

INITIAL STATEMENT OF BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF SECURITIES

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person
 Witt, John R.
 5701 S. Santa Fe Drive
 Littleton, CO 80120
 U.S.A.
2. Date of Event Requiring Statement (Month/Day/Year)
 7/30/01
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 Officer (give title below) Other
 (specify below)
 Controller - Vice President
6. If Amendment, Date of Original (Month/Day/Year)
7. Individual or Joint/Group Filing (Check Applicable Line)
 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
No securities beneficially owned.			

Table II -- Derivative Securities 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

Explanation of Responses:
 SIGNATURE OF REPORTING PERSON
 /s/ John R. Witt Jr.
 DATE
 8/6/01