



AUC

Alberta Utilities Commission

AltaGas Utilities Inc.

New Construction

Township 66, Range 21, west of the Fourth Meridian

May 12, 2011

The Alberta Utilities Commission

Decision 2011-206: AltaGas Utilities Inc.

New Construction

Township 66, Range 21, west of the Fourth Meridian

Application No. 1607126

Proceeding ID No. 1139

May 12, 2011

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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 to Permit and Licence No. 203 pursuant to Section 11 of the *Pipeline Act* and Section 4.1 of the *Gas Utilities Act* for the following:

- addition of newly constructed pipeline (Line 56 – 0.55 kilometres (km) of 60.3-millimeter (mm) outside-diameter (OD) pipe)

(the project).

2. The application was registered on March 21, 2011, as Application No. 1607126.

3. AltaGas stated that the proposed pipeline is required to provide gas supply for residential growth in the area.

4. AltaGas proposed to tie into a TransCanada Transmission Ltd. pipeline at TransCanada Transmission Ltd. meter site (862-1870) in 07-20-66-21-W4. From there, AltaGas proposed to install their gas line to the east crossing the Canadian Natural Resources Limited (CNRL) right-of-way 8621286, then north following right-of-way 8621286, east along the north boundary of 07-20-66-21-W4, and then north to AltaGas station site in 10-20-66-21-W4.

5. AltaGas stated that the locations of the right-of-way boundaries would be surveyed according to the *Survey Act*. Construction of the pipeline would commence shortly after the AUC permit is received. The proposed line would be tested with air.

6. AltaGas stated that the proposed station building is insulated to provide noise mitigation. The station is a small-flow design and, therefore, AltaGas does not anticipate any noise impact. In addition, a noise free line heater is being utilized. The predicted noise level would be in compliance with the permissible sound level in AUC Rule 012: *Noise Control* (AUC Rule 012). The noise level is predicted to be less than 40 decibels absolute energy equivalent (dBA) at the nearest dwelling.

7. The Commission asked AltaGas to provide the distance and direction from the proposed facility to the nearest dwelling or most impacted dwelling. In response to the information request, AltaGas stated that the nearest dwelling is 395 metres (m) southeast of the proposed facility.

8. The Commission asked AltaGas to provide a list of the facility noise generating equipment and the source sound levels of this equipment used in the noise predictions. In

response to the information request, AltaGas stated that the noise generating equipment is the station's pressure reducing regulators. The source sound levels of this equipment were not used individually in the noise prediction calculations. Sound measurements were taken at an existing similar station and the measurements were used to predict the sound level at the new station site.

9. The Commission asked AltaGas to explain the methodology used to derive the predicted noise level at the nearest or most impacted dwelling confirming that the predicted noise level would be in compliance with the permissible sound level. In response to the information request, AltaGas stated that sound measurements were taken at an existing similar station at a distance of 10 m from the station. This measurement of 55 dBA was used along with the method described in Section 2.5.1 "Estimate of Sound Pressure Levels for Different Distances – Point Sources" in AUC Rule 012. A nighttime sound level of 23 dBA was calculated for the noise associated with the station. The cumulative effects of the noise from the new facility and the ambient noise were calculated using the method described in Appendix 2 Section 2.4 "Addition of Sound Power or Sound Pressure Levels". The total predicted noise level at the nearest dwelling was estimated at 35.3 dBA. The predicted noise level is less than the permissible sound level of 40 dBA by more than three dBA. Therefore, the predicted noise level would be in compliance with the permissible sound level.

10. The Commission asked AltaGas to submit the completed Appendix 3 – Noise Impact Assessment Summary Form. In response to the information request, AltaGas submitted the completed Appendix 3.

11. AltaGas also stated that all landowners and occupants have been given written notification of the proposed construction, including a general description of the project and all above ground facilities.

12. In its submission, AltaGas 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

13. The Commission finds that the completed Appendix 3 – Noise Impact Assessment Summary Form and responses to the information request submitted by AltaGas fulfills the requirements of AUC Rule 012.

14. The Commission notes the AltaGas submission that the requirements of the consultation and notification program were met and that no outstanding objections or concerns remain related to this application.

15. 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*.

16. The Commission finds that the new construction is necessary to provide gas supply for residential growth in the area.

17. 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

18. 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. 203 for the project and grants AltaGas the amended permit and licence as set out in Appendix 1 – Permit and Licence No. 203 – May 12, 2011 (Appendix 1 will be distributed separately).

Dated on May 12, 2011.

The Alberta Utilities Commission

(original signed by)

Neil Jamieson
Commission Member