

**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 Instruction 1(b).

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

OMB APPROVAL	
OMB Number:	3235-0287
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1. Name and Address of Reporting Person * <u>DEFRANCO JAMES</u>  (Last) (First) (Middle) 9601 S. MERIDIAN BLVD.  (Street) ENGLEWOOD CO 80112  (City) (State) (Zip)	2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol <u>ECHOSTAR COMMUNICATIONS CORP</u> [ DISH ]	5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Director 10% Owner <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Officer (give title below) Other (specify below) <u>Executive Vice President</u>
	3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year) 12/15/2006	
	4. If Amendment, Date of Original Filed (Month/Day/Year)	

**Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned**

1. Title of Security (Instr. 3)	2. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	2A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year)	3. Transaction Code (Instr. 8)		4. Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed Of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5)			5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4)	6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4)	7. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4)
			Code	V	Amount	(A) or (D)	Price			
Class A Common Stock	12/15/2006		M <sup>(1)</sup>		15,000	A	\$27.18	4,377,527	D	
Class A Common Stock	12/15/2006		S <sup>(1)</sup>		100	D	\$38.75	4,377,427	D	
Class A Common Stock	12/15/2006		S <sup>(1)</sup>		7,725	D	\$38.77	4,369,702	D	
Class A Common Stock	12/15/2006		S <sup>(1)</sup>		7,175	D	\$38.78	4,362,527	D	
Class A Common Stock	12/18/2006		S <sup>(1)</sup>		4,000	D	\$38.5	4,358,527	D	
Class A Common Stock	12/18/2006		S <sup>(1)</sup>		9,221	D	\$38.51	4,349,306	D	
Class A Common Stock	12/18/2006		S <sup>(1)</sup>		5,500	D	\$38.52	4,343,806	D	
Class A Common Stock								50,000	I	I <sup>(2)</sup>
Class A Common Stock								8,183	I	I <sup>(3)</sup>
Class A Common Stock								2,250,000	I	I <sup>(4)</sup>
Class A Common Stock								18,412	I	I <sup>(5)</sup>

**Table II - Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned (e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)**

1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 3)	2. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security	3. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	3A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year)	4. Transaction Code (Instr. 8)		5. Number of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5)		6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year)		7. Title and Amount of Securities Underlying Derivative Security (Instr. 3 and 4)	8. Price of Derivative Security (Instr. 5)	9. Number of derivative Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 4)	10. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4)	11. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4)	
				Code	V	(A)	(D)	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date						Title
Employee Stock Option (Right to Buy)	\$27.18	12/15/2006		M <sup>(1)</sup>			15,000	(6)	12/30/2015	Class A Common Stock	15,000	\$0	68,000	D	

**Explanation of Responses:**

- The transactions reported on this Form 4 were effected pursuant to a Rule 10b5-1 trading plan.
- The shares are held by the reporting person in an irrevocable trust for the benefit of the reporting person's minor children and grandchildren. The reporting person disclaims beneficial ownership of the shares.
- The shares are being held by the reporting person as custodian for his minor children.
- The shares are held by DeFranco Investments Co., Ltd., a general partnership, of which the reporting person is sole general partner.
- By 401(k).
- The shares underlying the option were 100% vested upon the date of grant.

**Remarks:**

/s/ James DeFranco, by Robert Rehg, his Attorney in Fact 12/19/2006

\*\* Signature of Reporting Person Date

Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially owned directly or indirectly.

\* If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, see Instruction 4 (b)(v).

\*\* Intentional misstatements or omissions of facts constitute Federal Criminal Violations See 18 U.S.C. 1001 and 15 U.S.C. 78ff(a).

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, see Instruction 6 for procedure.

Persons who respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB Number.