

BECK JAMES A
Form 4
January 21, 2005

FORM 4

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

OMB APPROVAL

OMB Number: 3235-0287
Expires: January 31, 2005
Estimated average burden hours per response... 0.5

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)
01/19/2005

____ 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) | | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|---|--|---|--------|---|------------|
| | | | Code | V | Amount | (A) or (D) | Price | | | |
| Common Stock | 01/19/2005 | | M | | 2,344 | A | \$ 21.3281 | 47,307 | D | |
| Common Stock | 01/19/2005 | | F | | 1,803 | D | \$ 27.72 | 45,504 | D | |
| Common Stock | 01/19/2005 | | J | V | 77 ⁽¹⁾ | A | \$ 0 | 4,107 | I | 401k Trust |
| Common Stock | 01/19/2005 | | J | V | 3 ⁽²⁾ | A | \$ 0 | 287 | 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)

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 (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 | \$ 21.3281 | 01/19/2005 | | M | 2,344 | 02/17/2001 | 02/17/2010 | Common stock | 2,344 |

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 01/20/2005

**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 NFG ESOP Plan exempt under Rule 16-b-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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