

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP

() Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16.
 Form 4 or Form 5 obligations may continue. See Instructions 1(b).

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person
 Peterson, Mary P.
 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
 04/00
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 - Marketing
7. Individual or Joint/Group Filing (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. Code	4. Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D)			5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned at End of Month	6. Dir (D) or Indir (I)	7. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership
			Amount	A/D	Price			
Class A Common Stock	4/19/00	M	56,464	A	\$2.12500			
Class A Common Stock	4/19/00	M	7,108	A	\$6.00000	63,752	D	
						215	D (1)	
						2,082	I (2)	

Table II -- Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned

1. Title of Derivative Security	2. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security	3. Transaction Date	4. Code	5. Number of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D)			6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date		7. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities	8. Price of Derivative Security	9. Number of Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned at End of Month	10. Dir (D) or Indir (I)	11. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership
				Amount	A/D	Price	Month/Day/Year	Month/Day/Year					
Employee Stock Option (Right to Buy)	\$2.12500	4/19/00	M	56,464	D	(3)	(4)	Class A Common Stock	56,464		84,696		
Employee Stock Option (Right to Buy)	\$6.00	4/19/00	M	7,108	D	(5)	(4)	Class A Common Stock	7,108		46,216		

Explanation of Responses:

1. The number of shares in column 5 represents the total number of shares purchased by the reporting person through EchoStar Communications Corporation's 1997 Employee Stock Purchase Plan to date.
2. On March 8, 2000, the Company issued an additional 60,000 shares of Class A Common Stock to EchoStar Communications Corporation's 401(k) Employees' Savings Plan (the "Plan"). The number of shares reported in column 5 represents the total number of shares allocated to the reporting person's account through the Plan to date. The reporting person has dispositive, but no voting power with respect to the shares.
3. The shares underlying the option vested at the rate of 20% per year, commencing on June 10, 1998.
4. Each portion of the option expires five years from the date on which that portion of the option first becomes exercisable.
5. The shares underlying the option vested at the rate of 20% per year, commencing on February 17, 2000.

SIGNATURE OF REPORTING PERSON
 Mary Peterson