

ANNUAL STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP

() 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
 () Form 4 Transactions Reported

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person

Kelly, Michael
 414 Eagle Rock Avenue
 West Orange, NJ 07052
 USA

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol

EchoStar Communications Corporation
 DISH

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

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4. Statement for Month/Year

12/31/00

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

6. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable)

() Director () 10% Owner (X) Officer (give title below) () Other
 (specify below)

Senior Vice President - International Programming and Operations

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. Code	4. Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) Amount	A/ D	Price	5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned at End of Year	6. Direct (D) or Indirect (I)	7. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership
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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) Amount	6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year) A/ D	7. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities Title and Number of Shares	8. Price of Derivative Security	9. Number of Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned at End of Year	10. Direct (D) or Indirect (I)	11. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership
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Employee Stock Option (Right to Buy)	\$60.125	6/30/00	A	800,000	A (1) (2)	Class A Common Stock	800,000	800,000	D	
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Explanation of Responses:

(1) The shares underlying the option, listed in column 5, vest at the rate of 20% per year, commencing on March 31, 2001.

(2) The option expires ten years from the date of grant on June 30, 2000.

SIGNATURE OF REPORTING PERSON

/s/ Michael Kelly

DATE

1/8/01