

DA2013-184

July 29, 2013

AltaGas Utilities Inc.
5509 – 45th Street
Leduc, Alberta T9E 6T6

Attention: Jayne Blinzer, P. Eng.
Engineer, System Planning and Design

**Pipeline Split and New Construction
Permit and Licence No. 203
Application No. 1609756
Proceeding ID No. 2720**

Minor pipeline project application

AltaGas Utilities Inc. (AltaGas), by Application No. 1609756, 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 Township 67, Ranges 17 and 18, west of Fourth Meridian:

- splitting Line 13 into lines 13 and 60
- addition of a proposed pipeline (Line 61 – 1.09 kilometres of 60.3-millimetre outside-diameter pipeline)
- Line 13 to remain in place as operating
- Line 60 to be abandoned in place under a future application
- addition of a new regulating station
- removal of an existing regulating station

Alberta Transportation has requested AltaGas to relocate an existing pipeline and associated facilities to allow for the construction of a new Highway 63/55 intersection. To accommodate this request from Alberta Transportation, AltaGas proposed to install 1.09 kilometres of 60.3-millimetre steel pipeline from 02-30-067-17-W4 to 08-30-067-17-W4 and to replace an existing pressure regulating station. A pipeline split is also required because a portion of the existing Line 13 would be abandoned after the new pipeline is installed. Alberta Transportation would be responsible for all of the costs associated with this project.

AltaGas stated that the new pipeline would be Line 61 of Permit and Licence No. 203, and would tie-in to the existing AltaGas pipeline in 02-30-067-17-W4. From the tie-in location, the pipe would go north for 323 metres and then go east paralleling the NOVA Gas Transmission Ltd. right-of-way plan 762 0671 for 768 metres to 08-30-067-17-W4. The pipeline would end at a new AltaGas regulating station, AT121, which would replace its existing regulating station AT076. AT076 would be retired due to the road construction.

AltaGas stated that a portion of Line 13 would be abandoned after Line 61 is installed and operating. Therefore, Line 13 must be split into two segments to facilitate the future abandonment. The first segment would be from 02-25-067-18-W4 to 02-30-067-17-W4 and would be 1.69 kilometres long. This segment would remain as Line 13. The second segment would be from 02-30-067-17-W4 to 02-30-067-17-W4, 0.50 km long and be Line 60. After Line 61 is installed, an application would be submitted for the abandonment of Line 60.

AltaGas stated that the new pipe would be installed using the open trench technique. 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. In the back-fill phase, the stored topsoil and subsoil would be returned to their original layers. The same process would be used with the soil from the bell holes. Horizontal directional drilling would be used when crossing foreign pipeline rights-of-way.

AltaGas stated that the proposed pipeline would be tested with air, as there is no specific requirement to hydrotest a pipeline with a maximum stress level of eight percent of specified minimum yield strength.

AltaGas stated that there are no environmentally significant areas or historical sites in or near the project area that would be affected. The work area is in Upper Athabasca region and therefore the Lower Athabasca Regional Plan does not apply.

AltaGas stated that the new regulating station, AT121, is a 1.8 metre by 1.8 metre station which would be placed in the AltaGas 10-metre right-of-way. There is no building, however, the regulating station would have a standard guard to protect it. The regulating station would consist of only regulators and a relief valve. AltaGas submitted noise impact summary forms which show that the predicted cumulative sound levels would be below the permissible sound levels of AUC Rule 012: *Noise Control* (AUC Rule 012).

AltaGas also stated that the locations of the right-of-way boundaries were surveyed according to the *Survey Act*.

AltaGas has provided information respecting the need, nature and extent of the project. Since the project involves no significant ground disturbance, 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, AltaGas 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 enclosed within a thin rectangular border.

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

Attachment