

NATIONAL FUEL GAS CO
Form 8-K
December 22, 2017

UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM 8-K

CURRENT REPORT

Pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

Date of Report (Date of earliest event reported): December 20, 2017

NATIONAL FUEL GAS COMPANY

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

New Jersey
(State or other jurisdiction

of incorporation)

1-3880
(Commission

File Number)

13-1086010
(IRS Employer

Identification No.)

6363 Main Street, Williamsville, New York
(Address of principal executive offices)

14221
(Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: (716) 857-7000

Former name or former address, if changed since last report: Not Applicable

Check the appropriate box below if the Form 8-K filing is intended to simultaneously satisfy the filing obligation of the registrant under any of the following provisions (*see* General Instruction A.2. below):

Written communications pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act (17 CFR 230.425)

Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14a-12)

Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d-2(b) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14d-2(b))

Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13e-4(c) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.13e-4(c))

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is an emerging growth company as defined in Rule 405 of the Securities Act of 1933 (§230.405 of this chapter) or Rule 12b-2 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (§240.12b-2).

Emerging growth company

If an emerging growth company, indicate by check mark if the registrant has elected not to use the extended transition period for complying with any new or revised financial accounting standards provided pursuant to Section 13(a) of the Exchange Act.

Item 5.02 Departure of Directors or Certain Officers; Election of Directors; Appointment of Certain Officers; Compensatory Arrangements of Certain Officers.

Performance Shares with Relative Total Return on Capital Performance Goal

On December 20, 2017, the Compensation Committee of the Board of Directors of National Fuel Gas Company (the Company) made the following grants of performance shares with a performance goal related to relative total return on capital (ROC Performance Shares) to the named executive officers of the Company: R. J. Tanski, 32,162; D. P. Bauer, 4,729; C. M. Carlotti, 6,622; J. P. McGinnis, 7,567; and J. R. Pustulka, 14,189. The grants were made under the Company s 2010 Equity Compensation Plan (the 2010 Plan). A brief description of the principal terms and conditions of the ROC Performance Shares is provided below.

The number of ROC Performance Shares awarded to a named executive officer is referred to as the officer s ROC Target Opportunity. The performance cycle for the ROC Performance Shares is October 1, 2017 through September 30, 2020. Each ROC Performance Share will make the officer eligible to receive, no later than March 15, 2021 but in any event as soon as practicable after the Compensation Committee determines the extent to which the performance goal has been achieved, up to two shares of common stock of the Company (or the equivalent value in cash, as determined by the Committee), provided that the ROC Performance Shares will not vest and will be forfeited to the extent the performance goal is not achieved. No dividend equivalents will be provided in respect of the ROC Performance Shares.

The performance goal for the October 1, 2017 to September 30, 2020 performance cycle is the Company s total return on capital relative to the total return on capital of other companies in a group selected by the Compensation Committee (the Report Group). The Report Group consists of the following companies:

Atmos Energy Corporation

Cabot Oil & Gas Corporation

Energen Corporation

EQT Corporation

MDU Resources Group Inc.

National Fuel Gas Company

New Jersey Resources Corporation

Range Resources Corporation

SM Energy Company

Southwest Gas Corporation

Southwestern Energy Co.

Spire, Inc.

UGI Corporation

WGL Holdings Inc.

Whiting Petroleum Corporation

Total return on capital for a given company means the average of the company's returns on capital for each twelve month period corresponding to each of the Company's fiscal years during the performance cycle, based on data reported for the company in the Bloomberg database at the time of analysis (or, if the Bloomberg database ceases to be available, such alternative publication or service as the Compensation Committee shall designate).

The number of ROC Performance Shares that will vest and be paid will depend upon the Company's performance relative to the Report Group, and not upon the absolute level of return achieved by the Company. The Compensation Committee established five percentile rankings that will determine the number of ROC Performance Shares to vest and be paid: (i) less than 45th, (ii) 45th, (iii) 60th, (iv) 75th, and (v) 100th. These percentile rankings will result in vesting and payment of a percentage of the ROC Target Opportunity, as follows: (i) 0%, (ii) 50%, (iii) 100%, (iv) 150%, and (v) 200%, respectively. For example, if the Company's performance were to place it at the ~~60~~ percentile of the Report Group, then 100% of the ROC Target Opportunity would vest and be paid. For performance between two established performance levels, the percentage of ROC Performance Shares to vest and be paid will be determined by mathematical interpolation. Notwithstanding the above, if the Company's total return on capital is negative, then the percentage of the ROC Target Opportunity to be paid will be capped at 100%. ROC Performance Shares that do not vest will be automatically forfeited when the Compensation Committee makes its determination as to the extent to which the performance goal has been achieved, but no later than March 15, 2021.

Performance Shares with Relative Total Shareholder Return Performance Goal

On December 20, 2017, the Compensation Committee of the Company made the following grants of performance shares with a performance goal related to relative total shareholder return (TSR Performance Shares) to the named executive officers of the Company: R. J. Tanski, 32,162; D. P. Bauer, 4,729; C. M. Carlotti, 6,622; J. P. McGinnis, 7,567; and J. R. Pustulka, 14,189. The grants were made under the 2010 Plan. A brief description of the principal terms and conditions of the TSR Performance Shares is provided below.

The number of TSR Performance Shares awarded to a named executive officer is referred to as the officer's TSR Target Opportunity. The performance cycle for the TSR Performance Shares is October 1, 2017 through September 30, 2020. Each TSR Performance Share will make the officer eligible to receive, no later than March 15, 2021 but in any event as soon as practicable after the Compensation Committee determines the extent to which the performance goal has been achieved, up to two shares of common stock of the Company (or the equivalent value in cash, as determined by the Committee), provided that the TSR Performance Shares will not vest and will be forfeited to the extent the performance goal is not achieved. No dividend equivalents will be provided in respect of the TSR Performance Shares.

The performance goal for the October 1, 2017 to September 30, 2020 performance cycle is the Company's three-year total shareholder return relative to the three-year total shareholder return of the other companies in the Report Group. Three-year total shareholder return for a given company will be based on the data reported for that company (with the starting and ending stock prices over the performance cycle calculated as the average closing stock price for the prior calendar month and with dividends reinvested in that company's securities at each ex-dividend date) in the Bloomberg database at the time of analysis (or, if the Bloomberg database ceases to be available, such alternative publication or service as the Compensation Committee shall designate).

The number of TSR Performance Shares that will vest and be paid will depend upon the Company's performance relative to the Report Group, and not upon the absolute level of return achieved by the Company. The Compensation Committee established five percentile rankings that will determine the number of TSR Performance Shares to vest and be paid: (i) 30th or below, (ii) 40th, (iii) 50th, (iv) 70th, and (v) 90th or above. These percentile rankings will result in vesting and payment of a percentage of the TSR Target Opportunity, as follows: (i) 0%, (ii) 50%, (iii) 100%, (iv) 150%, and (v) 200%, respectively. For example, if the Company's performance were to place it at the ~~50~~ percentile of the Report Group, then 100% of the TSR Target Opportunity would vest and be paid. For performance between two established performance levels, the

percentage of TSR Performance Shares to vest and be paid will be determined by mathematical interpolation. Notwithstanding the above, if the Company's three-year total shareholder return is negative, then the percentage of the TSR Target Opportunity to be paid will be capped at 100%. TSR Performance Shares that do not vest will be automatically forfeited when the Compensation Committee makes its determination as to the extent to which the performance goal has been achieved, but no later than March 15, 2021.

Restricted Stock Units

On December 20, 2017, the Compensation Committee of the Company made a grant of 4,731 restricted stock units (RSUs) to D. P. Bauer, a named executive officer of the Company. The grant was made under the 2010 Plan. A brief description of the principal terms and conditions of the RSUs is provided below.

An RSU is a right to receive one share of common stock of the Company (or the equivalent value in cash or in a combination of shares and cash, as determined by the Committee) at the end of a specified period of time (the restricted period). Except as otherwise specified in the 2010 Plan or determined by the Compensation Committee, the restricted period will lapse, and the RSUs will vest, in three annual installments, commencing on December 20, 2018. If an officer retires prior to a vesting date, the portion of the officer's RSU grant associated with that vesting date and with all subsequent vesting dates will be automatically forfeited. No dividend equivalents will be provided in respect of the RSUs.

Annual At Risk Compensation Incentive Plan

On December 20, 2017, the Compensation Committee adopted specific written performance goals for fiscal year 2018 under the 2012 Annual At Risk Compensation Incentive Plan (AARCIP) for named executive officers R. J. Tanski, D. P. Bauer, C. M. Carlotti, J. P. McGinnis and J. R. Pustulka. These executives will earn cash compensation in fiscal 2018 under the AARCIP depending upon their performance relative to their goals. Compensation amounts pursuant to these arrangements can range up to 200% of fiscal-year salary for Mr. Tanski, up to 140% of fiscal-year salary for Mr. Bauer, up to 140% of fiscal-year salary for Mr. Carlotti, up to 170% of fiscal-year salary for Mr. McGinnis, and up to 200% of fiscal-year salary for Mr. Pustulka. Target compensation is 110% of fiscal-year salary for Mr. Tanski, 70% of fiscal-year salary for Mr. Bauer, 70% of fiscal-year salary for Mr. Carlotti, 85% of fiscal-year salary for Mr. McGinnis, and 100% of fiscal-year salary for Mr. Pustulka. The Compensation Committee may approve other compensation or awards at its discretion.

The goals for Mr. Tanski relate to Company EBITDA (weighted as 25% of the formula), EBITDA of the Company's pipeline and storage subsidiaries and utility subsidiary (weighted as 20% of the formula), EBITDA of the Company's exploration and production subsidiary (weighted as 20% of the formula), finding and development costs (weighted as 15% of the formula), safety (weighted as 10% of the formula), and health, safety and environmental (weighted as 10% of the formula).

The goals for Mr. Bauer relate to Company EBITDA (weighted as 25% of the formula), EBITDA of the Company's pipeline and storage subsidiaries and utility subsidiary (weighted as 25% of the formula), EBITDA of the Company's exploration and production subsidiary (weighted as 15% of the formula), finding and development costs (weighted as 15% of the formula), safety (weighted as 10% of the formula), and health, safety and environmental (weighted as 10% of the formula).

The goals for Mr. Carlotti relate to Company EBITDA (weighted as 25% of the formula), EBITDA of the Company's pipeline and storage subsidiaries and utility subsidiary (weighted as 25% of the formula), operational safety measures and leak reduction (weighted as 20% of the formula), safety (weighted as 10% of the formula), health, safety and environmental (weighted as 10% of the formula), and customer service (weighted as 10% of the formula).

The goals for Mr. McGinnis relate to Company EBITDA (weighted as 25% of the formula), EBITDA of the Company's exploration and production subsidiary (weighted as 25% of the formula), finding and development costs (weighted as 20% of the formula), health, safety and environmental (weighted as 10% of the formula), lease operating expense (weighted as 10% of the formula), and general and administrative expense of the Company's exploration and production subsidiary (weighted as 10% of the formula).

The goals for Mr. Pustulka relate to Company EBITDA (weighted as 25% of the formula), EBITDA of the Company's pipeline and storage subsidiaries and utility subsidiary (weighted as 25% of the formula), EBITDA of the Company's exploration and production subsidiary (weighted as 20% of the formula), safety (weighted as 10% of the formula), health, safety and environmental (weighted as 10% of the formula), and operational safety measures and leak reduction (weighted as 10% of the formula).

For purposes of the goals, EBITDA is defined in general as operating income plus depreciation, depletion and amortization, and any period-end impairment charges. For each named executive officer, the performance level achieved on each earnings goal will be averaged with the performance level achieved on the prior year's corresponding earnings goal.

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned hereunto duly authorized.

NATIONAL FUEL GAS COMPANY

By: /s/ Sarah J. Mugal
Sarah J. Mugal
Assistant Secretary

Dated: December 22, 2017