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Pennsylvania

(For questions 5-8, report the number of shares beneficially owned by each reporting person with:)

5. SOLE VOTING POWER

None

6. SHARED VOTING POWER

5,054,366 Shares

7. SOLE DISPOSITIVE POWER

None

8. SHARED DISPOSITIVE POWER

5,054,366 Shares

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13G

CUSIP No.: 636180101

9. AGGREGATE AMOUNT BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON

5,054,366 Shares

10. CHECK BOX IF THE AGGREGATE AMOUNT IN ROW (9) EXCLUDES CERTAIN SHARES

Not applicable

11. PERCENT OF CLASS REPRESENTED BY AMOUNT IN ROW 9

6.284%

12. TYPE OF REPORTING PERSON

BK

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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

SCHEDULE 13G
UNDER THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

Item 1 (a) - Name of Issuer

National Fuel Gas Company

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Item 1 (b) - Address of Issuer's Principal Executive Officers:

10 Lafayette Square
Buffalo, NY 14203

Item 2 (a) - Name of Person Filing:

Vanguard Fiduciary Trust Company, in its capacity as trustee for
certain employee benefit plan(s).

Item 2 (b) - Address of Principal Business Office or, if none, residence

500 Admiral Nelson Blvd.
Malvern, PA 19355

Item 2 (c) - Citizenship

Pennsylvania

Item 2 (d) - Title of Class of Securities

Common Stock

Item 2 (e) - CUSIP Number

636180101

Item 3 - Type of Filing:

If this statement is filed pursuant to Rule 13d-1(b), or 13d-2(b)
or (c), check whether the person filing is a: (b) X Bank as
defined in Section 3(a)(6) of the Act.

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Item 4 - Ownership:

(a) Amount Beneficially Owned:

5,054,366 Shares

(b) Percent of Class:

6.284%

(c) Number of shares as to which such person has:

(i) sole power to vote or to direct the vote: None

(ii) shared power to vote or to direct the vote: 5,054,366
Shares*

(iii) sole power to dispose or to direct the disposition of: None

(iv) shared power to dispose or to direct the disposition of:
5,054,366 Shares**

* Vanguard Fiduciary Trust Company is the trustee of certain employee benefit plans, which are subject to the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, as amended ("ERISA"). Shares of the issuer's Common Stock are held in

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trust for the benefit of employees in the plans. As of December 31, 2002, the trustee held 5,054,366 shares of the issuer's Common Stock on behalf of the plans, all of which had been allocated to plan participants. The plan trustee votes shares allocated to participant accounts as directed by participants subject to Section 404 of ERISA.

** Shares of Common Stock are held in the issuer's employee benefit plans in various accounts and were allocated by the source of contribution (employer, the predecessor to the employer or the employee). Shares of Common Stock held by the trustee on behalf of the plans may be disposed of by the plans or the trustee only in accordance with the terms of the plans.

Item 5. Ownership of Five Percent or Less of a Class.

Item 5. Ownership of Five Percent or Less of a Class.

Not Applicable

Item 6. Ownership of More than Five Percent on Behalf of Another Person.

All of the securities are beneficially held by Vanguard Fiduciary Trust Company in its fiduciary capacity, as trustee of certain employee benefit plans. As a result, participants in the plans are entitled to receive dividends or proceeds from the sale of shares reported in this Schedule 13G in accordance with the terms of the plans.

Item 7. Identification and Classification of the Subsidiary Which Acquired the Security Being Reported on By the Parent Holding Company.

Not Applicable

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Item 8. Identification and Classification of Members of the Group.

Not Applicable

Item 9. Notice of Dissolution of Group.

Not Applicable

Item 10. Certification.

By signing below I certify that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, the securities referred to above were acquired and are held in the ordinary course of business and were not acquired and are not held for the purpose or with the effect of changing or influencing the control of the issuer of the securities and were not acquired and are not held in connection with or as a participant in any transaction having that purpose or effect.

Vanguard Fiduciary Trust Company disclaims beneficial ownership of all shares held in trust by the trustee that have been allocated to the individual accounts of participants in the plans for which directions have been received, pursuant to Rule 13d-4 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934.

Signature

After reasonable inquiry and to the best of my knowledge and belief, I certify that the information set forth in this statement is true, complete and correct.

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DATE: FEBRUARY 11, 2003

VANGUARD FIDUCIARY TRUST COMPANY, TRUSTEE

BY: _____
NAME: JOSEPH DIETRICK
TITLE: ASSISTANT SECRETARY

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