

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

Public Meeting held March 26, 2026

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 Two Active Residential Premises
Located in Pine Creek Township, Jefferson County,
Pennsylvania

Docket Number:
A-2026-3059992

ORDER

BY THE COMMISSION:

On January 21, 2026, 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 two 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, although the premises receive service from National Fuel, the premises are not served by the company's low- or medium-pressure distribution system or mains. Instead, the premises receive service from a legacy gathering system, including a well line (collectively, the Pipeline or the System), which is owned by National Fuel Gas Supply Corporation (National Supply). National Fuel states that one of the premises receives service from the company under the Residential Service Rate Schedule, at the rates specified in the company's Tariff. The other premises receives service from the company under Rule 5A of the company's Tariff - Special Utility Service, whereby the premises receives an allotted annual volume of gas from a natural gas well of 200 Mcf/year, pursuant to the Reserved Gas Allotment, through a company-owned meter, with no company distribution charges being assessed. 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 further states that its records support National Supply's representation regarding the System's declining production, adding that since November 2024, it has responded to six "No Gas / Low" Pressure service calls to the premises. Accordingly, National Fuel states that the System serving the premises is no longer viable and National Supply intends to abandon it. Application ¶¶7-10.

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 National Fuel owned mainlines to serve the premises, and met with the customers to discuss available options, including conducting an energy audit and offering buyout compensation to assist with the customers' conversion to an alternative energy source, contingent upon Commission approval of the abandonment. Application ¶¶11.

National Fuel states that provision of service once the Pipeline is abandoned would require installation of 25,714 feet of 2-inch plastic mainline at an estimated construction cost of approximately \$1,486,000. Application ¶¶12. The company states that when considering the \$1,486,000 facility installation option, the customers' combined projected annual revenue of \$613.73 does not economically justify the project. National Fuel further notes that the premises are not located 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 customers. Therefore, the company submits that it has offered compensation to assist with the customers' energy conversion, contingent upon Commission approval of this Application, and that the customers have agreed to the compensation. National Fuel has provided signed copies of the agreements. Application ¶¶17-18 and Exhibit B.

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 two 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 owners of the two premises for compensation to convert them to alternative sources of energy.

Notice of the filing of this Application was published in the *Pennsylvania Bulletin* on Saturday, February 7, 2026. National Fuel also published notice of the Application in a newspaper¹ of general circulation in the affected area on January 31, 2026. 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 two premises located in Pine Creek Township, Jefferson County, Pennsylvania, and agree that it is neither reasonable nor prudent to extend facilities to serve the two premises. Therefore, we approve National Fuel Gas Distribution Corporation's Application to abandon natural gas service to the two active residential premises. However, we note that the abandonment shall be completed in accordance with 52 Pa. Code §§56.91-56.100; **THEREFORE,**

¹ *The Punxsutawney Spirit*.

IT IS ORDERED:

1. That the Application for Approval of Abandonment of Service by National Fuel Gas Distribution Corporation to the two 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 two 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 two active residential premises, National Fuel Gas Distribution Corporation shall file a verified Notice of Abandonment with this Commission at Docket No. A-2026-3059992, containing the following information:

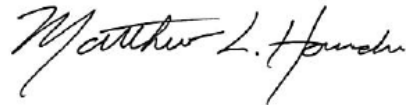
- (a) The completion date for the abandonment of gas service to the two active residential premises;
- (b) A statement explaining how compliance with 49 C.F.R. § 192.727 relating to abandonment or deactivation of facilities was completed; and
- (c) A copy of the verified Notice of Abandonment shall also 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

owners of the two active 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: March 26, 2026

ORDER ENTERED: March 26, 2026