

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

FORM SC 14D9/A

Tender offer solicitation / recommendation statements filed under Rule 14d-9 [amend]

Filing Date: **1999-09-10**
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SUBJECT COMPANY

COLUMBIA ENERGY GROUP

CIK: **22099** | IRS No.: **131594808** | State of Incorporation: **DE** | Fiscal Year End: **1231**
Type: **SC 14D9/A** | Act: **34** | File No.: **005-10049** | Film No.: **99709484**
SIC: **4923** Natural gas transmission & distribution

Mailing Address	Business Address
13880 DULLES CORNER LANE SUITE 300 HERNDON VA 20171-4600	13880 DULLES CORNER LANE SUITE 300 HENDERON VA 20171-4600 7035616000

FILED BY

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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

SCHEDULE 14D-9

SOLICITATION/RECOMMENDATION STATEMENT PURSUANT TO
SECTION 14(d) (4) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934
(AMENDMENT NO. 26)

COLUMBIA ENERGY GROUP
(NAME OF SUBJECT COMPANY)

COLUMBIA ENERGY GROUP
(NAME OF PERSON(S) FILING STATEMENT)

COMMON STOCK, PAR VALUE \$0.01
(TITLE OF CLASS OF SECURITIES)

197648108
(CUSIP NUMBER OF CLASS OF SECURITIES)

MICHAEL W. O'DONNELL
SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT AND CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER
COLUMBIA ENERGY GROUP
13880 DULLES CORNER LANE
HERNDON, VIRGINIA 20171
(703) 561-6000
(NAME, ADDRESS AND TELEPHONE NUMBER OF PERSON AUTHORIZED TO RECEIVE NOTICE
AND COMMUNICATIONS ON BEHALF OF THE PERSON(S) FILING STATEMENT)

COPY TO:

NEIL T. ANDERSON, ESQ.
SULLIVAN & CROMWELL
125 BROAD STREET
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10004
(212) 558-4000

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This Amendment No. 26 amends and supplements the Solicitation/
Recommendation Statement on Schedule 14D-9 filed with the Securities and

Exchange Commission on July 6, 1999, and as subsequently amended July 6, 1999, July 9, 1999, July 12, 1999, July 15, 1999, July 16, 1999, July 20, 1999, July 22, 1999, July 30, 1999, August 3, 1999, August 4, 1999, August 5, 1999, August 6, 1999, August 9, 1999, August 11, 1999, August 12, 1999, August 13, 1999, August 16, 1999, August 17, 1999, August 19, 1999, August 31, 1999, September 2, 1999, September 3, 1999, September 7, 1999 and September 9, 1999 (as so amended, the "Schedule 14D-9"), by Columbia Energy Group, a Delaware corporation (the "Company"), relating to the tender offer by NiSource Inc., an Indiana corporation, to purchase for cash through its wholly-owned subsidiary, CEG Acquisition Corp., a Delaware corporation, all of the outstanding common shares, par value \$0.01 per share, of the Company (the "Offer"). Capitalized terms used but not defined herein have the meaning ascribed to them in the Schedule 14D-9.

ITEM 6. RECENT TRANSACTIONS AND INTENT WITH RESPECT TO SECURITIES.

Item 6 is hereby supplemented and amended by adding the following:

On September 9, 1999, pursuant to its previously announced repurchase program, the Company purchased 100,000 Shares on the open market at a weighted average price per share of \$58.3869.

SIGNATURE

After reasonable inquiry and to the best of my knowledge and belief, I certify that the information set forth in this statement is true, complete and correct.

COLUMBIA ENERGY GROUP

By: /s/ Michael W. O'Donnell

Name: Michael W. O'Donnell
Title: Senior Vice President and
Chief Financial Officer

Dated: September 10, 1999