

UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549

Check this box
if no longer
subject to
Section 16.
Form 4 or
Form 5
obligations
may continue.
See Instruction
1(b).

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF SECURITIES

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

OMB Number: 3235-0287

Expires: January 31, 2005

Estimated average burden hours per response... 0.5

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person *
SMITH DAVID F

2. Issuer Name **and** Ticker or Trading Symbol
NATIONAL FUEL GAS CO [NFG]

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

(Check all applicable)

(Last) (First) (Middle)

3. Date of Earliest Transaction
(Month/Day/Year)
12/22/2008

_____ Director _____ 10% Owner
 __X__ Officer (give title _____ Other (specify
 below) below)

CEO & President of Issuer

6363 MAIN STREET

(Street)

4. If Amendment, Date Original
Filed(Month/Day/Year)

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing (Check Applicable Line)
 X Form filed by One Reporting Person
 ___ Form filed by More than One Reporting Person

WILLIAMSVILLE, NY 14221

(City) (State) (Zip)

Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned

1. Title of Security (Instr. 3)	2. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	2A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year)	3. Transaction Code (Instr. 8)	4. Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5)				5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4)	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			
Common Stock								122,906	D	
Common Stock	12/22/2008		J	V	417 <u>(1)</u>	A	\$ 0	13,037	I	401k Trust
Common Stock	12/22/2008		J	V	5 <u>(2)</u>	A	\$ 0	1,774	I	ESOP Trust

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

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SEC 1474
(9-02)

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. Transaction Code (Instr. 8)	5. Number of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5)	6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year)	7. Title and Amount Underlying Security (Instr. 3 and 4)
				Code V (A) (D)		Date Exercisable Expiration Date	Title Amount Number Share
Stock Appreciation Right	\$ 29.88	12/22/2008		A	150,000	(3) 12/22/2018	Common Stock 150,000

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships
	Director 10% Owner Officer Other
SMITH DAVID F 6363 MAIN STREET WILLIAMSVILLE, NY 14221	CEO & President of Issuer

Signatures

James R. Peterson, Attorney
in Fact 12/23/2008

**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) Routine acquisition under the NFG 401(k) Plan Trust, exempt under Rule 16b-3(c), a non-reportable transaction.

(2) Routine acquisition under the NFG ESOP Trust, exempt under Rule 16b-3(c), a non-reportable transaction.

(3) Represents the award of 150,000 SAR's which become exercisable in three equal annual installments beginning December 22, 2009 based on National Fuel Gas Company's satisfaction of certain performance criteria for each fiscal year end 2009, 2010 and 2011. In the event the performance condition for a given fiscal year is not met, the incremental percentage of shares for that fiscal year shall be automatically forfeited.

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, see Instruction 6 for procedure.

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