

Appendix C:

Getting in touch with Con Edison or National Grid to switch to natural gas

In order to make the switch, the building management first needs to find out whether Con Edison or National Grid is the service provider for natural gas. For Manhattan, Bronx and parts of Queens, Con Edison is the natural gas service provider. For buildings in Brooklyn, Staten Island and parts of Queens, the natural gas service provider is National Grid.

Con Edison's contact:

Go to: www.coned.com/naturalgas or call 1-800-643-1289.

National Grid contact:

Go to: <http://www2.nationalgridus.com/myngrid/> or call 1-877-MyNGrid (877-696-4743)

Interruptible versus firm gas rates

There are two different price categories for natural gas: the firm rate and the interruptible rate. The *firm* rate is more expensive and applies if a building burns natural gas only. The less expensive *interruptible* gas rate applies when a building burns mostly natural gas, but for a few days out of the year switches to a backup fuel, such as No. 2 heating oil.

The firm rate is higher because the utility pays to connect a natural gas line to the building, and it requires the building to burn natural gas only as long as it takes for the utility company to recoup the costs of bringing the natural gas line to the building. Even though the rate is higher, the building operators do not need to keep oil as a backup fuel and do not run the risk of having high fines imposed.

Buildings that opt for the less expensive interruptible rate have to pay for the gas line themselves. They also need to have a dual fuel system so that they can burn the back up fuel for a few days out of the year when required by the gas company (for various reasons including outside temperatures, pricing or supply issues). High penalties apply if a building fails to switch to oil. During the 2008–2009 heating season, buildings had to switch to oil only for a few days. To be properly prepared, buildings must have at least ten days worth of oil supply on hand.

However, if a group of buildings in close vicinity all switch to natural gas, Con Edison and National Grid will pay to bring the gas line to the buildings and will also let all the buildings burn the cheaper interruptible gas rate (dual fuel with No. 2 heating oil).

To switch to natural gas, the gas service provider will need to analyze whether a building already has a natural gas line suitable to supply heating fuel and if not, how much it would cost to bring the line to the building. Once the building owner gets this information from the natural gas service provider, the building owner can make an informed decision regarding firm or interruptible gas service.

Con Edison and National Grid will most likely need the following information for converting a building to natural gas:

1. The exact address of the location in question, inclusive of zip code
2. The estimated annual consumption (oil) in gallons
3. Input (size) of boiler (typically there is a metal plate on the boiler with this information, possibly also EPA certificates with gallons per hour, which are listed on the firing gun).
4. The oil type (No. 2, 4 or 6) currently being used
5. The number of units (dwelling spaces) present
6. The number of gas-fired stoves present
7. The number of gas-fired dryers present
8. Anything else that runs on gas (i.e., separate domestic hot water heaters, etc.)
9. The input of the boiler (or boilers if there are more than one boiler)
10. Whether or not a dual fuel burner is in place or will be in place
11. Whether the boilers are scheduled to be replaced or not (for calculation of efficiency gains)
12. Whether this location intends to go on firm or interruptible gas