

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  
 DeFranco, James  
 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  
 12/31/99
5. If Amendment, Date of Original (Month/Year)
6. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable)  
 Director ( ) 10% Owner  Officer (give title below) ( ) Other  
 (specify below)  
 Executive Vice President
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 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	12/08/99	S	150,000	D	\$93.39			
Class A Common Stock	12/09/99	S	116,500	D	\$96.41			
Class A Common Stock	12/10/99	S	133,500	D	\$90.58	1,100,000 (1)	(2)	
						2,399,352 (1)	D	
						8776 (1)	I (3)	
						3,004 (1)	I (4)	

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

Explanation of Responses:

(1) The shares have been adjusted to reflect the two-for-one stock splits of the Company's common stock which took place in July 1999 and October 1999.

(2) The shares are held by DeFranco Investment Co., Ltd., a general partnership, of which the reporting person is the sole general partner.

(3) On March 19, 1999, the Company issued an additional 65,000 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 are held by the reporting person as custodian for his minor children. The reporting person disclaims beneficial ownership of the shares.

SIGNATURE OF REPORTING PERSON  
 James DeFranco