Empire Connector Pipeline Project Complete

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Project had significant economic benefits for the community

(December 15, 2008) Williamsville, New York: National Fuel Gas Company's ("National Fuel" or "Company") (NYSE: NFG) wholly owned subsidiary, Empire Pipeline, Inc. ("Empire"), has , placed its Empire Connector pipeline in service. The construction of the pipeline was completed earlier this month, however, certain weather-dependent restoration activities will continue.

"We are pleased to announce that this new pipeline has been brought into service," said David F. Smith, President and Chief Executive Officer of National Fuel. "The value represented by the location of our Pipeline and Storage assets and the growth opportunities this segment holds are well demonstrated with this project."

The Empire Connector Project expanded the 157-mile long Empire State Pipeline by about 77 miles. Project costs are estimated to be approximately $187 million. Extending from Victor, N.Y., to Corning, N.Y., the Empire Connector links the existing Empire State Pipeline that runs from an interconnection with TransCanada Pipeline near Buffalo, N.Y., to Syracuse, N.Y., to the Millennium Pipeline project. A 20,000 horsepower compressor station was built as part of the Empire Connector Project. The compressor station, located in Oakfield, N.Y., increases the pipeline's ability to deliver gas along the expanded pipeline system. The Empire Connector and Millennium Pipelines are part of a significant expansion project designed to bring energy supplies to the Northeast. Once completed later this month, these projects, along with the Algonquin Gas Transmission, LLC and Iroquois Gas Transmission System, L.P. expansion projects, will provide a total of 525,400 dekatherms per day (dth/d) of new natural gas supply to growing markets in the Northeast. These pipeline projects will allow natural gas to flow from increasingly important and substantial North American supply basins to markets in the Northeast – serving customers in central and western New York along the way.

The Empire Connector construction project is not only an important expansion of the infrastructure that provides natural gas service to hundreds of thousands of customers, it has also left a positive economic imprint on the communities along the route. The project created more than 800 jobs with approximately 420 full-time construction jobs, 70 percent of which were filled with workers from the region.

"The full economic impact of a project of this magnitude is difficult to quantify as the benefits are far-reaching. Dozens and dozens of workers took up residence in the project community during our two-year construction cycle and those who regularly traveled in and out the region were using local merchants on a daily basis. Our crews didn't just work in this area, they were in these communities full-time, renting housing and purchasing everything from construction materials to work boots and groceries," said Ronald C. Kraemer, President of Empire. "We are grateful for the tremendous cooperation and hospitality we received from the residents in the project area and continue our pledge to be a good neighbor to them for many, many years to come," Kraemer added.

Though the pipeline construction is now complete, property restoration will continue into the spring and summer of 2009. Additionally, Empire will continue to monitor previously restored land along the pipeline route until it has been restored to its original or better condition.

Should property owners have any questions regarding environmental mitigation or property restoration issues, they can contact Dick Miga, Manager, Land Department, at 1-800-404-5248, extension 7769 or the Project's Field Ombudsman, Jeff Grice, at 1-866-405-3394. During weekend hours, or in case of an emergency, please call 814-730-3585. Every attempt will be made to respond to all inquiries within 24 hours and, in all cases, a response will be offered within 72 hours.

National Fuel is an integrated energy company with $4.1 billion in assets comprised of the following five operating segments: Utility, Pipeline and Storage, Exploration and Production, Energy Marketing, and Timber. Additional information about National Fuel is available at http://www.nationalfuelgas.com or through its investor information service at 1-800-334-2188.

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