CENTURYLINK, INC Form 8-K May 22, 2015

UNITED STATES

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington D.C. 20549

FORM 8-K

CURRENT REPORT

Pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d)

of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

Date of Report (Date of earliest event reported):

May 20, 2015

CenturyLink, Inc.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

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| (State or other jurisdiction | (Commission | (IRS Employer |
|--|----------------------------|---------------------|
| of incorporation) | File Number) | Identification No.) |
| 100 CenturyLink Drive | | |
| Monroe, Louisiana | | 71203 |
| (Address of principal executive office | ces) | (Zip Code) |
| | (318) 388-9000 | |
| (Registrants | telephone number, includin | g area code) |

Check the appropriate box below if the Form 8-K filing is intended to simultaneously satisfy the filing obligations of the registrant under any of the following provisions:

- " Written communications pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act (17 CFR 230.425)
- " Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14a-12)
- " Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d-2(b) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14d-2(b))
- " Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13e-4(c) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.13e-4(c))

Item 5.02(e) Departure of Directors or Certain Officers; Election of Directors; Appointment of Certain Officers; Compensatory Arrangements of Certain Officers.

On May 20, 2015, at the 2015 annual meeting of shareholders of CenturyLink, Inc., our shareholders, upon the recommendation of our Board of Directors, approved the CenturyLink 2015 Executive Officer Short-Term Incentive Plan (the Plan), which is substantially similar to our predecessor plan, the 2010 Executive Officer Short-Term Incentive Plan, for purposes of satisfying the requirements of Section 162(m) of the Internal Revenue Code. The Plan will be generally administered by the Compensation Committee of our Board of Directors (the Compensation Committee) and will terminate on December 31, 2019, unless terminated earlier by our Compensation Committee. Nine executive officers have been designated by the Compensation Committee as participants, who will each be eligible to be paid short-term incentive bonuses based on the achievement of quantitative performance goals to be established by the Compensation Committee based on criteria set forth in the Plan.

A more detailed summary of the principal features of the Plan can be found in our proxy statement for our 2015 annual meeting of shareholders, as filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on April 8, 2015 (the 2015 Proxy Statement). The foregoing description does not purport to be complete and is qualified in its entirety by reference to such summary and the full text of the plan filed as Appendix A to the 2015 Proxy Statement, both of which are incorporated herein by reference.

Item 5.07 Submission of Matters to a Vote of Security Holders.

At our 2015 annual meeting of shareholders, shareholders present in person or represented by proxy voted on the matters described below. There were 565,449,963 shares of voting stock entitled to be voted at the annual meeting, of which 508,005,470 shares were present or represented for purposes of constituting a quorum. At the annual meeting, the Company s shareholders (1) elected the 12 persons listed below to serve as our directors for one-year terms, (2) ratified the appointment of KPMG LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm for 2015, (3) approved our 2015 Executive Officer Short-Term Incentive Plan, as discussed further in Item 5.02(e) above, (4) approved, on an advisory basis, the compensation of our named executive officers and (5) did not approve a shareholder proposal regarding equity retention. You can find additional information about each of these matters in our 2015 Proxy Statement.

Our independent inspector of election reported the vote of shareholders as follows:

1. Shareholders elected 12 directors to serve until 2016 based on the following votes:

| Nominees | For | Withheld | Broker Non-Votes |
|---------------------|-------------|------------|------------------|
| Virginia Boulet | 374,141,932 | 20,475,015 | 113,388,523 |
| Peter C. Brown | 386,972,489 | 7,644,458 | 113,388,523 |
| Richard A. Gephardt | 373,937,839 | 20,679,108 | 113,388,523 |
| W. Bruce Hanks | 380,062,491 | 14,554,456 | 113,388,523 |
| Gregory J. McCray | 389,504,730 | 5,112,217 | 113,388,523 |
| C. G. Melville, Jr. | 386,094,931 | 8,522,016 | 113,388,523 |
| William A. Owens | 387,710,086 | 6,906,861 | 113,388,523 |
| Harvey P. Perry | 386,403,312 | 8,213,635 | 113,388,523 |
| Glen F. Post, III | 388,251,344 | 6,365,603 | 113,388,523 |
| Michael J. Roberts | 387,821,507 | 6,795,440 | 113,388,523 |

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| Laurie A. Siegel | 390,407,564 | 4,209,383 | 113,388,523 |
|------------------|-------------|-----------|-------------|
| Joseph R. Zimmel | 385,332,092 | 9,284,855 | 113,388,523 |

2. Shareholders ratified the appointment of KPMG LLP as our independent auditor for 2015 based on the following votes:

| For | 467,886,433 |
|------------------|-------------|
| Against | 37,790,122 |
| Abstain | 2,328,915 |
| Broker non-votes | N/A |

3. Shareholders approved our 2015 Executive Officer Short-Term Incentive Plan based on the following votes:

| For | 376,444,331 |
|------------------|-------------|
| Against | 14,954,873 |
| Abstain | 3,217,743 |
| Broker non-votes | 113.388.523 |

4. Shareholders approved, on a non-binding and advisory basis, the overall compensation of our named executive officers based on the following votes:

| For | 371,232,444 |
|------------------|-------------|
| Against | 20,145,172 |
| Abstain | 3,239,331 |
| Broker non-votes | 113,388,523 |

5. Shareholders rejected a shareholder proposal regarding equity retention based on the following votes:

| For | 96,712,948 |
|------------------|-------------|
| Against | 294,080,547 |
| Abstain | 3,823,452 |
| Broker non-votes | 113,388,523 |

Item 9.01 Financial Statements and Exhibits

(d) Exhibits

The exhibit to this Current Report is listed in the Exhibit Index, which appears at the end of this Current Report and is incorporated by reference herein.

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SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, CenturyLink, Inc. has duly caused this Current Report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned officer hereunto duly authorized.

CenturyLink, Inc.

By: /s/ Stacey W. Goff
Stacey W. Goff
Executive Vice President,
Chief Administrative Officer,
General Counsel and Secretary

Dated: May 21, 2015

Exhibit Index

Exhibit

No. Description

10.1 CenturyLink 2015 Executive Officer Short-Term Incentive Plan (incorporated by reference to CenturyLink, Inc. s definitive proxy statement for its 2015 Annual Meeting of Shareholders, filed on April 8, 2015).