

FORM 5
 ANNUAL STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP

(X) 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
 (X) Form 4 Transactions Reported

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person
 Westerman, III, Frederick G.
 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
 December 31, 1999

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) (X) Other
 (specify below)

Treasurer and Director of Finance

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	5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned at End of Year Price	6. Direct (D) or Indirect (I)	7. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership
----------------------	---------------------	---------	---------------------------------------------------------	--------------------------------------------------------------------	-------------------------------	--------------------------------------------

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/Exercisable Date	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
---------------------------------	--------------------------------------------------------	---------------------	---------	------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--------------------------------------------------------------------------------	----------------------------------------------------------------------------	---------------------------------	----------------------------------------------------------------------	--------------------------------	---------------------------------------------

Employee Stock Option (Right to Buy)	(\$1.625)	3/31/99	M	5,000	A (1) (2)	Class A Common Stock	5,000	10		
--------------------------------------	-----------	---------	---	-------	-----------	----------------------	-------	----	--	--

Explanation of Responses:

(1) The shares underlying the option vest at the rate of 20% per year, commencing on March 31, 2000
 (2) Each portion of the option expires five years from the date on which that portion of the option first becomes exercisable. The remaining portion of the option was forfeited 30 days after termination of employment on June 22, 1999.

SIGNATURE OF REPORTING PERSON

Frederick G. Westerman, III

DATE

January 31, 2000