders to any rights of the holders of the securities purchasable thereunder.

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We and the warrant agent may amend or supplement the warrant agreement for a series of warrants without the consent of the holders of the warrants issued thereunder to effect charges that are not inconsistent with the provisions of the warrants and that do not materially and adversely affect the interests of the holders of the warrants. However, unless the applicable prospectus supplement otherwise provides, any amendment that materially and adversely alters the rights of the holders of warrants will not be effective unless the holders of at least a majority of the applicable warrants then outstanding approve the amendment. Every holder of an outstanding warrant at the time any amendment becomes effective, by continuing to hold the warrant, will be bound by the applicable warrant agreement. The prospectus supplement applicable to a particular series of warrants may provide that certain key provisions of the warrants may not be altered without the consent of the holder of each warrant.

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DESCRIPTION OF UNITS OF CENTURYLINK

As specified in the applicable prospectus supplement, CenturyLink may issue units consisting of one or more debt securities or other securities, including common stock, preferred stock, depositary shares, warrants or any combination thereof. The applicable prospectus supplement will describe:

- the title and aggregate number of units
- the offering price of the units, if any
- the terms of the units and of the other securities comprising the units, including whether and under what circumstances the securities comprising the units may be traded separately
- a description of the terms of any unit agreement governing the units
- a description of the provisions for the payment, settlement, transfer or exchange or the units
- information with respect to book-entry procedures, if any
- a discussion of any material United States federal income tax considerations
- any other material terms of the units.

The terms and conditions described under Description of Capital Stock of CenturyLink, Description of Debt Securities of CenturyLink, Description of Debt Securities of QC, Description of Depositary Shares of CenturyLink, and Description of Warrants of CenturyLink will apply to any debt security, preferred stock, common stock, depositary share or warrant included in each unit, respectively, unless otherwise specified in the applicable prospectus supplement.

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FORM OF SECURITIES

Global Securities and Book-Entry System

Unless the applicable prospectus supplement otherwise provides, any debt securities, preferred stock, depositary shares, warrants or units we issue will be in book-entry form, will be represented by one or more permanent global certificates in fully registered form and will be deposited with a nominee, as custodian for The Depositary Trust Company, which we refer to as DTC, and registered in the name of Cede & Co. or another nominee designated by DTC. Holders of debt securities, preferred stock, depositary shares, warrants or units may elect to hold interests in a global security through DTC, Clearstream Banking, *societe anonyme* (Clearstream) or Euroclear Bank S.A./N.V., as operator of the Euroclear System (Euroclear), if they are participants of such systems, or indirectly through organizations which are participants in such systems. Clearstream and Euroclear will hold interests on behalf of their participants through customers securities accounts in Clearstream and Euroclear s names on the books of their respective depositaries, which in turn will hold such interests in customers securities accounts in the depositaries names on DTC s books.

Individual certificates in respect of any debt securities, preferred stock, depositary shares, warrants or units will not be issued to holders of beneficial interests therein, except in limited circumstances. If (1) we elect to terminate using the book-entry system, (2) an event of default has occurred and is continuing with respect to such securities, or (3) DTC notifies us that it is unwilling or unable to continue as a clearing system in connection with the registered global securities or ceases to be a clearing agency registered under the Exchange Act, and a successor clearing system is not appointed by us within 90 days after receiving that notice from DTC or upon becoming aware that DTC is no longer so registered, then we will issue or cause to be issued individual certificates in registered form upon transfer of, or in exchange for, book-entry interests in the securities represented by registered global securities upon delivery of those registered global securities for cancellation.

Clearing Systems

DTC

DTC has advised us as follows: DTC is a limited-purpose trust company organized under the New York Banking Law, a banking organization within the meaning of the New York Banking Law, a member of the Federal Reserve System, a clearing corporation within the meaning of The New York Uniform Commercial Code and a clearing agency registered pursuant to the provisions of Section 17A of the Exchange Act. DTC holds securities that its participants (Direct Participants) deposit with DTC. DTC also facilitates the settlement among Direct Participants of securities transactions, such as transfers and pledges, in deposited securities through electronic computerized book-entry changes in Direct Participants accounts, thereby eliminating the need for physical movement of securities certificates. Direct Participants include securities brokers and dealers, banks, trust companies, clearing corporations, and certain other organizations. DTC is owned by a number of its Direct Participants and by The New York Stock Exchange, Inc., the American Stock Exchange LLC and Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, Inc. Access to the DTC system is also available to others like securities brokers and dealers, banks, and trust companies that clear through or maintain a custodial relationship with a Direct Participant, either directly or indirectly (Indirect Participants). The rules applicable to DTC and its Direct and Indirect Participants are on file with the SEC.

Clearstream

Clearstream advises that it is incorporated under the laws of Luxembourg as a bank. Clearstream holds securities for its customers and facilitates the clearance and settlement of securities transactions between its customers through electronic book-entry transfers between their accounts. Clearstream provides to its customers among other things, services for safekeeping, administration, clearance and settlement of internationally traded securities and securities lending and borrowing. Clearstream interfaces with domestic securities markets in over 30 countries through established depository and custodial relationships. As a bank, Clearstream is subject to regulation by the Luxembourg Commission for the Supervision of the Financial Sector, also known as the

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Commission de Surveillance du Secteur Financier. Its customers are recognized financial institutions around the world, including underwriters, securities brokers and dealers, banks, trust companies, clearing corporations and certain other organizations. Its customers in the United States are limited to securities brokers and dealers and banks. Indirect access to Clearstream is also available to other institutions such as banks, brokers, dealers and trust companies that clear through or maintain a custodial relationship with the customer.

Euroclear

Euroclear advises that it was created in 1968 to hold securities for its participants and to clear and settle transactions between Euroclear participants through simultaneous electronic book-entry delivery against payment, thereby eliminating the need for physical movement of certificates and any risk from lack of simultaneous transfers of securities and cash. Euroclear provides various other services, including securities lending and borrowing and interfaces with domestic markets in several countries. Euroclear is operated by Euroclear Bank S.A./N.V. Euroclear Clearance establishes policy for Euroclear on behalf of Euroclear participants. Euroclear participants include banks, including central banks, securities brokers and dealers and other professional financial intermediaries and may include the initial purchasers. Indirect access to Euroclear is also available to other firms that clear through or maintain a custodial relationship with a Euroclear participant, either directly or indirectly. Securities clearance accounts and cash accounts with the Euroclear operator are governed by the terms and conditions governing use of Euroclear and the related operating procedures of Euroclear. These terms and conditions govern transfers of securities and cash within Euroclear, withdrawals of securities and cash from Euroclear, and receipts of payments with respect to securities in Euroclear. All securities in Euroclear are held on a fungible basis without attribution of specific certificates to specific securities clearance accounts. The Euroclear operator acts under the terms and conditions only on behalf of Euroclear participants and has no record of or relationship with persons holding through Euroclear participants.

Euroclear further advises that investors that acquire, hold and transfer interests in securities by book-entry through accounts with the Euroclear operator or any other securities intermediary are subject to the laws and contractual provisions governing their relationship with their intermediary, as well as the laws and contractual provisions governing the relationship between such an intermediary and each other intermediary, if any, standing between themselves and the global securities.

Global Clearance and Settlement Procedures

Purchases of global securities under the DTC system must be made by or through Direct Participants, which will receive a credit for the global securities on DTC s records. The beneficial interest of each actual purchaser of each global security (a Beneficial Owner) will in turn be recorded on the records of the respective Direct Participant and any Indirect Participant, and Clearstream and Euroclear will credit on its book-entry registration and transfer system the amount of securities sold to certain non-U.S. persons to the account of institutions that have accounts with Euroclear, Clearstream or their respective nominee participants. Beneficial Owners will not receive written confirmation from DTC of their purchase, but Beneficial Owners are expected to receive written confirmations providing details of the transaction, as well as periodic statements of their holdings, from the Direct or Indirect Participant through which the Beneficial Owner entered into the transaction.

Title to book-entry interests in our debt securities, preferred stock, depositary shares, warrants or units (our Underlying Securities) will pass by book-entry registration of the transfer within the records of Clearstream, Euroclear or DTC, as the case may be, in accordance with their respective procedures. Book-entry interests in our Underlying Securities may be transferred within Clearstream, within Euroclear and between Clearstream and Euroclear in accordance with procedures established for these purposes by Clearstream and Euroclear. Book-entry interests in our Underlying Securities may be transferred within DTC in accordance with procedures established for this purpose by DTC. Transfers of book-entry interests in our Underlying Securities among Clearstream and Euroclear and DTC may be effected in accordance with procedures established for this purpose by Clearstream, Euroclear and DTC.

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Unless the applicable prospectus supplement otherwise provides, we will make payments of any monies owed in respect of our Underlying Securities to DTC or its nominee, as the registered owner and holder of the global securities. DTC s practice is to credit Direct Participants accounts, upon DTC s receipt of funds and corresponding detail information from us or the nominee on the payment date, in accordance with their respective holdings shown on DTC s records. Payments by Direct Participants and Indirect Participants to Beneficial Owners will be governed by standing instructions and customary practices, as is the case with securities held for the accounts of customers in bearer form or registered in street name, and will be the responsibility of each such Direct or Indirect Participant and not that of DTC, the nominee or us, subject to any statutory or regulatory requirements as may be in effect from time to time. Payments to DTC or its nominee of monies owed in respect of our Underlying Securities will be our responsibility, disbursement of such payments to Direct Participants will be the responsibility of DTC and disbursement of such payments to the Beneficial Owners will be the responsibility of Direct Participants and Indirect Participants.

To the extent we are required to provide notices to the registered holders of any securities sold pursuant to this prospectus in the form of global securities, we may discharge our obligations by providing notice solely to DTC, in its capacity as the sole record holder of such securities. Conveyance of notices and other communications by DTC to Direct Participants, by Direct Participants to Indirect Participants, and by Direct Participants and Indirect Participants to Beneficial Owners will be governed by arrangements among them, subject to any statutory or regulatory requirements as may be in effect from time to time.

Neither DTC nor Cede & Co. (or any other nominee of DTC) will consent or vote with respect to the global securities unless authorized by Direct Participants in accordance with DTC s procedures. Under its usual procedures, DTC mails an Omnibus Proxy to us as soon as possible after the record date. The Omnibus Proxy assigns Cede & Co. s consenting or voting rights to those Direct Participants to whose accounts the global securities are credited on the record date (identified in a listing attached to the Omnibus Proxy).

The laws of some states require that certain persons take physical delivery of securities in definitive form. Consequently, the ability to transfer beneficial interests in a global security to those persons may be limited. In addition, because DTC can act only on behalf of Direct Participants, which, in turn, act on behalf of Indirect Participants and certain banks, the ability of a person having a beneficial interest in a global security to pledge that interest to persons or entities that do not participate in the DTC system, or otherwise take actions in respect of that interest, may be affected by the lack of a physical certificate evidencing that interest.

Initial settlement for our Underlying Securities will be made in immediately available funds. Secondary market trading between DTC participants will occur in the ordinary way in accordance with DTC s rules and will be settled in immediately available funds using DTC s same-day funds settlement system. Secondary market trading between Clearstream customers or Euroclear participants will occur in the ordinary way in accordance with the applicable rules and operating procedures of Clearstream and Euroclear, and will be settled using the procedures applicable to conventional eurobonds in immediately available funds.

Cross-market transfers between persons holding directly or indirectly through DTC, on the one hand, and directly or indirectly through Clearstream customers or Euroclear participants, on the other, will be effected in DTC in accordance with DTC s rules on behalf of the relevant European international clearing system by its U.S. depositary; *provided, however*, that such cross-market transactions will require delivery of instructions to the relevant European international clearing system by the counterparty in such system in accordance with its rules and procedures and within its established deadlines, in European time. The relevant European international clearing system will, if the transaction meets its settlement requirements, deliver instructions to its U.S. depository to take action to effect final settlement on its behalf by delivering interests in our Underlying Securities to, or receiving interests in such securities from, DTC, and making or receiving payment in accordance with normal procedures for same-day funds settlement applicable to DTC. Clearstream customers and Euroclear participants may not deliver instructions directly to their respective U.S. depositaries.

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Because of time-zone differences, credits of interests in our Underlying Securities received by Clearstream or Euroclear as a result of a transaction with a DTC participant are expected to be made during subsequent securities settlement processing and dated the business day following the DTC settlement date. Such credits or any transactions involving interests in our Underlying Securities settled during such processing are expected to be reported to the relevant Clearstream customers or Euroclear participants on such business day. Cash received by Clearstream or Euroclear as a result of sales of interests in our Underlying Securities by or through a Clearstream customer or a Euroclear participant to a DTC participant will be received with value on the DTC settlement date but are expected to be available in the relevant Clearstream or Euroclear cash account only as of the business day following settlement in DTC.

Although DTC, Clearstream and Euroclear have each agreed to the foregoing procedures in order to facilitate transfers of interests in global securities among their participants, they are under no obligation to perform or continue to perform such procedures and such procedures may be changed or discontinued at any time.

The information in this section has been obtained from sources that we believe to be reliable, but we do not take any responsibility for the accuracy thereof.

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PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION

We may sell securities directly to one or more purchasers or to or through underwriters, dealers or agents or through a combination of any such methods of sale. The applicable prospectus supplement will set forth the specific terms of the offering, including the name or names of any underwriters, the purchase price and proceeds from such sale, any underwriting discounts and other items constituting underwriters compensation, the initial public offering price and any discounts or concessions allowed, reallowed or paid to dealers, any securities exchanges on which the securities may be listed, and any other material terms of the distribution of securities. The specific terms of the offering may vary from the general description provided below.

We may distribute securities from time to time in one or more transactions at fixed or variable prices, at prices equal or related to prevailing market prices or at negotiated prices. We also may directly offer and sell securities in exchange for, among other things, outstanding debt or equity securities issued by us or our affiliates.

If underwriters are used in the sale, the underwriters will acquire the securities for their own account. The underwriters may resell the securities periodically in one or more transactions, including negotiated transactions, at a fixed public offering price or at varying prices determined at the time of sale. Securities may be offered to the public through underwriting syndicates represented by one or more managing underwriters or directly by one or more underwriters without a syndicate. Unless otherwise set forth in the prospectus supplement, the obligations of the underwriters to purchase securities will be subject to certain conditions precedent, and the underwriters will be obligated to purchase all securities offered if any are purchased. Any initial public offering price and any discounts or concessions allowed, reallowed or paid to dealers may be changed from time to time. We may grant underwriters who participate in the distribution of securities an option to purchase additional securities to cover any over-allotments in connection with the distribution.

If a dealer is used in an offering of securities, we may sell the securities to the dealer, as principal. The dealer may then resell the securities to the public at varying prices to be determined by the dealer at the time of sale.

We may offer our equity securities into an existing trading market through agents designated by us from time to time on the terms described in the applicable prospectus supplement. Underwriters, dealers and agents who may participate in any at-the-market offerings will be described in the prospectus supplement relating thereto. Any agent involved in the offer or sale of the securities for which this prospectus is delivered will be named, and any commissions payable by us to that agent will be set forth, in the prospectus supplement. Unless indicated in the prospectus supplement, the agents will have agreed to use their reasonable best efforts to solicit purchases for the period of their appointment.

In connection with the sale of any securities, underwriters or agents may be deemed to have received compensation from us in the form of underwriting discounts or commissions and may also receive commissions from purchasers of such securities for whom they may act as agents. Underwriters may sell any securities to or through dealers. These dealers may receive compensation in the form of discounts, concessions or commissions from the underwriters or commissions from the purchasers for whom they may act as agent, or both.

Dealers and agents named in a prospectus supplement may be deemed to be underwriters of the securities within the meaning of the Securities Act of 1933. Underwriters, dealers and agents may be entitled under agreements entered into with us to indemnification by us against certain civil liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act of 1933, or to contribution with respect to payments that the underwriters, dealers or agents may be required to make. Underwriters, dealers and agents may be customers of, engage in transactions with, or perform services for us in the ordinary course of business.

Under certain circumstances, we may repurchase offered securities and reoffer them to the public as set forth above. We may also arrange for the repurchase and resale of such offered securities by dealers.

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If so indicated in the prospectus supplement, we may authorize underwriters, dealers or agents to solicit offers by certain specified institutions to purchase securities pursuant to delayed delivery contracts providing for payment and delivery on a specified date in the future. There may be limitations on the minimum amount that may be purchased by an institution or on the portion of the aggregate amount of the particular securities that may be sold pursuant to these arrangements. The obligations of any purchaser under a delayed delivery contract will generally not be subject to any conditions except that any related sale of offered securities to underwriters shall have occurred and the purchase by an institution of the securities covered by its delayed delivery contract shall not at the time of delivery be prohibited under the laws of any jurisdiction in the United States to which that institution is subject.

In order to facilitate any offering of securities hereunder, any underwriters, dealers or agents, as the case may be, involved in the offering of such securities may engage in transactions that stabilize, maintain or otherwise affect the price of such securities or any other securities the prices of which may be used to determine payments on or otherwise fix rights accruing under such securities. Specifically, the underwriters, dealers or agents, as the case may be, may overallot in connection with the offering, creating a short position in such securities for their own account. In addition, to cover overallotments or to stabilize the price of any such securities, the underwriters, dealers or agents, as the case may be, may bid for and purchase any such securities in the open market. Finally, in any offering of such securities through a syndicate of underwriters, the underwriting syndicate may reclaim selling concessions allotted to an underwriter or a dealer for distributing such securities in the offering if the syndicate repurchases previously-distributed securities in transactions to cover syndicate short positions, in a stabilization transaction or otherwise. Any of these activities may stabilize or maintain the market price of the securities above independent market levels. The underwriters, dealers or agents, as the case may be, are not required to engage in these activities, and may end any of these activities at any time.

Except for CenturyLink s common stock, none of the securities when first issued will have an established trading market. Any underwriters, dealers or agents to or through whom the securities are sold for public offering may make a market in the securities. However, generally they will not be obligated to make a market and may discontinue any market making at any time without notice. If the securities are traded after their initial issuance, they may trade at a discount from their initial public offering price, depending on general market conditions, the market for similar securities, our performance and other factors. Other than with respect to CenturyLink s common stock, which is currently traded on the NYSE, there can be no assurance that an active public market for the securities will develop or be maintained.

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LEGAL MATTERS

The validity of the securities offered under this prospectus by CenturyLink will be passed upon by Jones, Walker, Waechter, Poitevent, Carrère & Denègre, L.L.P., New Orleans, Louisiana. The validity of the securities offered under this prospectus by QC will be passed upon by an associate general counsel of QC. If legal matters in connection with offerings made under this prospectus are passed on by other counsel for us or by counsel for the underwriters of an offering of the securities, that counsel will be named in the applicable prospectus supplement.

EXPERTS

CenturyLink

The consolidated financial statements of CenturyLink as of December 31, 2011 and 2010 and for each of the years in the three-year period ended December 31, 2011 and management s assessment of the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2011 have been incorporated into this document by reference to CenturyLink s Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2011 in reliance upon the reports of KPMG LLP, independent registered public accounting firm, incorporated by reference herein, and upon the authority of said firm as experts in accounting and auditing.

QC

The consolidated financial statements of QC as of December 31, 2011 (Successor date) and 2010 (Predecessor date) and for the period from April 1, 2011 to December 31, 2011 (Successor period), the period from January 1, 2011 to March 31, 2011 and for each of the years in the two-year period ended December 31, 2010 (Predecessor periods) have been incorporated by reference herein in reliance upon the report of KPMG LLP, independent registered public accounting firm, incorporated by reference herein, and upon the authority of said firm as experts in accounting and auditing.

The audit report covering the December 31, 2011 consolidated financial statements contains an explanatory paragraph that states that due to the acquisition of all of the outstanding stock of QC s indirect parent, Qwest Communications International Inc., by CenturyLink effective April 1, 2011, the consolidated financial information of QC after the acquisition is stated on a different cost basis than for the periods before the acquisition and, therefore, is not comparable.

Qwest Communications International Inc.

The consolidated financial statements of Qwest Communications International Inc. as of December 31, 2011 (Successor date) and 2010 (Predecessor date) and for the period from April 1, 2011 to December 31, 2011 (Successor period), the period from January 1, 2011 to March 31, 2011 and for each of the years in the two-year period ended December 31, 2010 (Predecessor periods) have been incorporated by reference herein in reliance upon the report of KPMG LLP, independent registered public accounting firm, incorporated by reference herein, and upon the authority of said firm as experts in accounting and auditing.

The audit report covering the December 31, 2011 consolidated financial statements contains an explanatory paragraph that states that due to the acquisition of all of the outstanding stock Qwest Communications International Inc. by CenturyLink effective April 1, 2011, the consolidated financial information of Qwest Communications International Inc. after the acquisition is stated on a different cost basis than for the periods before the acquisition and, therefore, is not comparable.

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% Senior Notes, Series V, due 20

PROSPECTUS SUPPLEMENT

March , 2013

Joint Physical Book-Running Managers

J.P. Morgan **Barclays**

Joint Book-Running Managers

Citigroup **SunTrust Robinson Humphrey**

Co-Managers

Mitsubishi UFJ Securities **Mizuho Securities** **US Bancorp**