

NATIONAL FUEL GAS CO  
Form DFAN14A  
January 17, 2008

**UNITED STATES  
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
Washington, D.C. 20549  
SCHEDULE 14A  
Proxy Statement Pursuant to Section 14(a) of the Securities  
Exchange Act of 1934**

Filed by the Registrant

Filed by a Party other than the Registrant

Check the appropriate box:

- Preliminary Proxy Statement
- Confidential, for Use of the Commission Only (as permitted by Rule14a-6(e)(2))**
- Definitive Proxy Statement
- Definitive Additional Materials
- Soliciting Material Pursuant to §240.14a-12

**NATIONAL FUEL GAS COMPANY**

(Name of Registrant as Specified in its Charter)

New Mountain Vantage GP, L.L.C.  
New Mountain Vantage, L.P.  
New Mountain Vantage (California), L.P.  
New Mountain Vantage (Texas), L.P.  
New Mountain Vantage Advisers, L.L.C.  
New Mountain Vantage (Cayman) Ltd.  
New Mountain Vantage HoldCo Ltd.  
Mr. Steven B. Klinsky  
NMV Special Holdings, LLC  
California Public Employees Retirement System  
F. Fox Benton, III  
David M. DiDomenico  
Frederic V. Salerno

(Name of Person(s) Filing Proxy Statement, if other than the Registrant)

---

Payment of Filing Fee (Check the appropriate box):

- No fee required
- Fee computed on table below per Exchange Act Rules 14a-6(i)(1) and 0-11.
  - (1) Title of each class of securities to which transaction applies:
  - (2) Aggregate number of securities to which transaction applies:
  - (3) Per unit price or other underlying value of transaction computed pursuant to Exchange Act Rule 0-11 (set forth the amount on which the filing fee is calculated and state how it was determined):
  - (4) Proposed maximum aggregate value of transaction:
  - (5) Total fee paid:
- Fee paid previously with preliminary materials:
- Check box if any part of the fee is offset as provided by Exchange Act Rule 0-11(a)(2) and identify the filing for which the offsetting fee was paid previously. Identify the previous filing by registration statement number, or the Form or Schedule and the date of its filing.
  - (1) Amount Previously Paid:
  - (2) Form, Schedule or Registration Statement No.:
  - (3) Filing Party:
  - (4) Date Filed:

On January 17, 2008, New Mountain Vantage Advisers, L.L.C. ( Vantage ) began mailing a letter to shareholders of National Fuel Gas Company. A copy of the letter is attached as Exhibit 1.  
In addition, on January 17, 2008, Vantage issued a press release, a copy of which is attached as Exhibit 2. The press release was also posted to <http://www.buildnfgvalue.com>.