



**National Fuel's Area Development Program Provides
Assistance to WNY-based Companies
Program is now accepting grant applications**

(June 26, 2007) Williamsville, New York: National Fuel Gas Distribution Corporation, the Utility segment of National Fuel Gas Company, announces the award of some recent grants from its Area Development Program. The Area Development Program was created in June 2006 to fund natural gas-related projects in western New York that meet certain criteria. Since its inception, National Fuel's Area Development Program has awarded 13 grants, amounting to more than \$500,000, to area companies.

A check presentation will be held on Thursday, June 28, 2007, at 2 p.m., at Washington Mills, in Tonawanda, N.Y. Washington Mills is the recipient of a \$32,000 grant that helped fund the expansion of its Tonawanda, N.Y., operations.

National Fuel's Area Development Program makes available up to \$750,000 a year for natural gas-related projects that meet at least one of the following criteria:

- Stimulate investment in infrastructure for the development of under-utilized industrial or commercial property, including, but not limited to, brownfield sites or brownfield opportunity areas.
- Create new or higher-value employment opportunities.
- Provide workforce training (or retraining) to assure that higher-value skills are available to the workforce when needed.
- Stimulate the expenditure of private investment in direct capital expenditures needed to expand employment opportunities.

Included among the companies receiving awards from the Area Development Program are the Special Metals Corporation and Washington Mills. The Special Metals Corporation received a \$108,000 grant that was used to help fund the installation of new natural gas pipelines as part of the expansion of its industrial plant. The project included the growth of Special Metals' current building structure by 8,500 square feet, the purchase of new machinery and equipment, as well as the creation of up to 45 high-skilled employment opportunities that will include work-force training. Special Metals is an industrial manufacturer, located in Dunkirk, N.Y.

Washington Mills received a \$32,000 grant to help fund the expansion of its operations at its Tonawanda, N.Y., facility. The grant was used to help finance the installation of a natural gas-fired air compressor with waste heat recovery. This equipment is part of the company's growth plan and will require additions to its workforce at the facility. Washington Mills is one of the world's largest producers of abrasives and fused mineral products.

The application period for the 2007 program year is now open and businesses in western New York are encouraged to apply if a project meeting one or more of the criteria outlined is being developed. For more information on the Area Development Program, or to request an application for a grant, call the Energy Services department at (716) 857-7776 or visit www.nationalfuelgas.com and look for 'Economic Development Programs' under the 'For Business' section.



A check presentation is to be held on Thursday, June 28, 2007, at 2 p.m., at Washington Mills. Representatives from National Fuel and Washington Mills will be at the Washington Mills facility, located at 1000 East Niagara Street, Tonawanda, N.Y., at 2 p.m., for a check presentation. Interview and photo opportunities will be offered to attending media.

National Fuel Gas Distribution Corporation, the Utility segment of National Fuel Gas Company, provides natural gas service to more than 500,000 customers in western New York and more than 200,000 customers in northwestern Pennsylvania. For more information on the Area Development Program, or to request an application for a grant, call the Energy Services department at (716) 857-7776 or visit www.nationalfuelgas.com and look for 'Economic Development Programs' under the 'For Business' section.