



AltaGas Utilities Inc.

**Amendment to Increase Maximum Operating Pressure
Townships 60 and 61, Range 5, West of the Fourth Meridian**

February 24, 2012

The Alberta Utilities Commission

Decision 2012-058: AltaGas Utilities Inc.

Amendment to Increase Maximum Operating Pressure

Townships 60 and 61, Range 5, West of the Fourth Meridian

Application No. 1608098

Proceeding ID No. 1695

February 24, 2011

Published by

The Alberta Utilities Commission

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1 Introduction

1. AltaGas Utilities Inc. (AltaGas) filed an application with the Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC or the Commission) seeking approval for an amendment to Permit and Licence No. 22721 pursuant to Section 11 of the *Pipeline Act* and Section 4.1 of the *Gas Utilities Act* to increase the maximum operating pressure of Line 6 from 1,720 kilopascals (kPa) to 4,970 kPa.
2. The application was registered as Application No. 1608098 on January 30, 2012.
3. AltaGas submitted that the maximum operating pressure increase is required to eliminate pressure regulation of a high pressure pipeline located in 09-09-061-05-W4M (the high pressure pipeline). The maximum operating pressure would increase in Line 6, between 08-08-061-W4M and 11-36-060-05-W4M.
4. AltaGas stated that the pipe, valves, flanges and fittings are suitable for the new maximum operating pressure or would be prior to the increase in maximum operating pressure.
5. AltaGas also stated that the requirements of the consultation and notification program were met and that no outstanding objections or concerns remained respecting the application.
6. On February 8, 2012, the AUC issued information requests to AltaGas regarding the application.
7. In response to the information requests, AltaGas confirmed that the only pipeline segment connected to Line 6 is Line 8 of Licence No. 22721, which is licensed to operate at 4,970 kPa. AltaGas also submitted that it would safely increase the maximum operating pressure of Line 6 in two stages. The first stage would involve increasing the pressure of the pipeline from 1,720 kPa to 3,450 kPa and then “walking the line” at the increased pressure. The second stage would involve increasing the pressure of the pipeline from 3,450 kPa to 6,205 kPa, being the required test pressure of the pipeline. A final “walking the line” would occur when the pressure was increased again.

2 Findings

8. The Commission accepts AltaGas’s submission that it conducted a participant involvement program and that there are no outstanding public or industry objections or concerns.
9. Due to the nature of the project, a notice of application was not issued and, a hearing was not required because 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*.

10. 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*. The Commission acknowledges that the pipeline integrity is not expected to be a concern as the portion of pipe that is subject to the increase in maximum operating pressure has the same properties as the high pressure pipeline. The Commission accepts the information responses provided by AltaGas and interprets the term “walking the line” to refer to the standard industry practice of searching for leaks with standard leak detection equipment along the pipeline segment.

11. Upon review of AltaGas’ application, the Commission finds that the proposed amendment is necessary to eliminate pressure regulation of the high pressure pipeline located in 09-09-061-05-W4M.

12. The Commission considers the amendment to increase maximum operating pressure to be in the public interest in accordance with Section 17 of the *Alberta Utilities Commission Act*.

3 Decision

13. 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. 22721 and grants AltaGas the amended permit and licence as set out in Appendix 1 – Gas Utility Pipeline – Permit and Licence No. 22721 – February 24, 2012 (Appendix 1 will be distributed separately).

Dated on February 24, 2012.

The Alberta Utilities Commission

(original signed by)

Mark Kolesar
Commission Member