



## **ATCO Gas and Pipelines Ltd. (South)**

**Pipeline Split, Removal and New Construction  
Township 47, Range 27, West of the Fourth Meridian**

**May 18, 2012**

**The Alberta Utilities Commission**

Decision 2012-136: ATCO Gas and Pipelines Ltd. (South)

Pipeline Split, Removal and New Construction

Township 47, Range 27, West of the Fourth Meridian

Application No. 1608322

Proceeding ID No. 1824

May 18, 2011

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The Alberta Utilities Commission

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## **1 Introduction**

1. ATCO Gas and Pipelines Ltd. (South) (ATCO) filed an application with the Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC or the Commission) seeking approval for an amendment to Permit and Licence No. 1829 pursuant to Section 11 of the *Pipeline Act* and Section 4.1 of the *Gas Utilities Act* for the following:

- Splitting Line 1 into Lines 1 and 92.
- Splitting Line 56 into Lines 56 and 93.
- Removal of Line 56.
- Addition of newly constructed pipeline (Line 94 – 1.14 kilometres of 114.3 millimetre outside-diameter pipeline).
- Addition of newly constructed pipeline (Line 95 – 0.09 kilometres of 60.3 millimetre outside-diameter pipeline).
- Amend the recorded length of the original Line 56 from 0.17 kilometres to 0.13 kilometres.
- Amend the To Location ‘Facility Code’ of Line 93 from RS (Regulating Station) to PL (Pipeline).
- Lines 1, 92 and 93 remain in place.

(the project).

2. The application was registered as Application No. 1608322 on April 4, 2012.

3. ATCO stated that due to declining on-system receipts of natural gas, the function of ATCO’s existing 323.9 millimetre Bonnieglen transmission pipeline is being modified to free-up capacity on other ATCO transmission pipelines and to allow for the consolidation of ATCO’s existing metering, regulating and odorization facilities in the Mulhurst area.

4. ATCO stated that the proposed 114.3 millimetre Mulhurst lateral extension would connect the existing 60.3 millimetre Mulhurst lateral to both the Homeglen and Bonnieglen transmission pipelines at a new proposed Homeglen-Bonnieglen-Mulhurst control station. This would require the installation of approximately 1.14 kilometres of new 114.3 millimetre high pressure natural gas pipeline (Line 94) from the proposed control station at LSD 7-17-47-27-W4M to the existing Mulhurst lateral tie-in at LSD 2-17-47-27-W4M. The 114.3 millimetre Mulhurst lateral extension is sized to meet forecast growth in Mulhurst. In order to complete the tie-in of the proposed Mulhurst lateral extension, approximately 0.01 kilometres of the existing 60.3 millimetre Mulhurst lateral would be removed (Line 56).

5. ATCO stated that since the right-of-way would still contain operating pipelines and thus continue to be utilized by ATCO, an application for a reclamation certificate for the land was not required.<sup>1</sup> The removal would be conducted in a manner that meets soil conservation and reclamation procedures to comply with the *Alberta Environmental Protection & Enhancement Act* and its associated regulations.

6. ATCO stated that the proposed Homeglen-Bonnieglen-Mulhurst control station would consolidate the pressure, regulating and odorization facilities of ATCO's existing Homeglen-Bonnieglen control station and Mulhurst control station located in LSD 06-17-47-27-W4M and LSD 14-08-47-27-W4M, respectively. Completing this work would allow for the abandonment of approximately 0.37 kilometres of the existing 323.9 millimetre Bonnieglen transmission pipeline (Line 1), which would be completed under a subsequent application. As a result of this abandonment, 0.09 kilometres of new 60.3 millimetre high pressure natural gas pipeline (Line 95) would be installed from the proposed Homeglen-Bonnieglen-Mulhurst control station to maintain gas supply to an existing rural delivery customer within LSD 07-17-47-27-W4M.

7. ATCO stated that the abandonment of pipelines and stations is outside the scope of the current application. Subsequent application(s) for the abandonment of pipelines and stations would be submitted at a later date.<sup>2</sup> ATCO would reclaim its facilities in accordance with the *Alberta Environmental Protection & Enhancement Act* and its associated regulations.

8. ATCO retained Millennium EMS Solutions Ltd. (Millennium) to complete a pre-construction site assessment and environmental protection plan for the pipeline construction activities. Millennium would have an environmental inspector on site as required for the duration of the pipeline construction activities to ensure compliance with the recommendations set out in the pre-construction site assessment and environmental protection plan. In addition to the historical resources assessment included in the pre-construction site assessment and environmental protection plan, a *Historical Resources Act* clearance has been obtained from Alberta Culture and Community Spirit. ATCO would comply with the code of practice in accordance with the *Water Act* for proposed wetland crossings on the pipeline route.

9. ATCO submitted a noise impact assessment for the proposed control station.<sup>3</sup> The overall predicted noise level at the most impacted dwelling, including the assumed ambient level, is 39 dBA  $L_{eq}$  nighttime, which is below the nighttime permissible sound level of 45 dBA  $L_{eq}$  for the area. The noise impact assessment for the proposed ATCO Homeglen-Bonnieglen-Mulhurst control station is considered complete and fulfills the requirements of the AUC Rule 012: *Noise Control* (AUC Rule 012).

10. ATCO stated that during the consultation process, all potentially affected parties were given a detailed description of the proposed visual appearance and equipment to be contained within the proposed Homeglen-Bonnieglen-Mulhurst control station. This project was advertised in the Wetaskiwin Times, Leduc-Wetaskiwin Pipestone Flyer and the County Market weekly newspapers.

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<sup>1</sup> Exhibit No. 0011.00.ATCO-1824

<sup>2</sup> Exhibit No. 0011.00.ATCO-1824

<sup>3</sup> Exhibit No. 0012.00.ATCO-1824

11. In its submission, ATCO stated that the requirements of the consultation and notification program were met and that no outstanding objections or concerns remain in regards to the application.

## 2 Findings

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

13. 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*.

14. The Commission finds that information in the application submitted by ATCO fulfills the requirements of AUC Rule 012.

15. 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*.

16. The Commission finds that the project is necessary to accommodate the forecast growth, and to free-up capacity on other ATCO transmission pipelines and allow for the consolidation of ATCO's existing metering, regulating and odorization facilities in the Mulhurst area.

17. 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

18. 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. 1829 and grants ATCO the amended permit and licence as set out in Appendix 1 – Gas Utility Pipeline – Pipeline Split, Removal and New Construction – Permit and Licence No. 1829 - May 18, 2012 (Appendix 1 will be distributed separately).

Dated on May 18, 2012.

### The Alberta Utilities Commission

*(original signed by)*

Neil Jamieson  
Commission Member