



ATCO Gas and Pipelines Ltd. (South)

Pipeline Split and Removals

Township 39 & 40, Range 26 & 27, west of the Fourth Meridian

February 17, 2011

The Alberta Utilities Commission

Decision 2011-063: ATCO Gas and Pipelines Ltd. (South)

Pipeline Split and Removals

Application No. 1606978

Proceeding ID No. 1071

February 17, 2011

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The Alberta Utilities Commission

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1 Introduction

1. ATCO Gas and Pipelines Ltd. (South) (ATCO) filed an application with the Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC or the Commission) seeking approval for an amendment to Permit and Licence 2526 and Permit and Licence 4592 pursuant to Section 11 of the *Pipeline Act* and Section 4.1 of the *Gas Utilities Act* for the following:

Pertaining to Permit and Licence 2526

- splitting Line 118 into Lines 118, 124 and 125
- removal of Line 124
- lines 118 and 125 remain in place

Pertaining to Permit and Licence 4592

- removal of Line 1

(the project).

2. The application was registered on January 31, 2011 as Application No. 1606978.

3. ATCO stated that the existing 168 mm Southern Extension Pipeline is nearing the end of its useful life and is scheduled to be abandoned. Abandonment notifications were sent out to land owners along the pipeline. One landowner in Blackfalds requested that ATCO remove 460 m portion of 168.3 mm pipeline (Line 124) and 110 m portion of 26 mm pipeline (Line 1) upon abandonment to allow for future development.

4. ATCO stated that the pipelines would be tested for liquids prior to removal and any liquids found would be removed and properly disposed of. Open trenching would be used for the pipeline removal. The topsoil would be stripped and stored and all surface disturbances would be backfilled before the topsoil is returned.

5. ATCO stated that one existing, above ground riser would be removed under Licence 4592 in accordance with AUC Rule 20: *Rules Respecting Gas Utility Pipelines* requirements.

2 Findings

6. 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*. The Commission notes that a participant involvement program has been conducted by the applicant and that there are no outstanding public or industry objections or concerns.

7. 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

8. 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 2526 and Permit and Licence 4592 for the project and grants ATCO the amended Permits and Licences as set out in Appendix 1 – Pipeline Split and Removal – Permit and Licence No. 2526 and Appendix 2 – Pipeline Removal – Permit and Licence No. 4592 – February 17, 2010 (Appendices 1 and 2 will be distributed separately).

Dated on February 17, 2011.

The Alberta Utilities Commission

(original signed by)

Tudor Beattie, QC
Commissioner