

**PENNSYLVANIA  
PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION  
Harrisburg, PA 17120**

Public Meeting held December 18, 2025

Commissioners Present:

Stephen M. DeFrank, Chairman  
Kimberly Barrow, Vice Chair  
Kathryn L. Zerfuss  
John F. Coleman, Jr.  
Ralph V. Yanora

Application for Approval of Abandonment of  
Service by National Fuel Gas Distribution  
Corporation to One Active Residential Premises  
Located in Pine Creek Township, Jefferson County,  
Pennsylvania

Docket Number:  
A-2025-3057897

**ORDER**

**BY THE COMMISSION:**

On October 9, 2025, National Fuel Gas Distribution Corporation (National Fuel), Utility Code 121850, filed the above-captioned Application seeking a Certificate of Public Convenience authorizing it to abandon natural gas distribution service to one active residential premises, located in Pine Creek Township, Jefferson County, Pennsylvania. The Application was filed pursuant to Section 1102(a)(2) of the Public Utility Code, 66 Pa. C.S. §1102(a)(2). For the reasons expressed herein, the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (Commission) approves National Fuel's Application to abandon natural gas services to the premises.

National Fuel is a public utility corporation organized and existing under the laws of the State of New York. National Fuel is engaged in the business of selling and distributing natural gas to retail customers within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. National Fuel provides retail natural gas service to approximately 214,000 customers in 14 counties of Pennsylvania, pursuant to certificates of public convenience granted by the Commission.

National Fuel states that the premises receives service from the company under the Residential Service Rate Schedule, at the rates specified in the company's Tariff applicable to the residential rate classification. National Fuel further states that, although the premises receives service from the company, the premises is not served through National Fuel's low-pressure or medium-pressure system or mains. Instead, the premises is served by an older gathering system (Pipeline or System) owned by National Fuel Gas Supply Corporation (National Supply). Application ¶¶5-6.

National Fuel states that it has received information from National Supply indicating that the System providing natural gas service to the premises is nearing the end of its productive life. National Fuel also states that it has responded to multiple no-gas and low-pressure service calls to the premises in recent years. Accordingly, National Fuel states that the System serving the premises is no longer viable and National Supply intends to abandon it. Application ¶¶7-9.

National Fuel states that based on the above facts, it will be unable to provide the premises with reliable natural gas service in the future. The company explains that this Application was prompted by National Supply's notice of its intention to retire the Pipeline. National Fuel states that upon receiving this information, it advised National Supply that Commission approval must be obtained prior to taking any action that could jeopardize the receipt of natural gas service at the premises, which National Supply acknowledged. National Fuel further states that it investigated the possibility of extending its existing mainline facilities to serve the premises, and met with the customer to discuss available

options, including conducting an energy audit and offering buyout compensation to assist with the customer's conversion to an alternative energy source, contingent upon Commission approval of the abandonment. Application ¶¶10-11.

National Fuel states that in order to provide service once the Pipeline is abandoned, it investigated the possibility of extending its existing mainlines to directly serve the premises. National Fuel indicates that such service would require the installation of 10,300 feet of 2" plastic mainline at an estimated construction cost of approximately \$976,300. Application ¶12.

National Fuel states that when considering the \$976,300 facility installation option, the customer's projected annual revenue of \$559.75 does not economically justify the project. National Fuel notes that the customer is not near any significant number of additional potential customers, nor is further development in the area likely to occur in the foreseeable future. Application ¶¶15-16.

National Fuel states that a qualified third-party energy contractor has confirmed that alternative heating fuels are available to the customer. National Fuel further indicates that it has offered compensation to assist with the customer's energy conversion, subject to the approval of this Application and that the customer has agreed to the compensation. Application ¶¶17-18.

Accordingly, National Fuel requests that the Commission issue a Certificate of Public Convenience pursuant to 66 Pa. C.S. § 1102(a)(2) permitting it to abandon natural gas distribution service to the premises located in Pine Creek Township, Jefferson County, Pennsylvania.

National Fuel concludes that approval of its application is necessary and proper for the following reasons:

- 1) The continuation of natural gas service to the premises is not in the public interest given the decline in service reliability and the end-of-life status of the Pipeline serving the premises.
- 2) The incremental cost to connect the premises to its existing distribution system cannot be justified since it would result in a significant revenue shortfall.
- 3) National Fuel has reached an agreement with the owner of the premises for compensation to convert to alternative sources of energy.

Notice of the filing of this Application was published in the *Pennsylvania Bulletin* on Saturday, October 25, 2025. National Fuel published notice of this application in the area newspapers<sup>1</sup> on October 30, 2025, and the notarized proof of publication was furnished to the Commission on November 12, 2025. No protests were filed, and no hearings were held.

Upon full consideration of the facts presented in this case, we concur with National Fuel Gas Distribution Corporation's reasons for abandonment of the premises located in Pine Creek Township, Jefferson County, Pennsylvania, and agree that it is neither reasonable nor prudent to extend facilities to serve the premises. Therefore, we approve National Fuel Gas Distribution Company's Application to abandon natural gas service to the one active residential premises. However, we note that the abandonment shall be completed in accordance with 52 Pa Code §§56.91 - 56.100; **THEREFORE,**

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<sup>1</sup> The Jeffersonian Democrat.

**IT IS ORDERED:**

1. That the Application for Approval of Abandonment of Service by National Fuel Gas Distribution Corporation to the one active residential premises located in Pine Creek Township, Jefferson County, Pennsylvania is hereby approved.

2. That a Certificate of Public Convenience be issued pursuant to 66 Pa. C.S. § 1102(a)(2) authorizing National Fuel Gas Distribution Corporation to abandon natural gas distribution service to one active residential premises located in Pine Creek Township, Jefferson County, Pennsylvania as discussed in the body of this Order.

3. That within ten days following the abandonment of natural gas distribution service to the one active residential premises, National Fuel Gas Distribution Corporation shall file a verified Notice of Abandonment with this Commission at Docket No. A-2025-3057897, containing the following information:

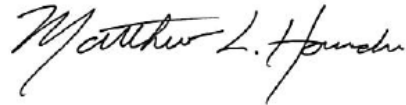
- (a) The completion date for the abandonment of gas service to the one active residential premises;
- (b) A statement explaining how compliance with 49 C.F.R. § 192.727 relating to abandonment or deactivation of facilities was completed; and
- (c) A copy of the verified Notice of Abandonment shall also be served upon the Gas Safety Division of this Commission's Bureau of Investigation and Enforcement.

4. That a copy of this Order shall be served upon National Fuel Gas Distribution Corporation, the Commission's Bureau of Investigation and Enforcement – Gas Safety Division, the Office of Small Business Advocate, the Office of Consumer Advocate, and the

owner of the one active residential premises located in Pine Creek Township, Jefferson County, Pennsylvania.

5. That upon filing of the notice mentioned in Ordering Paragraph 3, above, this case be marked closed.

**BY THE COMMISSION,**

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Matthew L. Homsher".

Matthew L. Homsher  
Secretary

(SEAL)

ORDER ADOPTED: December 18, 2025

ORDER ENTERED: December 18, 2025