

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

Ergen, Charles W.
 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
 12/31/00

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

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

Chief Executive Officer and President

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)		5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned at End of Year	6. Direct (D) or Indirect (I)	7. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership
			Amount	A/D			
Class A Common Stock	12/20/00	G	4,000	D (1)			
Class A Common Stock	12/20/00	G	4,000	A (1)	857,640	D	
					4,800	I	(1)
					17,825	I	(2)
					100	I	(3)

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

1. Title of Derivative Security	2. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative	3. Transaction Date	4. Code	5. Number of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D)	6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year)	7. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities	8. Price of Derivative Security	9. Number of Derivative Securities	10. Direct (D) or Indirect (I)	11. Nature of Beneficial Ownership
Employee Stock Option (Right to Buy)	\$36.4199	6/30/00	A	500,000	(4) 6/30/05	Class A Common Stock	500,000	500,000		

Explanation of Responses:

(1) On December 1, 2000, the reporting person contributed 4,000 additional shares to the reporting person's minor children. The shares are held by the reporting person's spouse as custodian for the reporting person's minor children.

(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 are in the name of the reporting person's spouse.

(4) The shares underlying the option vest at the rate of 20% per year, commencing on June 30, 2001.

SIGNATURE OF REPORTING PERSON
 /s/ Charles Ergen

DATE
 1/6/01