

UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549  
FORM 5  
ANNUAL STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP  
(X) Check box if no longer subject to Section 16.  
Form 4 or Form 5 obligations may continue. See Instructions 1(b).  
( ) Form 3 Holdings Reported  
(X) Form 4 Transactions Reported  
1. Name and Address of Reporting Person  
Vanderpoel, William A.  
5701 South Santa Fe Drive  
Littleton, CO 80120  
U.S.A.  
2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol  
Echostar Communications Corporation  
DISH  
3. IRS or Social Security Number of Reporting Person (Voluntary)  
4. Statement for Month/Year  
December 31, 1999  
5. If Amendment, Date of Original (Month/Year)  
6. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable)  
( ) Director ( ) 10% Owner ( ) Officer (give title below) (X) Other  
(specify below)  
Vice President - Business Development  
7. Individual or Joint/Group Reporting (Check Applicable Line)  
(X) Form filed by One Reporting Person  
( ) Form filed by More than One Reporting Person

Table I -- Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned										
1. Title of Security	2. Transaction Date	3. Transaction Code	4. Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D)			5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned at End of Year	6. Direct (D) or Indirect (I)	7. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership		
			Amount	A/D	Price					

Table II -- Derivative Securittites Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned										
1.Title of Derivative Security	2.Con version or Exer cise Pr iced of Deriva tive Secu rity	3. Transaction Date	4. Code	5.Number of Derivative Securittites Acqui red(A) or Dis posed of(D)	6.Date Exer cisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year)	7.Title and Amount of Underlying Securities	8.Price of Deri vative Secu rity	9.Number of Deriva tive Securities Benefi cially Owned at End of Year	10. Dir ect (D) or Indirect (I)	11.Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership

Employee Stock Option (Right to Buy)	\$81.625	3/31/99	M	2,000	A	(1)	(2)	Class A Common Stock	2,000	0		
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Explanation of Responses:  
(1) The shares underlying the option vest at a rate of 20% per year, commencing on March 31, 1999.  
(2) Each portion of the option expires five years from the date on which that portion of the option becomes exercisable. The remaining portion of the option was forfeited 30 days after termination of employment on October 15, 1999.  
SIGNATURE OF REPORTING PERSON  
William A. Vanderpoel  
DATE  
January 31, 2000