



AltaGas Utilities Inc.

**Line Split and Addition of New Pipeline for the
Replacement of Shallow Pipeline**

Township 31, Ranges 20 and 21, West of the Fourth Meridian

June 5, 2013

The Alberta Utilities Commission

Decision 2013-215: AltaGas Utilities Inc.

Line Split and Addition of New Pipeline for the Replacement of Shallow Pipeline

Township 31, Ranges 20 and 21, West of the Fourth Meridian

Application No. 1609604

Proceeding ID No. 2616

June 5, 2013

Published by

The Alberta Utilities Commission

Fifth Avenue Place, Fourth Floor, 425 First Street S.W.

Calgary, Alberta

T2P 3L8

Telephone: 403-592-8845

Fax: 403-592-4406

Website: www.auc.ab.ca

1 Introduction and background

1. AltaGas Utilities Inc. (AltaGas) filed an application with the Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC or the Commission) seeking approval for an addition to Permit and Licence No. 613, pursuant to Section 11 of the *Pipeline Act* and Section 4.1 of the *Gas Utilities Act*, for the following:

- Splitting Line 9 into lines 9 and 33.
- Addition of newly constructed pipeline (Line 34 – 1.98 kilometres of 60.3-millimetre outside-diameter pipe).

2. This application was registered as Application No. 1609604 on May 17, 2013.

3. AltaGas stated that it is applying for approval to install approximately 1.98 kilometres of 60.3-millimetre outside-diameter pipeline. This pipe will replace a portion of Line 9, of Permit and Licence No. 613, that is exposed in one area and shallow along the remaining portion. The depth of cover over the remaining portion ranges from 0.46 metres to 0.71 metres. This portion would be replaced at a lower depth within the right-of-way.

4. AltaGas stated that it proposes to split Line 9 into two sections. The first section would be from 16-02-031-21-W4M to 08-17-031-20-W4M and would be 5.24 kilometres long. This section would remain as Line 9. The second section would be from 08-17-031-20-W4M to 09-16-031-20-W4M, would be 1.98 kilometres long, and would become Line 33.

5. The newly constructed line would be Line 34, and would replace Line 33. After Line 34 has been installed, an application would be filed for the abandonment of Line 33.

6. AltaGas stated that it proposes to tie-in to Line 9 of Permit and Licence No. 613 at 08-17-031-20-W4M, and from there install Line 34 heading in an easterly direction for 1.98 kilometres through rural farm land ending at an existing pressure regulating station in 09-16-031-20-W4M.

7. AltaGas stated that it proposes to directionally drill 300 metres and open trench the remaining 1,680 metres of the pipeline route. The 300 metres of directional drilling includes approximately 180 metres for three pipeline crossings, 50 metres for a road crossing and 70 metres through a low area that is susceptible to washout from spring run-off waters. This is the same area where the line is exposed now. By directionally drilling, the surface would not be disturbed so the chances of spring run-off waters adversely affecting the new pipeline by washing-out the ground cover would be minimized.

8. AltaGas stated that in the trenched section the topsoil would be stripped away, and all soils would be separated into topsoil and subsoil as necessary, and stored appropriately to

prevent co-mingling of the soil types. During the backfill phase, the stored topsoil and subsoil would be returned to their original layers.

9. AltaGas stated that there are no environmentally sensitive areas or historical sites in or near the project area that would be affected.

10. In its submission, AltaGas stated that the requirements of the consultation and notification program were met and that no outstanding objections or concerns remain with regard to the application.

2 Findings

11. The Commission considered AltaGas' submission that a participant involvement program has been conducted and that there are no outstanding public or industry objections or concerns.

12. The Commission has reviewed the application and has determined that it meets the requirements as stipulated in AUC Rule 020: *Rules Respecting Gas Utility Pipelines*.

13. Due to the nature of the application, a notice of application was not issued and, therefore, a hearing was not required as the Commission considered that its decision or order would not directly and adversely affect the rights of a person pursuant to Section 9 of the *Alberta Utilities Commission Act*.

14. The project is intended to resolve the safety and reliability issues of an exposed and shallow section of pipeline along Line 9. The Commission finds that the application appropriately addresses these issues.

15. The Commission finds the environmental issues have been sufficiently identified in the application. The Commission is satisfied with the commitments made in the application to mitigate and monitor potential environmental impacts.

16. Based on the foregoing, the Commission considers the project to be in the public interest in accordance with Section 17 of the *Alberta Utilities Commission Act*.

3 Decision

17. Pursuant to Section 11 of the *Pipeline Act* and Section 4.1 of the *Gas Utilities Act*, the Commission approves the amendment to Permit and Licence No. 613 and grants AltaGas the amended permit and licence as set out in Appendix 1 – Gas Utility Pipeline – New Construction and Line Split – Permit and Licence No. 613 – June 5, 2013 (Appendix 1 will be distributed separately).

Dated on June 5, 2013.

The Alberta Utilities Commission

(original signed by)

Tudor Beattie, QC
Commission Member