

BECK JAMES A
Form 4
March 21, 2006

FORM 4

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

OMB APPROVAL

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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 *
BECK JAMES A

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)
1201 LOUISIANA STREET, SUITE 400

3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)
03/17/2006

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

President, Seneca Resources

(Street)
HOUSTON, TX 77002

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 Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4) |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|---|--|---|
| | | | | (A) or (D) | Price | | |
| | | | | Code | V | Amount | |
| Common Stock | 03/17/2006 | | M | | 20,000 | A | \$ 23.0312 66,668 D |
| Common Stock | 03/17/2006 | | S | | 18,550 | D | \$ 32.535 48,118 D |
| Common Stock | 03/17/2006 | | F | | 1,450 | D | \$ 32.535 46,668 D |
| Common Stock | 03/20/2006 | | M | | 1,058 | A | \$ 32.615 47,726 D |
| Common Stock | 03/20/2006 | | S | | 975 | D | \$ 23.0312 46,751 D |

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| | | | | | | | | |
|--------------|------------|---|----------------------|---|------------|--------|---|------------|
| Common Stock | 03/20/2006 | F | 83 | D | \$ 23.0312 | 46,668 | D | |
| Common Stock | 03/20/2006 | J | V 171 ⁽¹⁾ | A | \$ 0 | 5,757 | I | 401k Trust |
| Common Stock | 03/20/2006 | J | V 3 ⁽²⁾ | A | \$ 0 | 298 | 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.

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(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 Securities (Instr. 3 and 4) |
|--|--|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|--|---|
| | | | | Code | V (A) (D) | Date Exercisable Expiration Date | Title Amount or Number of Shares |
| Employee Stock Option (right to buy) | \$ 23.0312 | 03/17/2006 | | M | 20,000 | 12/10/1999 12/11/2008 | Common Stock 20,000 |
| Employee Stock Option (right to buy) | \$ 23.0312 | 03/20/2006 | | M | 1,058 | 12/10/1999 12/11/2008 | Common Stock 1,058 |

Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address | Relationships | | | |
|---|---------------|-----------|-----------------------------|-------|
| | Director | 10% Owner | Officer | Other |
| BECK JAMES A 1201 LOUISIANA STREET SUITE 400 HOUSTON, TX 77002 | | | President, Seneca Resources | |

Signatures

James R. Peterson, Attorney
in Fact

03/21/2006

__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 acquisitions under the NFG 401k Plan exempt under Rule 16b-3(c), a non-reportable transaction
- (2) Routine acquisitions under the ESOP Plan exempt under Rule 16b-3(c), a non-reportable transaction.

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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