



July 23, 2015

**Decision 20629-D01-2015**

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

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

**Split and Removal of an Abandoned Pipeline in the Elbow River  
Licence 14058  
Proceeding 20629  
Application 20629-A001**

**Minor pipeline project application**

1. ATCO Gas and Pipelines Ltd. (South) (ATCO), by Application 20629-A001 registered on July 15, 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 19 into lines 19 and 23
- removal of Line 23

2. The proposed work is related to the minor split and removal of existing pipe, within the original right-of-way, previously constructed and operated in accordance with approvals granted in Licence 14058.

3. ATCO stated that the existing 60.3-millimetre (mm) Bragg Creek West Branch pipeline is exposed in the Elbow River. Under Decision [20281-D01-2015](#),<sup>1</sup> ATCO replaced the portion of 60.3-mm Bragg Creek West Branch pipeline that crosses the Elbow River with an 88.9-mm pipeline. ATCO proposed to remove the abandoned section of 60.3-mm pipeline that is exposed in the Elbow River. The need for the project was established in Decision 20281-D01-2015.

4. ATCO stated that it received *Historical Resources Act* clearance from Alberta Culture on February 13, 2015.

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<sup>1</sup> Decision 20281-D01-2015: ATCO Gas and Pipelines Ltd. (South) – Elbow River Pipeline Replacement near Bragg Creek, Proceeding 20281, Application 20281-A001, April 15, 2015.

5. ATCO further stated that an application was submitted utilizing the expedited authorization process for flood recovery (EAPFR) for *Water Act* approvals and a *Public Lands Act* temporary field application for authorization was submitted to Alberta Environment and Parks on March 30, 2015. ATCO submitted that under normal circumstances, EAPFR applications have a maximum review time of three months and while ATCO applied to Alberta Environment and Parks three months prior to the time approval under the *Water Act* was needed, ATCO has not yet received approval. Due to the restricted activity period on the Elbow River and the tight timelines associated with this project, ATCO is applying for a licence prior to having an approval under the *Water Act*. ATCO further indicated that it would not proceed until it has received all environmental approvals. The restricted activity period for the Elbow River is May 1st to July 15th and September 16th to April 5th. Removal of the exposed pipeline is proposed to begin in August 2015 and be completed prior to September 16, 2015 (outside the restricted activity period). The Commission accepts ATCO's commitment that it will not proceed prior to receiving all environmental approvals and expects the pipeline removal to take place outside the restricted activity period.

6. ATCO stated that a qualified aquatic environmental specialist assessment has been prepared for this project, which includes an environmental protection plan and a pre-construction site assessment.<sup>2</sup> A riparian re-vegetation plan<sup>3</sup> has also been prepared for this project. ATCO stated that all recommendations included in the environmental protection plan, the riparian re-vegetation plan and the water quality monitoring plan<sup>4</sup> would be implemented. The Commission accepts ATCO's statements.

7. ATCO also submitted that the abandoned, exposed pipeline was pigged for liquids during the replacement activities and no liquids were found. ATCO stated the topsoil would be stripped and stored and all surface disturbances would 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: *Rules Respecting Gas Utility Pipelines*. Confirmation of non-objection by directly and adversely affected landowners was obtained by ATCO on March 12, 2015. Although not required by Rule 020, notifications were sent to residents along Spruce Avenue and Spruce Drive.

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.

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<sup>2</sup> Exhibit 20269-X0003, PCSA and EPP.

<sup>3</sup> Exhibit 20269-X0005, Riparian Re-vegetation Plan.

<sup>4</sup> Exhibit 20269-X0004, WQM Plan.

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

**Alberta Utilities Commission**

*(original signed by)*

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

Attachment