



National Fuel's Area Development Program Provides Assistance to Southern Tier Company

(February 14, 2008) Williamsville, New York: National Fuel Gas Distribution Corporation, the Utility segment of National Fuel Gas Company, announces the award of a \$20,000 grant to Genesee Outfitters, Inc., as part of its Area Development Program. The Area Development Program was created in June 2006 to fund natural gas-related projects in western New York that meet certain criteria. Since its inception, National Fuel's Area Development Program has awarded 31 grants, amounting to more than \$800,000 to area companies.

Genesee Outfitters, Inc., received a \$20,000 grant to help facilitate the installation of a natural gas pipeline infrastructure at its Jamestown, N.Y., facility. Genesee Outfitters focuses on growing public awareness and participation in the outdoor sports like hunting and fishing.

National Fuel's Area Development Program makes available up to \$750,000 a year for natural gas-related projects that meet at least one of the following criteria:

- Stimulate investment in infrastructure for the development of under-utilized industrial or commercial property, including, but not limited to, brownfield sites or brownfield opportunity areas.
- Create new or higher-value employment opportunities.
- Provide workforce training (or retraining) to assure that higher-value skills are available to the workforce when needed.
- Stimulate the expenditure of private investment in direct capital expenditures needed to expand employment opportunities.

The application period for the 2008 program year is open and businesses in western New York are encouraged to apply if a project meeting one or more of the criteria outlined is being developed. For more information on the Area Development Program, or to request an application for a grant, call the Energy Services department at (716) 857-7776 or visit www.nationalfuelgas.com and look for 'Economic Development Programs' under the 'For Business' section.

National Fuel Gas Distribution Corporation, the Utility segment of National Fuel Gas Company, provides natural gas service to more than 500,000 customers in western New York and more than 200,000 customers in northwestern Pennsylvania. For more information on the Area Development Program, or to request an application for a grant, call the Energy Services department at (716) 857-7776 or visit www.nationalfuelgas.com and look for 'Economic Development Programs' under the 'For Business' section.