

Edgar Filing: NISOURCE INC/DE - Form 8-K

NISOURCE INC/DE
Form 8-K
May 21, 2002

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM 8-K

CURRENT REPORT
PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE
SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

Date of report (Date of earliest event reported): May 21, 2002

NISOURCE INC.

(Exact Name of Registrant as Specified in Charter)

| | | |
|--|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Delaware | 001-16189 | 35-2108964 |
| (State or Other Jurisdiction of Incorporation) | (Commission File Number) | (IRS Employer Identification No.) |

COLUMBIA ENERGY GROUP

(Exact Name of Registrant as Specified in Charter)

| | | |
|--|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Delaware | 001-1098 | 13-1594808 |
| (State or Other Jurisdiction of Incorporation) | (Commission File Number) | (IRS Employer Identification No.) |

NORTHERN INDIANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY

(Exact Name of Registrant as Specified in Charter)

| | | |
|--|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Indiana | 1-4125 | 35-0552990 |
| (State or Other Jurisdiction of Incorporation) | (Commission File Number) | (IRS Employer Identification No.) |

801 East 86th
Avenue,
Merrillville,
Indiana 46410
(877) 647-5990
(Address and
Telephone Number of
Principal Executive
Offices)

Item 4. Changes in Registrant's Certifying Accountant.

On May 21, 2002, the Board of Directors of NiSource Inc. (the

Edgar Filing: NISOURCE INC/DE - Form 8-K

"Company"), upon recommendation of its Audit Committee, dismissed Arthur Andersen LLP ("Andersen") as the independent public accountants for the Company and its subsidiaries, Columbia Energy Group and Northern Indiana Public Service Company (collectively, the "Registrants"), and decided to engage Deloitte & Touche LLP to serve as the Registrants' independent public accountants for 2002.

Andersen's reports on the Registrants' consolidated financial statements for each of the two most recent fiscal years did not contain an adverse opinion or disclaimer of opinion, nor were they qualified or modified as to uncertainty, audit scope or accounting principles.

In connection with its audits for the Registrants' two most recent fiscal years and the subsequent interim period, there have been no disagreements between the Registrants and Andersen on any matter of accounting principles and practices, financial statement disclosure or auditing scope or procedure, which disagreements, if not resolved to Andersen's satisfaction, would have caused Andersen to make reference to the subject matter of the disagreement in connection with its report on any Registrant's consolidated financial statements for any such year.

During the Company's two most recent fiscal years and through May 21, 2002, there have been no reportable events as defined in Item 304(a)(1)(v) of Regulation S-K.

The Registrants have requested Andersen to furnish it with a letter addressed to the Securities and Exchange Commission stating whether Andersen agrees with the above statements made by the Registrants. A copy of the letter, dated May 21, 2002, is filed as Exhibit 16.1 to this Current Report on Form 8-K.

During the Registrants' two most recent fiscal years and through May 21, 2002, the Registrants did not consult Deloitte & Touche LLP with respect to the application of accounting principles to a specified transaction, either completed or proposed, or the type of audit opinion that might be rendered on any Registrant's consolidated financial statements, or any other matters or reportable events listed in Items 304(a)(2)(i) and (ii) of Regulation S-K.

Item 7. Financial Statements, Pro Forma Financial Statements and Exhibits

(c) Exhibits.

| Exhibit Number ----- | Description ----- |
|----------------------------|--|
| 16.1 | Letter of Arthur Andersen LLP regarding change in certifying accountant. |
| 99.1 | Press Release dated May 21, 2002. |

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned hereunto duly authorized.

Edgar Filing: NISOURCE INC/DE - Form 8-K

NISOURCE INC.

Date: May 21, 2002

By: /s/ Stephen P. Adik

Stephen P. Adik
Vice Chairman

COLUMBIA ENERGY GROUP

Date: May 21, 2002

By: /s/ Michael W. O'Donnell

Michael W. O'Donnell
President

NORTHERN INDIANA PUBLIC
SERVICE COMPANY

Date: May 21, 2002

By: /s/ Barrett Hatches

Barrett Hatches
President and Chief
Executive Officer

EXHIBIT INDEX

| Exhibit No. ----- | Description ----- |
|----------------------|--|
| 16 | Letter of Arthur Andersen LLP regarding change in certifying accountant. |
| 99.1 | Press Release dated May 21, 2002 |