

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 Instructions 1(b).

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 Filing (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 Month	6. Direct (D) or Indirect (I)	7. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership
			Amount	A/D	Price			
Class A Common Stock	12/7/00	M	92,637	A	\$2.125			
Class A Common Stock	12/7/00	M	132,351	A	\$2.28625	861,640	D	
						100	I	(1)
						800	I	(2)
						17,825	I	(3)

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)	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 Beneficially Owned at End of Month	10. Direct (D) or Indirect (I)	11. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership		
											Amount	A/D
Employee Stock Option (Right to Buy)	\$2.125	12/7/00	M	92,637	D	(4) 2/13/02	Class A Common Stock	92,637		107,649	D	
Employee Stock Option (Right to Buy)	\$2.28625	12/7/00	M	132,351	D	(5) 8/2/01	Class A Common Stock	132,351		43,603	D	

Explanation of Responses:

- (1) The shares are in the name of the reporting person's spouse.
- (2) The shares are held by the reporting person's spouse as custodian for the reporting person's minor children.
- (3) 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.
- (4) The shares underlying the option vested at the rate of 20% per year, commencing on February 12, 1998.
- (5) The shares underlying the option vested at the rate of 20% per year, commencing on August 1, 1997.

SIGNATURE OF REPORTING PERSON
 /s/ Charles W. Ergen

DATE
 12/31/00