

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

Kothari, Purvish
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 (X) Officer (give title below) () Other
(specify below)

Chief Information Officer and Senior Vice President of Information Technology

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) Amount	5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned at End of Month A/D Price	6. Dir ect (D) or Indir ect (I)	7. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership
Class A Common Stock	12/31/99	M	81	A \$82.87 255 (1)	I	(2)

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. Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) Amount	5. Number of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) A/D	6. Date Exercisable or Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year)	7. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities Title and Number of Shares	8. Price of Derivative Security	9. Number of Derivative Securities	10. Date Acquired or Disposed of (Month/Day/Year)	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 number of shares in column 5 represents the total number of shares purchased by the reporting person through EchoStar Communications Corporation's 1999 Employee Stock Purchase Plan. The reporting person has dispositive, but no voting power, with respect to the shares.

SIGNATURE OF REPORTING PERSON

Purvish Kothari