



MEDIA ADVISORY

National Fuel Obtains Restraining Order After PUSH Buffalo Storms Offices

(September 21, 2010) Williamsville, N.Y.: People United for Sustainable Housing of Buffalo's ("PUSH") escalating illegal, unprofessional and harassing tactics to promote its narrow agenda against the company led National Fuel Gas Distribution Corporation (the "Utility" or "National Fuel") to seek protection from state Supreme Court Monday.

National Fuel obtained a Temporary Restraining Order against PUSH and its aggressive tactics out of concern for the safety and security of its employees and customers.

"It is unfortunate that PUSH has driven its agenda to such an extreme as to lead us into court to seek protection for the company, its employees, customers and our facilities," said David F. Smith, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer for National Fuel. "We have been an active partner in and donor to community organizations for decades, and we take pride in our record of participation in worthy community causes. In all of these years of service, we have never encountered a group that engages in such disturbing and illegal tactics as PUSH. As a utility with an obligation to serve Western New York customers in an uninterrupted manner, the security of our offices, employees and facilities are paramount. We believe the Order restraining PUSH and its members will enable us to continue to provide reliable gas service to customers throughout Western New York."

Specifically, PUSH and its representatives ignored security and other customers and trespassed at two National Fuel facilities, forcibly trying to enter the Corporate Headquarters as they rushed multiple entrances to the building; PUSH and its representatives made repeated and harassing calls to the home of a National Fuel executive; a PUSH staff member entered the building under false pretenses in an attempt to gain access to company executives; and PUSH and its representatives ignored professional responses from National Fuel in the past nine months—all in order to promote PUSH's limited agenda, which would exclude most customers in National Fuel's 11-county New York service area from participating in a broad-based conservation incentive program.

The company will defend itself against illegal trespassers and take other actions it deems necessary to protect its business until PUSH, its representatives and PUSH's allies comply with the law. National Fuel will continue to operate its business for all customers and will reject PUSH's increasing demands for special, preferential treatment.

"We have repeatedly, and professionally declined to meet with PUSH and explained our reasons," Smith continued. "As PUSH's demands and ultimatums have escalated, so, too, have their tactics. Given the egregious conduct Friday of PUSH, its leaders and members, we will not, under any circumstances, partner with PUSH, nor will we support organizations that do so."

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National Fuel Gas Company is an integrated energy company with \$4.9 billion in assets comprised of the following four operating segments: Exploration and Production, Pipeline and Storage, Utility and Energy Marketing. National Fuel Gas Distribution Corporation, the Utility segment, provides natural gas service to more than 500,000 customers in Western New York. Additional information about the Utility and its customer services is available at www.nationalfuelgas.com or by calling 1-800-365-3234.

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