



Payment Assistance Programs are Available for Western New York Families in need of Help with their Heating Bills

(July 21, 2009) Williamsville, N.Y.: National Fuel Gas Distribution Corporation (“the Utility”) today reminds its customers that help with this year’s heating bills is still available through the Neighbor For Neighbor Heat Fund and other assistance programs offered by the Utility.

The Neighbor For Neighbor Heat Fund, a first-come, first-served home-heating assistance grant program is open to provide assistance to elderly and disabled western New Yorkers to pay for energy-related expenses. This fund was established by National Fuel in 1983 and has offered grants totaling more than \$4.1 million for nearly 16,000 persons.

In order to qualify for a grant from the Neighbor For Neighbor Heat Fund, an applicant must be 60 years old or older OR they or a member of their household is handicapped or has a disability that reduces the household’s income OR has a certified medical emergency. Applicants must have made at least six payments to their heating bill within a 12-month period from the date of application, and monthly income and expenses will need to be verified. Applicants must reside in National Fuel’s service territory, however, they are not required to be a National Fuel customer.

Eligible families or individuals in need of payment assistance are encouraged to contact The Salvation Army at (716) 883-9800, extension 230, the Chautauqua County Office For the Aging at (716) 753-4471, or Catholic Charities at (716) 856-4494 to find the nearest agency and determine the necessary documentation to bring to the application interview. National Fuel does not process grant applications. The Neighbor For Neighbor Heat Fund is funded with generous contributions from National Fuel Gas Company, its customers and employees and other private entities.

The Utility also offers other programs and services and referrals to other third-party assistance programs to customers who are struggling with their heating bills; to find out more, call 1-800-365-3234 between 7:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m., Monday through Friday or visit www.nationalfuelgas.com and look under the “For Home” section of the Web site. If you are having any difficulty paying your bill, call us as soon as possible. Our experienced representatives can work with you and will help you find a payment plan or an assistance program to help you.

National Fuel Gas Distribution Corporation comprises the Utility segment of National Fuel Gas Company, a diversified energy holding company that is engaged in a number of natural gas-related activities. The Utility provides natural gas service to approximately 500,000 customers in western New York. Additional information about National Fuel and its customer services is available at www.nationalfuelgas.com or by calling **1 (800) 365-3234**.