

February 5, 2016

**Decision 21262-D01-2016**

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

Attention: Jason Cunha, P. Eng.  
Project Engineer, UPR Conversions

**Bittern Lake South Transmission Pipeline Abandonment and Transfer to Low-Pressure Distribution Service**  
**Licence 602, Licence 6317 and Licence 28588**  
**Proceeding 21262**  
**Applications 21262-A001 to 21262-A003**

**Minor pipeline project application**

1. ATCO Gas and Pipelines Ltd. (South) (ATCO), by applications 21262-A001, 21262-A002 and 21262-A003, registered on January 18, 2016, 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 Edmonton area.

Pertaining to Licence 602:

- abandonment of lines 1 and 2
- ‘From Location’ and ‘To Location’ LSD amendment of Line 1
- ‘From Location’ LSD amendment of Line 2

Pertaining to Licence 6317:

- Abandonment of lines 13, 17 and 18

Pertaining to Licence 28588:

- abandonment of lines 1, 3, 4 and 6
- deletion of Line 5 from the licence
- mapping amendment of Line 4
- ‘To Location’ LSD and Section amendment of Line 5
- ‘From Location’ LSD and Section amendment of Line 6
- length amendment of Line 5 from 8.64 kilometres (km) to the revised length of 8.37 km
- length amendment of Line 6 from 1.16 km to the revised length of 1.43 km

- decrease the maximum operating pressure (MOP) of Line 7 from 4,140 kilopascals (kPa) to 3,450 kPa
2. The proposed work is related to the minor abandonment of pipelines and conversion of a high-pressure pipeline to gas distribution-pressure (less than 700 kilopascals), within the original right-of-way, previously constructed and operated in accordance with approvals granted in Licence 602, Licence 6317 and Licence 28588.
  3. ATCO stated that in Decision 20659-D01-2015,<sup>1</sup> sections of the existing 273.1-millimetre (mm) Bittern Lake South transmission pipeline were approved to be abandoned, or transferred to ATCO Gas for distribution-pressure service, as part of the Urban Pipeline Replacement (UPR) project. On January 17, 2014, the Commission approved the need for the UPR project in Decision 2014-010.<sup>2</sup> In Proceeding 20659, ATCO incorrectly stated that Line 5 of Licence 28588 was to be abandoned and Line 1 of Licence 28588 was to be converted to low-pressure service. The application should have stated that Line 1 was to be abandoned, and Line 5 was to be converted to low-pressure service and this decision incorporates that correction.
  4. ATCO stated that the scope of this project included the removal of 15,540 metres of the 273.1-mm Bittern Lake South transmission pipeline from high-pressure service. Approximately 8,370 metres of the 273.1-mm pipeline, Line 5 of Licence 28588, was transferred to ATCO Gas for use as a low-pressure distribution pipeline to maintain gas supply to the area. The remaining 6,840 metres of the 273.1-mm pipeline and 330 metres of the 323.9-mm pipeline were abandoned. Line 7 of Licence 28588, which remains in high-pressure service, was connected to Line 35 of Licence 2594, with an above-ground valve assembly. This connection required the MOP of Licence 28588 to be reduced from 4,140 kPa to 3,450 kPa. On November 15, 2015, all abandonment and low-pressure conversion activities were completed according to Rule 020: *Rules Respecting Gas Utility Pipelines* requirements.
  5. ATCO stated that the Bittern Lake South transmission pipeline crossing the North Saskatchewan River was abandoned in place. Additional environmental approvals were not required since all work took place more than 30 metres from the bed and banks of the river. Any liquids contained in the pipeline were captured and disposed of prior to the abandonment.
  6. ATCO stated that notification of landowners and occupants regarding this work was completed in accordance with Rule 020 on June 17, 2015.
  7. ATCO has provided information respecting the need, nature and extent of the project. Since the project involved 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.

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<sup>1</sup> Decision 20659-D01-2015: ATCO Gas and Pipelines Ltd. (South) – Pipeline Splits in the North Edmonton Area, Licence 2594 and Licence 28588, Minor pipeline project application, Proceeding 20659, Applications 20659-A001 and 20659-A002, August 7, 2015.

<sup>2</sup> Decision 2014-010: ATCO Pipelines, a division of ATCO Gas and Pipelines Ltd. – Urban Pipeline Replacement Project, Proceeding 1995, Application 1608617, January 17, 2014. Errata issued on February 21, 2014.

8. 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.

9. The Commission approves the application. The amended licences are attached.

**Alberta Utilities Commission**

*(original signed by)*

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

Attachments