

July 20, 2015

**Decision 20596-D01-2015**

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

Attention: Curtis Meunier, E.I.T.  
Project Engineer, Pipelines Engineering

**Pipeline Splits and Removals in the Sheep River near Okotoks  
Licence 2027  
Proceeding 20596  
Application 20596-A001**

**Minor pipeline project application**

1. ATCO Gas and Pipelines Ltd. (South) (ATCO), by Application 20596-A001 registered on July 9, 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 Township 20, Range 29, west of the Fourth Meridian:
  - splitting Line 147 into lines 147, 166 and 167
  - removal of Line 166
  - splitting Line 159 into lines 159, 168 and 169
  - removal of Line 168
  - splitting Line 165 into lines 165 and 170
  - removal of Line 165
  - environmental code amendment of original Line 147
2. The proposed work is related to the minor split and removal of existing pipe, within the original right-of-way, previously abandoned in accordance with approvals granted in Licence 2027.
3. ATCO stated that in 2013 the floods on the Sheep River exposed ATCO's abandoned pipelines and operating pipelines crossing the river. As a result of the floods, Line 147 was abandoned and replaced with Line 149, under approvals granted in Decision [DA2013-253](#).<sup>1</sup> ATCO is now applying for the removal of the three exposed and abandoned pipeline segments, lines 165, 166 and 168. According to Section 20 of the *Pipeline Rules*, the depth of cover above a pipeline must be at least 0.8 metres.

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<sup>1</sup> Decision DA2013-253: ATCO Gas and Pipelines Ltd. (South) – Sheep River Exposed Pipeline Replacement, Proceeding 2884, Application 1610005, October 29, 2013.

4. ATCO stated that the need for the removal of the pipeline segments crossing the Sheep River has not been established in a previous submission. The estimated cost of the removal is \$655,000. Since the estimated cost is under \$1,000,000, and the project is associated with the replacement of pipe in an existing right-of-way, this application meets the abbreviated need requirements as outlined in Table 3.1 of Rule 020: *Rules Respecting Gas Utility Pipelines*. The Commission concurs with ATCO that the exposed sections of pipe within the river require removal.
5. ATCO stated that *Historical Resource Act* clearance was received on June 15, 2015. Temporary field authorization pursuant to the *Public Lands Act* was also acquired for the workspace between the banks of the Sheep River. Code of practice notifications were submitted in accordance with the *Water Act* for pipelines crossing a water body to Alberta Environment and Parks (AEP) on April 17, 2015. The application was reviewed by AEP and was found to have no deficiencies. Application to Navigable Waters (Transport Canada) under the *Navigable Waters Act* is not required as this crossing is not within a scheduled waterway. Sheep River is designated as a Class C watercourse with a restricted activity period of September 1 to July 15. Removal of the exposed pipelines is proposed to begin in July or August of 2015, outside of the restricted activity period.
6. ATCO stated that an environmental effects assessment<sup>2</sup> has been prepared for this project as well as an environmental protection plan (EPP).<sup>3</sup> The Commission accepts ATCO's statement that all recommendations included in the EPP would be implemented.
7. ATCO stated that the pipelines 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 will be backfilled before the topsoil is returned.
8. 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 was obtained by ATCO on June 25, 2015. Notification of landowners and occupants within 0.2 kilometres of the proposed pipeline removal has been completed.
9. 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.
10. 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.
11. The Commission approves the application. The amended licence is attached.

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<sup>2</sup> Exhibit 20596-X0003, EEA.

<sup>3</sup> Exhibit 20596-X0004, EPP.

**Alberta Utilities Commission**

*(original signed by)*

Wade Vienneau  
Executive Director, Facilities Division  
On behalf of the Alberta Utilities Commission

Attachment