



ATCO Gas and Pipelines Ltd. (South)

Pipeline Removal

Township 52, Range 23, west of the Fourth Meridian

April 20, 2011

The Alberta Utilities Commission

Decision 2011-164: ATCO Gas and Pipelines Ltd. (South)

Pipeline Removal

Application No. 1607095

Proceeding ID No. 1118

April 20, 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 No. 9464 pursuant to Section 11 of the *Pipeline Act* and Section 4.1 of the *Gas Utilities Act* for the following:

- removal of Line 2

(the project).

2. The application was registered on March 10, 2011, as Application No. 1607095 (the application). ATCO stated that the application requested approval for the removal of 50 metres (m) of 60.3 mm x 2.77 mm wall thickness below the ground lateral pipeline and the above ground riser.

3. ATCO stated that the existing 60.3 mm pipeline was installed to supply natural gas to a low pressure distribution system in Edmonton, Alberta. This low pressure distribution system has since been consolidated to another source, rendering this line obsolete. The above ground riser and below ground lateral now pose a safety hazard and should be removed. In response to the Commission's information request, ATCO stated that the high pressure riser is still live and extends above ground in a busy industrial yard and is at risk of being struck. Therefore, it should be removed for the safety of all parties in the vicinity. As well, AUC Rule 020: *Rules Respecting Gas Utility Pipelines* (AUC Rule 020) requires that in the case of abandonment, all associated surface facilities will be removed and the surface site reclaimed within one year. The 50 m underground lateral could be abandoned in place and would not pose a safety hazard but has been requested to be removed by the land owner. ATCO has submitted the letter in which the land owner requested ATCO remove the above ground riser and below ground lateral from their property.

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

5. In response to the Commission information request, ATCO stated that construction operation is limited to normal daytime working hours and is entirely contained within The Rig Shop Ltd. and Katuke Ltd. property. Therefore, no other parties were required to be notified. Consultation with the City of Edmonton was not required as construction operations would be solely contained within private land. ATCO submitted letters of non-objection signed by both

parties. ATCO also submitted the detailed site and location plan drawing which was part of the consultation package.

6. The Commission asked ATCO to provide a list of names of all affected landowners and the dates the non-objections were obtained. In response to this information request, ATCO has submitted the names of all affected landowners and the dates the non-objections were obtained.

7. 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

8. The Commission notes that the landowner requested ATCO to remove the above ground riser and the below ground lateral. The Commission finds that the pipeline removal is necessary to alleviate the safety risk posed by the proposed abandoned above ground riser. In addition, the Commission agrees that the removal of the proposed abandoned underground pipe to accommodate the landowner request is reasonable as related to the specific circumstances of the application.

9. The Commission finds 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.

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. 9464 for the project and grants the applicant the amended Permit and Licence as set out in Appendix 1 – Permit and Licence No. 9464 – April 20, 2011 (Appendix 1 will be distributed separately).

Dated on April 20, 2011.

The Alberta Utilities Commission

(original signed by)

Neil Jamieson
Commission Member