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ECHOSTAR COMMUNICATIONS CORP

Form 4

March 17, 2006

FORM 4 UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

OMB APPROVAL OMB

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Washington, D.C. 20549

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STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF **SECURITIES**

Form 4 or Form 5 obligations may continue. See Instruction

Check this box

if no longer

subject to

Section 16.

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, Section 17(a) of the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935 or Section

30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

1(b).

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person * ERGEN CHARLES W	2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol	5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer		
	ECHOSTAR COMMUNICATIONS CORP [DISH]	(Check all applicable)		
(Last) (First) (Middle)	3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)	_X_ Director _X_ 10% Owner _X_ Officer (give title Other (specify below) below)		
9601 S. MERIDIAN BLVD.	03/07/2006	Chairman and CEO		
(Street)	4. If Amendment, Date Original	6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check		
ENGLEWOOD, CO 80112	Filed(Month/Day/Year)	Applicable Line) Form filed by One Reporting Person _X_ Form filed by More than One Reporting Person		

ENGLEWOOD, CO 80112

(City)	(State) (Z	Zip) Table	e I - Non-D	erivative S	Securi	ties Ac	quired, Disposed	of, or Beneficia	lly Owned
1.Title of Security (Instr. 3)	2. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	on Date 2A. Deemed 3.		4. Securities onAcquired (A) or Disposed of (D)			5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported	6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4)	7. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4)
			Code V	Amount	(A) or (D)	Price	Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4)		
Class A Common Stock	03/07/2006		A(1)	125	A	<u>(2)</u>	214,027	D	
Class A Common Stock	03/07/2006		A <u>(1)</u>	125	A	<u>(2)</u>	235	I	I (3)
Class A Common Stock							350,000	I	I (4)
Class A Common							16,800	I	I (5)

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Class A Common Stock	18,408	I	I (6)
Class A Common Stock	922	I	I (7)

Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially owned directly or indirectly.

Persons who respond to the collection of SEC 1474 information contained in this form are not (9-02)required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Table II - Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned (e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)

1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 3)	2. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security	3. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	3A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year)	4. Transact Code (Instr. 8)	5. forNumber of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5)	:	ate	7. Titl Amou Under Securi (Instr.	int of rlying	8. Price of Derivative Security (Instr. 5)	9. Nu Deriv Secur Bene Owne Follo Repo Trans (Instr
				Code V	(A) (D)	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of Shares		

Reporting Owners

Fact

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships						
coporting of the control of the cont	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other			
ERGEN CHARLES W 9601 S. MERIDIAN BLVD. ENGLEWOOD, CO 80112	X	X	Chairman and CEO				
ERGEN CANTEY 9601 S. MERIDIAN BOULEVARD ENGLEWOOD, CO 80112	X						
Signatures							
/s/ Charles W. Ergen by Robert Rehg, his Attorney in			03/17/2006				

**Signature of Reporting Person

Reporting Owners 2

Date

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/s/ Cantey M. Ergen by Robert Rehg, his Attorney in Fact 03/17/2006

**Signature of Reporting Person

Date

Explanation of Responses:

- * If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, see Instruction 4(b)(v).
- ** Intentional misstatements or omissions of facts constitute Federal Criminal Violations. See 18 U.S.C. 1001 and 15 U.S.C. 78ff(a).
- (1) Award granted for no consideration to all eligible employees upon achievement of a Company milestone.
- (2) Not applicable.
- (3) Held by Ms. Cantey Ergen.
- (4) Held by a Grantor Retained Annuity Trust ("GRAT"). The reporting persons disclaim beneficial ownership of the shares, except to the extent of their pecuniary interest therein.
- (5) The shares are held by a custodian for the reporting persons' minor children. The reporting persons disclaim beneficial ownership of the shares, except to the extent of their pecuniary interest therein.
- (6) Held by Mr. Charlie Ergen in a 401(k) account.
- (7) Held by Ms. Cantey Ergen in a 401(k) account.

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, *see* Instruction 6 for procedure. Potential persons who are to respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB number.

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