

DA2013-148

July 17, 2013

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

Attention: Wayne Snyder, P. Eng.
Senior Project Leader, Pipelines Engineering

Pipeline Splits on the Bittern Lake North Transmission System
Permit and Licence No. 6317 and No. 28588
Application No. 1609654
Proceeding ID No. 2651

Minor pipeline project application

ATCO Gas and Pipelines Ltd. (South) (ATCO), by Application No. 1609654, registered on June 7, 2013, filed an application with the Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC or the Commission) under Section 11 of the *Pipeline Act* and Section 4.1 of the *Gas Utilities Act* for the following in Townships 53 and 54, Ranges 23, 24 and 25, west of Fourth Meridian:

- Pertaining to Permit and Licence 6317:
 - Splitting Line 8 into lines 8 and 13.
 - Amend the length of Line 8 from 6.23 kilometres to 6.72 kilometres.
- Pertaining to Permit and Licence 28588:
 - Splitting Line 3 into lines 3 and 5.

The proposed work is related to minor pipeline splits of existing pipe, within the original right-of-way, previously constructed and operated in accordance with approvals granted in Permit and Licence No. 6317 and Permit and Licence No. 28588.

ATCO stated that the purpose of this work is to retain the Bittern Lake North transmission system north of the transportation utility corridor and maintain the high pressure asset. The pipeline south of the transportation utility corridor would provide future service for the gas distribution system.

ATCO stated that the pipeline was constructed in 1956 and has been utilized to transport un-odourized natural gas to industrial customers in northeast Edmonton. The demand for this service has decreased and can be met utilizing other pipelines outside the urban areas in the city of Edmonton. This proposed project would allow ATCO to remove this section of pipeline, located in a high consequence area, from high pressure service. There are no customers served directly from this section of pipeline.

ATCO proposed to split Line 3 into lines 3 and 5 on Permit and Licence No. 28588. The line split would allow for the de-licencing of Line 3 in a subsequent application making the pipeline suitable for distribution operations. Line 5 would remain in high pressure service, but at a reduced maximum operating pressure matching the existing pipelines in the area.

ATCO also proposed to split Line 8 into lines 8 and 13 on Permit and Licence No. 6317. Line 8 would continue to operate under its present conditions and Line 13 would be abandoned. When Line 13 is abandoned on a subsequent application, Lines 1 and 2 of Permit and Licence No. 602 would also be abandoned. This would leave the pipeline from St. Albert to the transportation utility corridor connected north of the transportation utility corridor with the existing transmission system. The pipeline south of the transportation utility corridor to the North Saskatchewan River would be de-licenced and operate as part of the distribution facilities. These changes would also include the abandonment of the pipeline system south of the river to the point where the Bittern Lake North system is connected with Fort Saskatchewan.

ATCO stated that the vintage 273.1 millimetre North Bittern Lake pipeline is no longer required as an integral part of ATCO's high pressure gas transmission system.

ATCO also stated that there are no watercourse crossings that would be affected by the pipeline splits.

ATCO has provided information respecting the need, nature and extent of the pipeline splits. Since the pipeline splits do not involve any ground disturbance there will be no environmental impact.

Based upon the information provided, ATCO has demonstrated that the proposal is of a minor nature, no other person will be directly affected by the proposal and no adverse environmental impact will be caused by the proposed pipeline splits.

The Commission approves the application. The amended permits and licences are attached.



Brian Shand, P. Eng.
Director, Gas Facilities
On behalf of the Alberta Utilities Commission

Attachment