

July 15, 2016

Decision 21774-D01-2016

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

**Pipeline Removal near Bragg Creek
Licence 14058
Proceeding 21774
Application 21774-A001**

Minor pipeline project application

1. ATCO Gas and Pipelines Ltd. (South) (ATCO), by Application 21774-A001 registered on June 30, 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* to remove line 23. The proposed work is related to the minor removal of existing pipe, within the original right-of-way, previously constructed and operating in accordance with approvals granted in Licence 14058.
2. ATCO stated that the existing 60.3-millimetre Bragg Creek West Branch Pipeline is exposed in the Elbow River. With approval granted in Decision 20281-D01-2015,¹ ATCO replaced the section of the 60.3-millimetre Bragg Creek West Branch Pipeline that crosses the river, with an 88.9-millimetre pipeline. ATCO was granted approval to remove the section of abandoned 60.3-millimetre pipeline, exposed in the Elbow River, line 23, in Decision 20629-D01-2015.² ATCO was not able to complete the removal in 2015 since removal activities would have conflicted with road construction by Rocky View County in the area at that time. Therefore, the status of line 23 was amended from removed to abandoned in Decision 21048-D01-2015.³ Removal of line 23 is scheduled to begin in August of 2016 and be completed prior to September 16, 2016, so that removal activities are completed outside of the restricted activity period, set by the Alberta *Water Act* code of practice, for this watercourse crossing.

¹ Decision 20281-D01-2015: ATCO Gas and Pipelines Ltd. (South) – Elbow River Pipeline Replacement near Bragg Creek, Licence 14058, Proceeding 20281, Application 20281-A001, April 15, 2015.

² Decision 20629-D01-2015: ATCO Gas and Pipelines Ltd. (South) – Split and Removal of an Abandoned Pipeline in the Elbow River, Licence 14058, Proceeding 20629, Application 20629-A001, July 23, 2015.

³ Decision 21048-D01-2015: ATCO Gas and Pipelines Ltd. (South) – Pipeline Near Bragg Creek, Licence 14058, Proceeding 21048, Application 21048-A001, December 1, 2015.

3. ATCO stated that a qualified aquatic environmental specialist assessment was prepared for this project which is included in an environmental protection plan (EPP) complete with a pre-construction site assessment,⁴ riparian re-vegetation plan⁵ and a water quality management plan.⁶ The Commission accepts ATCO's statement that all recommendations included in the EPP, the riparian re-vegetation plan and the water quality management plan would be implemented. Code of practice notifications were submitted in accordance with the *Water Act* for pipelines crossing a water body to the Alberta Energy Regulator (AER) on June 6, 2016. The application was reviewed by the AER and found to have no deficiencies.
4. ATCO stated that the abandoned, exposed pipeline was pigged for liquids during the replacement activities and no liquids were found.
5. ATCO stated that the topsoil would be stripped and stored and all surface disturbances would be backfilled before the topsoil is returned.
6. ATCO stated that *Historical Resources Act* clearance was obtained on February 13, 2015. Temporary field authorization pursuant to the *Publics Lands Act* was acquired for the workspace between the banks of the Elbow River on June 21, 2016.
7. ATCO stated that consultation with landowners and occupants for this work was completed in accordance with Rule 020: *Rules Respecting Gas Utility Pipelines* and that it has obtained confirmation of non-objection from landowners and occupants directly and adversely affected by this project. Through the use of a First Nations consultation adequacy assessment tool it was determined that consultation with the First Nations was not required.
8. 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.
9. 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.
10. 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

⁴ Exhibit 21774-X0006, EPP and PSCA.

⁵ Exhibit 21774-X0004, riparian re-vegetation plan.

⁶ Exhibit 21774-X0005, WQM plan.