

DA2012-13

January 25, 2012

ATCO Gas and Pipelines Ltd. (South)
7210 – 42 Street N.W.
Edmonton, AB T6B 3H1Attention: Ryan Currie, EIT
Pipelines Leader, Pipelines Engineering**Abandonment of Pipelines
Permit and Licence No. 4764 – January 25, 2012 Amendment
Application No. 1608055
Proceeding ID No. 1672****Minor pipeline project application**

ATCO Gas and Pipelines Ltd. (South) (ATCO), by Application No. 1608055 registered on January 17, 2012 (the application), 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* to abandon lines 1, 6 and 7 in Townships 56 and 57, Range 3, west of the Fifth Meridian. The proposed work is related to a minor abandonment of existing pipelines, within the original right-of-way, previously constructed and operating in accordance with approvals granted in Permit and Licence No. 4764.

ATCO stated that in November 2011, ATCO abandoned the 42.2 millimetre outside diameter Rich Valley Branch line between LSD 01-01-057-03-W5M and LSD 01-27-056-03-W5M due to ongoing integrity concerns. A least cost analysis was completed in conjunction with the local distribution company. It was determined that rather than ATCO replacing the existing high pressure pipeline, the lower cost alternative would be for the local distribution company to replace the pipe with low pressure distribution piping.

In its submission, ATCO also stated that the pipelines were abandoned in accordance with AUC requirements, all associated surface facilities would be removed and the surface sites would be reclaimed within one year.

ATCO has provided information respecting the need, nature and extent of the minor pipeline project. Since the minor pipeline 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 pipeline project takes place will likely be directly affected by the proposal, and no significant adverse environmental impact will be caused by the proposed pipeline project.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Popowich".

Don Popowich, P.Eng.
Director, Facilities Division

On behalf of the Alberta Utilities Commission