

Cabell Matthew D  
 Form 4  
 December 23, 2008

**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 \*  
 Cabell Matthew D

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  
 (Street)

3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)  
 12/22/2008

\_\_\_\_ Director \_\_\_\_\_ 10% Owner  
 Officer (give title below) \_\_\_\_\_ Other (specify below)  
 President-Seneca Resources

HOUSTON, TX 77002  
 (City) (State) (Zip)

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

**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 Ownership (Instr. 4) |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|---|--|--|
| Common Stock                    |                                      |  |                                | (A) or (D) Price  | 42,000  | D  |  |
| Common Stock                    | 12/22/2008                           |  | J V                            | 37 <sup>(1)</sup> A \$ 0 364                                      |   | I  | 401k Trust                                 |

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

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**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 |
| Stock Appreciation Right                   | \$ 29.88   | 12/22/2008                           |  | A                              | 60,000  | <u>(2)</u>   | 12/22/2018  | Common Stock | 60,000                     |

## Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address  | Relationships |           |                            |       |
|---|---------------|-----------|----------------------------|-------|
|   | Director      | 10% Owner | Officer                    | Other |
| Cabell Matthew D<br>1201 LOUISIANA STREET<br>SUITE 400<br>HOUSTON, TX 77002 |               |           | President-Seneca Resources |       |

## Signatures

James R. Peterson, Attorney  
in Fact

12/23/2008

\*\*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 acquisition under the NFG 401(k) Plan Trust, exempt under Rule 16b-3(c), a non-reportable transaction.

(2) Represents the award of 60,000 SAR's which become exercisable in three equal annual installments beginning December 22, 2009 based on National Fuel Gas Company's satisfaction of certain performance criteria for each fiscal year end 2009, 2010 and 2011. 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.