

SMITH DAVID F  
Form 4  
March 15, 2010

**FORM 4**

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

OMB APPROVAL

OMB Number: 3235-0287  
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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

(Print or Type Responses)

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)  
6363 MAIN STREET  
(Street)

3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)  
03/11/2010

\_\_\_\_ Director \_\_\_\_\_ 10% Owner  
 Officer (give title below) \_\_\_\_\_ Other (specify below)  
CEO & President of Issuer

WILLIAMSVILLE, NY 14221

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

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

(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 Ownership (Instr. 4) |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|---|--|-----------------------------------|
|                                 |                                      |  | Code                           | V Amount (A) or (D) Price   |   |  |                                   |
| Common Stock                    | 12/30/2009                           |  | G                              | V 335 D \$ 0  | 82,850 <u>(1)</u>   | D  |                                   |
| Common Stock                    |                                      |  |                                |   | 51,902  | I  | Held by Spouse                    |
| Common Stock                    | 03/11/2010                           |  | J                              | V 136 <u>(2)</u> A \$ 0   | 14,039  | I  | 401k Trust                        |
| Common Stock                    | 03/11/2010                           |  | J                              | V 2 <u>(3)</u> A \$ 0   | 1,791   | I  | ESOP Trust                        |

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

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

**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 of Underlying Security (Instr. 3 and 4) |              |                         |
|--|--|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|--|---|--------------|-------------------------|
|  |  |                                      |  | Code                           | V (A) (D)   | Date Exercisable   | Expiration Date   | Title        | Amount Number of Shares |
| Stock Appreciation Right                   | \$ 52.1  | 03/11/2010                           |  | A                              | 125,000   | <u>(4)</u>   | 03/11/2020  | Common Stock | 125,000                 |

## Reporting Owners

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

## Signatures

James R. Peterson, Attorney  
in Fact 03/15/2010

\*\*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) Due to a clerical error, 4,000 shares purchased 3/10/09 and reported on Form 4 dated 3/12/09 were erroneously omitted from the Form 4 filed 12/23/09.
- (2) Routine acquisition under the NFG 401(k) Plan Trust, exempt under Rule 16b-3(c), a non-reportable transaction.
- (3) Routine acquisition under the NFG ESOP Trust, exempt under Rule 16b-3(c), a non-reportable transaction.
- (4) Represents the award of 125,000 SAR's which become exercisable in three equal annual installments beginning about November 29, 2010 based on National Fuel Gas Company's satisfaction of certain performance criteria for each fiscal year end 2010, 2011 and 2012. 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. 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.