

July 25, 2016

Decision 21798-D01-2016

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

Attention: Alex Burnside, E.I.T.
Project Engineer, Pipelines Engineering

**Removal of Previously Abandoned St. Mary River Pipeline Crossing
Licence 2354
Proceeding 21798
Application 21798-A001**

Minor pipeline project application

1. ATCO Gas and Pipelines Ltd. (South) (ATCO), by Application 21798-A001 registered on July 8, 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 at the St. Mary River near Cardston:

- splitting of line 62 into lines 62, 88 and 89
- removal of line 88
- length amendment of line 63 from 0.16 kilometres to the revised length of 0.11 kilometres
- length amendment of line 79 from 0.06 kilometres to the revised length of 0.12 kilometres
- length amendment of line 80 from 0.15 kilometres to the revised length of 0.14 kilometres
- mapping amendment of lines 63, 79 and 80

2. The proposed work is related to the minor split and removal of a previously abandoned pipeline, within the original right-of-way, previously constructed in accordance with approvals granted in Licence 2354.

3. ATCO stated that it has approval pursuant to Decision DA2014-194¹ to remove 60 metres of the abandoned 168.3-millimetre Cardston Transmission Pipeline, line 79, that is exposed in the St. Mary River. ATCO was not able to complete the removal in 2015 since it was unable to obtain the work space required for removal activities at that time. ATCO proposed to increase

¹ Decision DA2014-194: ATCO Gas and Pipelines Ltd. (South) – St. Mary River Pipeline Removal – Minor pipeline project application, Application 1610786, Proceeding 3377, August 18, 2014.

the removal of the 168.3-millimetre pipeline from 60 metres to 120 metres in order to minimize instream activity and further reduce the risk of a future exposure.

4. ATCO stated that in 2015 it discovered that the section of the previously abandoned 114.3-millimetre Cardston Transmission Pipeline that is parallel to the 168.3-millimetre Cardston Transmission Pipeline was also exposed due to further erosion of the eastern bank. Therefore, ATCO proposed to remove 120 metres of the 114.3-millimetre abandoned pipeline, line 88, in order to eliminate this exposure. The estimated cost of the removal is \$250,000.

5. ATCO stated that it engaged the services of EnviroMak Inc. to prepare an environmental assessment and an environmental protection plan² for this project. The Commission accepts ATCO's statement that all recommendations included in the environmental protection plan would be implemented. No application is required for Navigable Waters (Transport Canada) under the *Navigable Waters Act* as this crossing is not within scheduled water. As instream work in the St. Mary River is restricted during September 1st to August 15th, the removal of the exposed pipeline is scheduled to be completed August 16th to August 31st of 2016, assuming the appropriate environmental approvals have been obtained. ATCO also stated that any liquids contained in the existing pipeline would be captured and disposed of during pipeline removal activities.

6. ATCO stated that a *Species at Risk Act* permit is required from the Department of Fisheries and Oceans prior to the proposed work and would be obtained before any instream activities commence. Code of Practice notifications were submitted in accordance with the *Water Act* for pipelines crossing a water body to Alberta Environment and Parks on May 19, 2016.

7. ATCO stated that this project does not require a *Historical Resources Act* clearance since the proposed work area is not referenced in the latest edition of Alberta Culture and Tourism's listing of historical resources.

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* and there are no outstanding objections.

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.

² Exhibit 21798-X0005, Environmental Assessment and Environmental Protection Plan.

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.

Alberta Utilities Commission

(original signed by)

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

Attachment