ECHOSTAR COMMUNICATIONS CORP

FORM 3
(Initial Statement of Beneficial Ownership)

Filed 8/9/2001 For Period Ending 7/30/2001

Address	9601 S. MERIDIAN BLVD.
	ENGLEWOOD, Colorado 80112
Telephone	303-723-1000
CIK	0001001082
Industry	Broadcasting & Cable TV
Sector	Services
Fiscal Year	12/31

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UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

FORM 3

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

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5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable) ( ) Director ( ) 10% Owner (X) 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) (X) 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 benefically owned.			

Table II -- Derivative Securitites 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
	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of Shares			

Explanation of Responses:
SIGNATURE OF REPORTING PERSON

/s/ John R. Witt Jr.

DATE

8/6/01

End of Filing

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