

UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549
FORM 4

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

Friedlob, Raymond L.
1400 Glenarm Place, Suite 300
Denver, CO 80202
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)

(X) Director () 10% Owner () Officer (give title below) () Other
(specify below)

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. Dir (D) or Indir (I)	7. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership			
Class A Common Stock	12/9/99	M		8,000	A \$4.25					
Class A Common Stock	12/9/99	S		8,000	D \$94.47					
Class A Common Stock	12/9/99	M		16,000	A \$4.25					
Class A Common Stock	12/9/99	S		16,000	D \$94.38					
Class A Common Stock	12/9/99	M		16,000	A \$12.00					
Class A Common Stock	12/9/99	S		16,000	D \$94.38					

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 Exercised (Date)	7. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities	8. Price of Derivative Security	9. Number of Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned at End of Month	10. Dir (D) or Indir (I)
Non-Employee Director Option (Right to Buy)	\$4.25	12/9/99	M		4,000	D (1) (2)	Class A Comm on Stock	4,000	0	
Non-Employee Director Option (Right to Buy)	\$4.25	12/9/99	M		4,000	D (3) (2)	Class A Comm on Stock	4,000	0	
Non-Employee Director Option (Right to Buy)	\$4.25	12/9/99	M		16,000	D (4) (2)	Class A Comm on Stock	16,000	0	
Non-Employee Director Option (Right to Buy)	\$12.00	12/9/99	M		16,000	D (5) (2)	Class A Comm on Stock	16,000	14,000	

Explanation of Responses:

(1) The shares underlying the option vested when issued on December 20, 1995.

(2) Each portion of the option expires ten years from the date on which that portion of the option becomes

exercisable.

(3) The shares underlying the option vested when issued on February 12, 1997.

(4) The shares underlying the option vested when issued on February 12, 1997.

(5) The shares underlying the option vested when issued on February 17, 1999.

SIGNATURE OF REPORTING PERSON

Raymond L. Friedlob