



AltaGas Utilities Inc.

**New Construction
Township 56, Range 25, West of the Fourth Meridian**

September 4, 2012

The Alberta Utilities Commission

Decision 2012-234: AltaGas Utilities Inc.

New Construction – Township 56, Range 25, West of the Fourth Meridian

Application No. 1608658

Proceeding ID No. 2036

September 4, 2012

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/addition to Permit and Licence No. 3491 pursuant to Section 11 of the *Pipeline Act* and Section 4.1 of the *Gas Utilities Act* for the following:

- addition of a proposed pipeline (Line 46 – 6.60 kilometres of 168.3-millimetre outside-diameter pipeline)
- addition of a new purchase meter station
- addition of a new pressure regulator station

(the project)

2. This application was registered as Application No. 1608658 on July 18, 2012.

3. AltaGas proposed to install approximately 6.60 kilometres of steel pipeline from their proposed purchase meter station in 14-23-056-25-W4M to their proposed pressure regulator station in 01-02-056-25-W4M to provide gas supply to the Morinville district. The proposed route is in a rural setting through agricultural land. At the abandoned Canadian Natural Resources Ltd. wellsite in 08-11-056-25-W4M, AltaGas would be exposing the nearby abandoned well caps to ensure that there is no interference with their pipeline placement.

4. AltaGas stated that there are no historic resources at or near the project area that would be affected according to the *Alberta Culture Listing of Historic Resources*.

5. The noise impact assessment summary forms submitted by AltaGas indicate that the predicted sound levels would be below the permissible sound levels.

6. AltaGas stated that all landowners and occupants have been given written notification of the proposed construction, including a general description of the project, and a description of the visual impact and equipment that would be installed at each proposed station. All landowners and occupants have given written confirmation that they have no objection to the issuing of the permit.

7. AltaGas stated that there would be no adverse effects on vegetation or soil resources. Open trenching would be used for the installation of the pipeline. Topsoil over the trench line would be stripped. All soils would be separated into topsoil and subsoil as necessary, and stored within the proposed right-of-way. Topsoil would be stored at the inside edge of the right-of-way while the subsoil would be stored right next to the trench on the same side as the topsoil pile. The proposed right-of-way is 10 metres wide in farmed land, and therefore would provide sufficient

space and suitable terrain for this storage. In the backfill phase, the stored topsoil and subsoil would be returned to their original layers. Re-seeding would either be done by the landowner where AltaGas would pay the landowner to do the work, or AltaGas's pipeline contractor would do the work for the landowner, to the landowner's satisfaction.

8. In its submission, AltaGas 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

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

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*.

11. The Commission finds that information in the application submitted by AltaGas fulfills the requirements of AUC Rule 012: *Noise Control*.

12. 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*.

13. The Commission finds that the new construction is necessary to provide natural gas to a regulating station to service a distribution load in the Morinville district.

14. 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

15. 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. 3491 and grants AltaGas the amended permit and licence as set out in Appendix 1 – Gas Utility Pipeline – New Construction – Permit and Licence No. 3491 – September 4, 2012 (Appendix 1 will be distributed separately).

Dated on September 4, 2012.

The Alberta Utilities Commission

(original signed by)

Neil Jamieson
Commission Member