



## **ATCO Gas and Pipelines Ltd. (South)**

**Pipeline Split and New Construction**

**Township 57, Range 8, West of the Fifth Meridian**

**March 28, 2011**

**The Alberta Utilities Commission**

Decision 2011-117: ATCO Gas and Pipelines Ltd. (South)

Pipeline Split and New Construction

Application No. 1607106

Proceeding ID No. 1130

March 28, 2011

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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 No. 5341 pursuant to Section 11 of the *Pipeline Act* and Section 4.1 of the *Gas Utilities Act* for the following:

- splitting Line 1 into Lines 1, 44 and 45
- addition of newly constructed pipeline (Line 46 – 0.08 kilometres (km) of 219.1 millimetre (mm) OD Pipe)

(project).

2. The application was registered on March 15, 2011, as Application No. 1607106, and amended March 28, 2011.

3. ATCO stated that 219.1 mm high pressure natural gas pipeline was originally constructed in 1966. In the fall of 2010, ATCO was notified by Alberta Transportation regarding the proposed widening of the existing Highway 22 right-of-way that the widening may impact the existing pipeline crossing.

4. ATCO stated that a search of ATCO's available records did not indicate heavy wall pipeline was installed at the highway crossing. In the past, it was common to install heavier wall pipe under existing roads without noting the wall thickness on the license or records. ATCO decided to proceed with a field investigation to determine if the existing wall thickness of the pipe at the crossing was adequate for the proposed highway widening. In late 2010, ATCO excavated the existing 219 mm pipeline west of Highway 22 with a hydrovac and was able to locate a transition from line pipe 3.58 mm wall thickness to crossing pipe 4.8 mm wall thickness. This inspection confirmed that, although not documented in 1966, heavy wall crossing pipe was installed under the highway crossing.

5. ATCO stated that a plan was developed to extend the existing 4.8 mm wall thickness pipe to accommodate the proposed highway widening from LSD 09-05-057-08-W5M to LSD 12-04-057-08-W5M. The new heavy wall crossing pipe of superior material, approximately 20 metres (m) in length, would be installed in the existing alignment as a direct replacement of the line pipe being removed.

6. ATCO stated that on March 3, 2011, during hydrovac activities on the east side of Highway 22, ATCO personnel were unable to locate the transition point from line pipe 3.58 mm

wall thickness to crossing pipe 4.8 mm wall thickness. As the hydrovac approached the existing highway, it was decided that going further could possibly impact the highway foundation or become an unsafe working environment due to proximity of the existing highway. It became apparent that the existing pipeline crossing of Highway 22 did not fully meet the required specifications of CSA Z662.

7. ATCO proposed to abandon the existing Highway 22 crossing in place and install a new, approximately 80 m, directionally drilled pipeline to replace the abandoned pipeline. No watercourse crossings will be affected by the proposed construction activities.

8. In its submission, ATCO stated that the requirements of the consultation and notification program were met and that no outstanding objections or concerns remain related to this application.

## **2 Findings**

9. 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*.

10. The Commission finds that the pipeline split and new construction are necessary to accommodate the proposed widening of Highway 22 in compliance with CSA Z662.07.

11. 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**

12. 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. 5341 for the project and grants ATCO the amended permit and licence as set out in Appendix 1 – Pipeline Split and New Construction – Permit and Licence No. 5341 – March 28, 2011 (Appendix 1 will be distributed separately).

Dated on March 28, 2011.

**The Alberta Utilities Commission**

*(original signed by)*

Kay Holgate  
Commission Member