

UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549  
FORM 3  
INITIAL STATEMENT OF BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF SECURITIES

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person  
McDonnell, Michael R.  
5701 South Santa Fe Drive  
Littleton, CO 80120  
USA

2. Date of Event Requiring Statement (Month/Day/Year)  
8/7/00

3. IRS or Social Security Number of Reporting Person (Voluntary)

4. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol  
EchoStar Communications Corporation  
DISH

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable)  
( ) Director ( ) 10% Owner (X) Officer (give title below) ( ) Other  
(specify below)  
Chief Financial Officer

6. If Amendment, Date of Original (Month/Day/Year)

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 Beneficially Owned			
1. Title of Security	2. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned	3. Ownership Form: Direct(D) or Indirect(I)	4. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership
Class A Common Stock	300	D	

Table II -- Derivative Securites Beneficially Owned						
1.Title of Derivative Security	2.Date Exercisable and Expiration Date(Month/Day/Year)		3.Title and Amount of Underlying Securities	4. Conversion or exercise price of derivative Security	5. Ownership Form of Derivative Security: Direct(D) or Indirect(I)	6. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership
Employee Stock Option (Right to Buy)	(1)	(2)	Class A Common Stock	50,000	\$33.109	D

Explanation of Responses:  
(1) The shares underlying the option, listed in column 3, vest at the rate of 20% per year, commencing on June 30, 2001.  
(2) The option expires ten years from the grant date on June 30, 2000.

SIGNATURE OF REPORTING PERSON  
/s/ Michael R. McDonnell

DATE  
8/14/00