

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
Washington, D.C. 20549

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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 24, 2001

ECHOSTAR COMMUNICATIONS CORPORATION  
(Exact name of registrant as specified in charter)

NEVADA  
(State or other jurisdiction  
of incorporation)

0-26176  
(Commission  
File Number)

88-0336997  
(IRS Employer  
Identification No.)

5701 S. SANTA FE DRIVE  
LITTLETON, COLORADO  
(Address of principal executive offices)

80120  
(Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code:

(303) 723-1000

## ITEM 5. OTHER EVENTS

In its Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended September 30, 2000, EchoStar Communications Corporation ("EchoStar") reported that General Motors ("GM") was not willing to include EchoStar in future discussions concerning a possible transaction if GM were to spin-off all or a part of its GMH subsidiary. EchoStar has continued to express its interest in discussions.

GM notified EchoStar this week that GM was willing to establish a dialogue between EchoStar's and GM's respective legal and financial advisors so as to better understand a possible transaction. There can be no assurance that any substantive discussions will occur between the parties or that any agreement between the parties will result.

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, the Registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned hereunto duly authorized.

ECHOSTAR COMMUNICATIONS CORPORATION

Dated: May 24, 2001

By: /s/ David K. Moskowitz

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David K. Moskowitz,  
Senior Vice President and General  
Counsel