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## **Seneca Resources Named Operator of the Year by California's Bureau of Land Management**

**Focus on environmental best practices and responsible development is honored**

(Oct. 22, 2012) WILLIAMSVILLE, N.Y. – Seneca Resources Corporation (“Seneca”), the wholly owned exploration and production subsidiary of National Fuel Gas Company (NYSE: NFG) (“National Fuel” or the “Company”) was recognized as the Bureau of Land Management’s (“BLM”) 2012 California Operator of the Year at the 2012 Oil and Gas Conference in Bakersfield, Calif., last week.

This award honors a California operator that utilizes best management practices which help achieve safe and environmentally responsible resource development. The acknowledgement is also based on overall lease operation and lease compliance.

“This award not only highlights our ongoing operations in the Sespe, Calif., Oilfield, but also recognizes the efforts of our team to minimize the impact to the environment,” said Brad Elliott, Vice President of Seneca’s west division. “Our team has done a remarkable job to reduce the footprint of our surface facilities in Sespe.”

Over the past three years, Seneca has adopted technology and other best practices to reduce its tank farms and pipelines in the field. Seneca has also adopted measures to provide a safer nesting environment for California condors and a restoration program designed to help equipment better blend into the surrounding environment.

“National Fuel and Seneca Resources have a personal stake in the communities where we operate,” said David F. Smith, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of National Fuel Gas Company. “This is why we employ environmental best practices in our drilling programs and operations; why we apply the highest ethical standards to all of our activities and consistently take the long view in our business decisions.”

In presenting the award to Seneca, BLM California State Director Jim Kenna said, “You have worked diligently to replace old flowlines that have reduced both your footprint and the risk of oil spills. We truly appreciate the exceptional work of your staff in making your operation both efficient and environmentally friendly. Thanks to your efforts, we are demonstrating that oil and gas development can be done responsibly, using the most current best management practices to reduce your impact to natural resources.”

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Seneca Resources has provided California energy and California jobs for more than 25 years. Its area of operation includes 11,833 net acres, 1,322 net wells and production of 9,300 barrels of oil equivalent per day, making Seneca the seventh largest producer in the state.

The BLM manages 15.2 million acres of surface and 47 million acres of mineral estate in California. Every day more than 500,000 barrels of oil are produced in California. As a state, California is the fifth largest oil producer; only Alaska, Texas, North Dakota and Louisiana produce more. Considering BLM administered leases nationwide, California BLM is the fourth largest producer.

National Fuel is an integrated energy company with \$5.8 billion in assets comprised of the following four operating segments: Exploration and Production, Pipeline and Storage, Utility, and Energy Marketing. Additional information about National Fuel is available at [www.nationalfuelgas.com](http://www.nationalfuelgas.com) or through its investor information service at 1-800-334-2188.