

NATIONAL FUEL GAS DISTRIBUTION CORPORATION
2022-2023 Winter Readiness Overview
October 31, 2022

The first day of winter is approaching, and National Fuel Gas Distribution Corporation (“National Fuel”) has been busy preparing for another safe winter season.

1. Winter Readiness

National Fuel’s distribution system is designed and operated with safety and reliability as our primary goal. National Fuel’s continuing pipeline surveillance programs are designed to ensure safety during winter conditions through increased leak inspections during frost conditions and increased patrolling during severe weather events.

National Fuel’s Gas Control Operations Center monitors and controls gas system pressures and flows at numerous locations through a state-of-the-art control system. The system utilizes an array of remote sensors and pressure alarms located throughout our service area to ensure system reliability.

Thorough preparation for the heating season is another important component of system safety and reliability. Preparation begins at the end of the previous heating season when our operations and engineering personnel review system operations from the past winter to identify any reliability enhancing system improvement projects for the upcoming construction season. National Fuel also performs a variety of leak surveys and inspections throughout the spring and summer months. Through our comprehensive preventive maintenance programs and pipeline replacement program, we ensure that our system is ready for the upcoming heating season.

Additionally, National Fuel’s automated dispatch system allows us to respond quickly to winter emergencies as well as emergencies year-round. National Fuel dispatchers are available to send out emergency orders 24 hours a day, 7 days per week throughout the entire year. This level of responsiveness is crucial during the cold winter months. In the event that our Pennsylvania Call Center or Dispatch office is impacted by severe weather, National Fuel has the capability to route calls to its New York Call Center to assist or take over customer support and dispatch operations.

Even with extensive planning and preparation, we recognize that extreme weather events can necessitate immediate responsive measures. In the event of an extreme weather event or natural disaster, National Fuel can respond with personnel and equipment from twelve utility operating centers located throughout Northwest Pennsylvania and ten operating centers in Western New York. National Fuel also maintains emergency contracts with several qualified construction firms located throughout our service area. These contracts allow us to bring in additional labor and equipment to quickly resolve problems. As a member of the Energy Association of Pennsylvania, Northeast Gas Association and the American Gas Association, National Fuel also participates in Mutual Aid Programs that allow companies to call on other utilities for assistance in the event of an emergency.

2. Employee Safety/Readiness

Safety is a core value at National Fuel and our employees are trained and equipped to respond safely to emergencies or other customer needs in winter months. Additionally, employees receive routine safety coaching from their team leaders, and vehicles are inspected and prepared for winter conditions. Specialized winter footwear for enhanced traction is provided, and National Fuel employees are ready to respond to customers' needs in all weather conditions.

3. Communications Outreach

National Fuel is committed to increasing customer awareness about winter heating costs and safe home heating and educating customers about the availability of low-income programs. During the fall and winter months, National Fuel utilizes a variety of outreach methods to provide customers with important information about gas costs, smart energy use and the availability of assistance programs, including the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program, and other services including third-party notification and budget billing. National Fuel also provides customer communications on various safety issues, including dangers and symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning, severe weather and flooding, Smell Gas Leave Fast, meter safety, and 811/Call Before You Dig. National Fuel has procedures in place to notify customers and community officials in the event of an outage or other emergency situations. Both outreach and notification methods include news releases/media advisories, social media and website postings, advertisements via outdoor signage, local media outlets, and radio and television notifications. National Fuel partners with local relief agencies and maintains close contact with elected and regulatory officials regarding winter emergencies. This is accomplished through personal outreach, staff workshops, and follow-up communication. National Fuel works with public officials to respond to constituent concerns regarding winter heating needs and shares educational materials with legislative offices for distribution to their constituents. Specifically relating to pandemic response, National Fuel expanded its outreach efforts to communicate with customers about the availability of new and traditional payment assistance programs. National Fuel also increased its advertising spending to produce more consumer-targeted and longer-running campaigns.

4. Gas Supply and Planning

Key components to National Fuel's reliable winter service include managing a mix of pipeline and storage capacity assets, contracting for firm gas supplies, and monitoring Natural Gas Supplier ("NGS") performance. On November 1, 2022, National Fuel projects it will have filled 98% of its 9.6 million Dths of contracted storage capacity with the remaining 2% retained for injecting excess deliveries on warmer days during early winter. National Fuel has entered into contracts with a variety of suppliers for up to 112,483 Dths per day of firm winter gas supplies delivered into its pipeline transportation capacity. National Fuel also releases firm storage and pipeline capacity assets to the NGSs in its Customer Choice program.

Overall, National Fuel and the NGSs are prepared to meet the demand requirements of a Design Day of -9 °F.

5. Natural Gas Demand from Electric Generators

National Fuel does not expect fuel availability to be an issue most days of the upcoming winter heating season. National Fuel provides firm transportation service to the natural gas fired generators connected to its system. During peak periods, however, National Fuel will be focusing on ensuring that suppliers serving the natural gas fired generators are delivering gas to the system as a condition of delivery service. In addition, as permitted by and subject to FERC Order 787, National Fuel stands by ready to communicate with natural gas fired generators, their suppliers and PJM Interconnection and may adjust our operating procedures for suppliers accordingly.