

NATIONAL FUEL GAS CO

Form DFAN14A

November 06, 2007

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

**SCHEDULE 14A  
Proxy Statement Pursuant to Section 14(a) of the Securities  
Exchange Act of 1934 (Amendment No. )**

Filed by the Registrant

Filed by a Party other than the Registrant

Check the appropriate box:

- Preliminary Proxy Statement
- Confidential, for Use of the Commission Only (as permitted by Rule 14a-6(e)(2))**
- Definitive Proxy Statement
- Definitive Additional Materials
- Soliciting Material Pursuant to §240.14a-12

**NATIONAL FUEL GAS COMPANY**

(Name of Registrant as Specified in its Charter)

New Mountain Vantage, L.P.

New Mountain Vantage (California), L.P.

New Mountain Vantage (Texas), L.P.

New Mountain Vantage Holdco Ltd.

(Name of Person(s) Filing Proxy Statement, if other than the Registrant)

Payment of Filing Fee (Check the appropriate box):

- No fee required
- Fee computed on table below per Exchange Act Rules 14a-6(i)(1) and 0-11.
  - (1) Title of each class of securities to which transaction applies:
  
  - (2) Aggregate number of securities to which transaction applies:
  
  - (3) Per unit price or other underlying value of transaction computed pursuant to Exchange Act Rule 0-11 (set forth the amount on which the filing fee is calculated and state how it was determined):
  
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- Fee paid previously with preliminary materials:
- Check box if any part of the fee is offset as provided by Exchange Act Rule 0-11(a)(2) and identify the filing for which the offsetting fee was paid previously. Identify the previous filing by registration statement number, or

the Form or Schedule and the date of its filing.

(1) Amount Previously Paid:

(2) Form, Schedule or Registration Statement No.:

(3) Filing Party:

(4) Date Filed:

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New Mountain Vantage, L.P., a Delaware limited partnership ( NMV ), New Mountain Vantage (California), L.P., a Delaware limited partnership ( NMVC ), New Mountain Vantage (Texas), L.P., a Delaware limited partnership ( NMVT ) and New Mountain Vantage HoldCo Ltd., a Cayman Islands exempt limited company ( NMV Offshore HoldCo ), and collectively, the Proponents ) have given notice to National Fuel Gas Company (the Company ) of their intent to nominate David M. DiDomenico, F. Fox Benton, III and Frederic V. Salerno (the Nominees) for election to the Board of Directors of the Issuer at the 2008 Annual Meeting of the Stockholders of the Company.

New Mountain Vantage GP, L.L.C., a Delaware limited liability company ( Vantage GP ), NMV, NMVC, NMVT, New Mountain Vantage Advisers, L.L.C., a Delaware limited liability company ( NMV Advisers ), New Mountain Vantage (Cayman) Ltd., a Cayman Islands exempt limited company ( NMV Offshore ), NMV Offshore HoldCo, Mr. Steven B. Klinsky (collectively, the NMV Entities ), NMV Special Holdings, LLC, a Delaware limited liability company ( NMVSH ), and the California Public Employees Retirement System, a unit of the California State and Consumer Services Agency charged with oversight of the Public Employees Retirement Fund ( CalPERS ), (NMV Entities, NMVSH and CalPERS, collectively, the Reporting Persons ), and together with the Proponents and Nominees, the Participants ) have previously filed a Schedule 13D ( Schedule 13D ) with the SEC on October 30, 2006, as amended, relating to the common stock of the Company.

#### Additional Information

The Proponents intend to file a proxy statement with the Securities and Exchange Commission ( SEC ) on Schedule 14A and the Proponents expect to mail a proxy statement to the Company s stockholders containing information about the proxy solicitation. INVESTORS AND SECURITY HOLDERS ARE URGED TO READ THE PROXY STATEMENT CAREFULLY WHEN IT IS AVAILABLE.

The proxy statement will contain important information about the Participants, including the Nominees, and related matters. Investors and security holders may obtain these documents, when available, free of charge by contacting the Proponents proxy solicitor, Innisfree M&A Incorporated, toll-free at (877) 456-3422. Banks and Brokers may call collect at 212-750-5833. The proxy statement will also be available through the web site maintained by the SEC at [www.sec.gov](http://www.sec.gov). In addition to the proxy statement, the Proponents may file other proxy information with the SEC. The Participants may be deemed to be participants in the solicitation of proxies from Company stockholders in connection with the proposed proxy solicitation. Information about the Reporting Persons and their ownership of Company common stock is set forth in the Schedule 13D. Information about the Nominees and other information regarding the participants in the proxy solicitation will be contained in the proxy statement and other relevant materials to be filed with the SEC when they become available.

The Proponents intend to use the following presentation as the basis for discussion with certain stockholders of the Company.

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