

BECK JAMES A  
Form 4  
January 21, 2005

**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)  
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 <sup>(1)</sup>	A	\$ 0	4,107	I	401k Trust
Common Stock	01/19/2005		J	V	3 <sup>(2)</sup>	A	\$ 0	287	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 (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)	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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