

Hester John P  
 Form 3  
 January 18, 2006

**FORM 3 UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**  
**Washington, D.C. 20549**

OMB APPROVAL

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**INITIAL STATEMENT OF BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF SECURITIES**

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934,  
 Section 17(a) of the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935 or Section  
 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person * Â Hester John P (Last) (First) (Middle)  5241 SPRING MOUNTAIN ROAD (Street)  LAS VEGAS, NV 891500002 (City) (State) (Zip)	2. Date of Event Requiring Statement (Month/Day/Year) 01/17/2006	3. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol SOUTHWEST GAS CORP [SWX]	4. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer  (Check all applicable) <input type="checkbox"/> Director <input type="checkbox"/> 10% Owner <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Officer <input type="checkbox"/> Other (give title below) (specify below) VP/Regulatory Affairs	5. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year)	6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Form filed by One Reporting Person <input type="checkbox"/> Form filed by More than One Reporting Person
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**Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned**

1. Title of Security (Instr. 4)	2. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned (Instr. 4)	3. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 5)	4. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 5)
Common Stock - Broker - Spouse	2,000	I	By Spouse
Common stock - Spouse	320	I	By Spouse
Common stock 401k	2,739	I	By 401(k)
Common stock 401k	6,256	I	By Spouse - 401(k)
Common stock DRSP	1,973	D	Â

Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially owned directly or indirectly.

SEC 1473 (7-02)

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**Table II - Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned (e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)**

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1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 4)	2. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year)		3. Title and Amount of Securities Underlying Derivative Security (Instr. 4)		4. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security	5. Ownership Form of Derivative Security: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 5)	6. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 5)
	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of Shares			
Stock Option (right to buy) 2000	07/18/2001	07/17/2010	Common stock	2,000	\$ 17.94	D	Â
Stock Option (right to buy) 2001	07/17/2002	07/16/2011	Common stock	2,000	\$ 23.36	D	Â
Stock Option (right to buy) 2002	07/16/2003	07/15/2012	Common stock	2,000	\$ 21.74	D	Â
Stock Option (right to buy) 2003	07/15/2004	07/14/2013	Common stock	5,000	\$ 21.09	D	Â
Stock Option (right to buy) 2004	07/27/2005	07/26/2014	Common stock	15,000	\$ 23.4	D	Â
Stock Option (right to buy) 2005	05/05/2006	05/04/2015	Common stock	10,000	\$ 25	D	Â

## Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships			
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other
Hester John P 5241 SPRING MOUNTAIN ROAD LAS VEGAS, NV 891500002	Â	Â	Â VP/Regulatory Affairs	Â

## Signatures

By: Kathy M.  
Bailey, POA

01/18/2006

\_\_Signature of Reporting  
Person

Date

## Explanation of Responses:

\* If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, see Instruction 5(b)(v).

\*\* Intentional misstatements or omissions of facts constitute Federal Criminal Violations. See 18 U.S.C. 1001 and 15 U.S.C. 78ff(a).

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, See Instruction 6 for procedure.  
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