

DA2013-181

July 29, 2013

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

Attention: Jo-Anne Van Sickle
Pipelines Engineering Clerk

Pipeline Splits and Removals
Permit and Licence No. 2526
Application No. 1609755
Proceeding ID No. 2714

Minor pipeline project application

ATCO Gas and Pipelines Ltd. (South) (ATCO), by Application No. 1609755, registered on July 12, 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 41, 42, 43, 44, 45 and 46; Ranges 21, 22, 23, 24, 25 and 26, west of the Fourth Meridian:

- splitting Line 30 into lines 30 and 147
- splitting Line 3 into lines 3, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154 and 155
- splitting Line 6 into lines 6, 156, 157, 158, 159 and 160
- splitting Line 55 into lines 55 and 161
- splitting Line 40 into lines 40 and 162
- splitting Line 25 into lines 25 and 163
- splitting Line 12 into lines 12 and 164
- splitting Line 17 into lines 17 and 165
- removal of lines 17, 53, 54, 55, 148, 150, 154, 156, 158 and 160
- lines 3, 6, 12, 25, 147, 149, 151, 153, 155, 157, 159, 161 and 162 to be abandoned under a future application
- lines 30, 40, 152, 163, 164 and 165 will remain in operation
- environmental code amendment to Line 155

The proposed work is related to minor pipeline splits and removals of existing pipeline, within the original right-of-way, previously constructed and operating in accordance with approvals granted in Permit and Licence No. 2526.

ATCO stated that, in 2010, it replaced the existing Southern Extension transmission pipeline with 71.04 kilometres (km) of pipeline from Lacombe to the south boundary of the Samson Reserve and from the north boundary of the Ermineskin Reserve to Gwynne. This replacement was completed to mitigate the risks identified in the integrity evaluation of the Vintage Southern Extension transmission pipeline and to maintain long-term supply to the core market centers. Conversions of all remaining customer taps to the new pipeline are scheduled to be completed in the summer of 2013.

ATCO stated that several pipeline removals are required due to shallow depth of cover, exposure in watercourses or wetlands and landowner requests. The remaining pipeline being replaced will be abandoned in place under a subsequent application. As right-of-way coverage will be maintained over the existing pipeline, no reclamation certificate is required at this time.

ATCO stated that upon completion of the tap conversions, Phase 2 of the Vintage Southern Extension transmission pipeline is to be abandoned in place from LSD 14-04-41-26-W4M to LSD 07-12-44-25-W4M and from LSD 04-03-45-24-W4M to LSD 08-27-46-22-W4M. The existing 19.9 km section of 168.3 millimetre (mm) outside diameter (OD) pipeline and the existing 46.1 km section of 219.1 mm OD pipeline of the Phase 2 Southern Extension transmission pipeline will be abandoned in place. Furthermore, ATCO proposed to remove 1.8 km of the 19.9 km section of 168.3 mm OD pipeline and 2.8 km of the 46.1 km section of 219.1 mm OD pipeline of the Southern Extension transmission Phase 2 pipeline.

ATCO stated that it notified all landowners and occupants along the right-of-way and conducted industry notifications in accordance with AUC Rule 020: *Gas Utility Pipelines* requirements. There were no outstanding objections or concerns related to this project.

ATCO stated that it retained TERA Environmental Consultants (TERA) to complete a pre-construction site assessment and an Environmental Protection Plan (EPP) for the pipeline removal activities within watercourses and wetlands. The EPP would comply with the *Environmental Protection Guidelines for Pipelines*, C&R/II/94-5, published by Alberta Environment Sustainable Resources Development. All pipeline removals would comply with the Code of Practice in accordance with the *Water Act* and the EPP for proposed watercourse and wetland removals. The Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada has reviewed the plans for the proposed removals and has determined that an approval is not required, provided that all mitigation measures outlined in the EPP are followed. TERA would have an environmental inspector onsite as required for the duration of the pipeline removal activities within watercourses and wetlands to ensure compliance with the recommendations set out in the pre-construction site assessment and EPP. Sections of the proposed pipeline removal and abandonment are located in lands with a designated historic resource value according to Alberta Culture's listing of historic resources. *Historical Resources Act* clearance has been acquired.

ATCO has provided information respecting the need, nature and extent of the project. Since the project involves no significant 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.

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.

The Commission approves the application. The amended permit and licence is attached.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "B. Shand", is written over a light grey rectangular background.

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

Attachment