

January 7, 2015

ATCO Gas and Pipelines Ltd. (South)
7210 – 42 Street N.W.
Edmonton, Alberta T6B 3H1

Attention: Sydney Smith, E.I.T.
Project Engineer, Pipelines Engineering

Pipeline Split, Removal and New Construction
Licence 626
Proceeding 3602
Application 1611098

Minor pipeline project application

ATCO Gas and Pipelines Ltd. (South) (ATCO), filed Application 1611098 on December 18, 2014 with the Alberta Utilities Commission under Section 11 of the *Pipeline Act* and Section 4.1 of the *Gas Utilities Act* for approval of the following in Township 29, Range 23, west of the Fourth Meridian:

- splitting Line 3 into lines 3, 5 and 6.
- removal of Line 5.
- lines 3 and 6 remain in place as operating.
- addition of a newly constructed pipeline [Line 7 – 0.13 kilometres (km) of 60.3-millimetre (mm) outside-diameter (OD) pipeline].
- mapping amendment of Line 3.
- environmental code amendment to a portion of the original Line 3, now represented as Line 5.

The proposed work is related to a minor removal and replacement of existing pipe, within the original right-of-way, previously constructed and operating in accordance with approvals granted in Licence 626.

ATCO stated that the existing 60.3 mm Carbon town branch line has become exposed within Kneehills Creek and the Alberta Energy Regulator has set a removal date of March 31, 2015 for this watercourse exposure.

The proposed project is to replace the 130 metre portion of pipeline that crosses Kneehills Creek within LSD 10-15-29-23-W4M with a new 60.3 mm pipeline within the existing right-of-way using horizontal directional drilling. The exposed pipe would be abandoned and removed.

ATCO stated that it has determined, by means of the self-assessment tool provided by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, that the work for this project does not require a request for

review. No application is required for Navigable Waters (Transport Canada) under the *Navigable Waters Act* as this crossing is not within a scheduled water. No *Species at Risk Act* review or approval is required with regard to the presence of Northern Leopard frogs as the work is not occurring on federal lands and no Northern Leopard frog breeding or overwintering habitat is present or expected to be influenced by the activity.

ATCO stated that the existing and proposed pipelines traverse lands with a designated Historical Resource Value of five for paleontological interests as listed by Alberta Culture. ATCO received *Historical Resources Act* clearance¹ on October 3, 2014.

ATCO stated that an Environmental Protection Plan² and an Environmental Effects Assessment Report³ were prepared for this project and that all associated recommendations would be implemented by ATCO. Kneehills Creek is designated as a Class C watercourse with a restricted activity period (RAP) of April 16 to July 15 at this crossing location according to the Alberta *Water Act* Code of Practice for Watercourse Crossing Maps (2006). Construction for this project is proposed for February 2015 and would be outside of the RAP. Notification to Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development (ESRD) under the *Code of Practice for Pipelines and Telecommunication Lines Crossing a Water Body* was completed on November 20, 2014.

ATCO stated that the pipeline would be tested for liquids prior to removal and any liquids found would be removed and properly disposed of. The topsoil would be stripped and stored and all surface disturbances would be backfilled before the topsoil is returned.

ATCO stated that the consultation with landowners and occupants for this project was completed in accordance with AUC Rule 020: *Rules Respecting Gas Utility Pipelines*. Confirmation of non-objection by potentially directly and/or adversely affected landowners, including the Municipality of Carbon, was obtained by ATCO on November 10, 2014 and December 9, 2014. A First Nations consultation adequacy assessment tool was used and it was determined that consultation with First Nations was not required.

ATCO has provided information respecting the need, nature and extent of the project. Since the project involves limited ground disturbance and is within the original right-of-way, the resultant environmental impact of the work has been assessed with no significant impact identified. The landowners and occupants of the affected lands did not object to the project.

Based upon the information provided, ATCO has demonstrated that the proposal is of a minor nature, no person other than the landowners and occupants of the land upon which the project takes place will likely be directly affected by the proposal, and no significant adverse environmental impact will be caused by the proposed project.

¹ Exhibit 6.00.ATCO -3602, Signed Historical Resources Application.

² Exhibit 4.00.ATCO -3602, Environmental Protection Plan (EPP).

³ Exhibit 5.00.ATCO -3602, Environmental Effect Assessment Report.

The Commission approves the application. The amended licence is attached.

(original signed by)

Brian Shand, P. Eng.
Director, Gas Facilities
On behalf of the Alberta Utilities Commission

Attachment