

May 22, 2015

Decision 20409-D01-2015

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

Attention: Andrea Furman, P. Eng.
Project Engineer, Pipelines Engineering

**Pipeline Removal and Replacement in the Town of Rimbey
Licence 1974
Proceeding 20409
Application 20409-A001**

Minor pipeline project application

1. ATCO Gas and Pipelines Ltd. (South) (ATCO), by Application 20409-A001 registered on May 6, 2015, filed an application with the Alberta Utilities Commission under Section 11 of the *Pipeline Act* and Section 4.1 of the *Gas Utilities Act* for the following in the town of Rimbey:
 - splitting Line 1 into lines 1, 12 and 13
 - removal of Line 12
 - lines 1 and 13 are to remain in operation
 - addition of a newly constructed pipeline (Line 14 - 0.45 kilometres of 60.3-millimetre (mm) outside-diameter pipeline)
2. The proposed work is related to the minor removal and replacement of existing pipe previously constructed and operating in accordance with approvals granted in Licence 1974.
3. ATCO stated that the existing 60.3-mm Rimbey transmission line has become exposed, and noted the regulatory requirement to have a minimum depth of cover of 0.80 metres according to Section 20(1) of *Alberta Regulation 91/2005, Pipeline Rules* pursuant to the *Pipeline Act*. This project was proposed in order to comply with regulations pertaining to depth of cover.
4. ATCO stated that the need for project has not been established in a previous submission. The total project cost is estimated at \$570,000, which meets the criteria for an abbreviated need project as per Rule 020: *Rules Respecting Gas Utility Pipelines*, Section 3.3, Table 3.1, since it is a relocation of an existing pipeline where the existing right-of-way is utilized, project costs are forecast at less than \$1,000,000 and there are no unresolved interested party objections or significant environmental impacts.

5. ATCO stated that the alternatives to removal and replacement include:

a. sag lowering

This would involve excavating underneath the pipe and allowing the pipe to sink under its own weight using the existing slack in the pipe. ATCO indicated that, due to the stress that this process would impose on the pipe and the age of the pipe, the level of risk would be unacceptable.

b. do nothing

The pipeline has become exposed and is currently in violation of the *Pipeline Rules* pursuant to the *Pipeline Act*.

6. The Commission agrees that the pipeline should not remain exposed or subjected to sag lowering due to the risk of pipeline failure associated with either of these alternatives. Therefore, the Commission accepts that removing the exposed section of pipe and replacing it with new pipe with sufficient cover to satisfy the *Pipeline Rules* is the best alternative.

7. ATCO stated that a search of the historic resources listing maintained by Alberta Culture returned no historical resources within the proposed project footprint.

8. ATCO stated that there are no watercourse crossings that would be affected by the removal activities. The pipeline would be tested for liquids prior to removal and any liquids found would be captured and properly disposed of. The topsoil would be stripped and stored. All surface disturbances would be backfilled before the topsoil is returned. It is not expected that any environmental concerns would arise during the project due to the level of disturbance. An inspector would be on-site to ensure that proper standards are met and no adverse effects on the environment occur. The land would be reclaimed to its existing condition which is pasture.

9. ATCO stated that consultation with landowners and occupants for this work has been completed in accordance with Rule 020. Confirmation of non-objection by directly and adversely affected landowners and occupants was obtained by ATCO on April 23, 2015. ATCO intends to start construction in May of 2015.

10. ATCO has provided information respecting the need, nature and extent of the project. Since the project involves minimal 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.

11. 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.

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

Alberta Utilities Commission

(original signed by)

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

Attachment