



ATCO Gas and Pipelines Ltd. (South)

Pipeline Split and Removal

Township 9, Ranges 21 and 22, west of the Fourth Meridian

May 20, 2011

The Alberta Utilities Commission

Decision 2011-223: ATCO Gas and Pipelines Ltd. (South)

Pipeline Split and Removal

Application No. 1607293

Proceeding ID No. 1217

May 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. 2027 pursuant to Section 11 of the *Pipeline Act* and Section 4.1 of the *Gas Utilities Act* for the following:

- splitting Line 21 into Lines 21, 135, 136, 137 and 138
- removal of Lines 135 and 137
- Lines 21, 136 and 138 remain in place
- add missing Environmental Code to Lines 21, 135 and 136
- length amendment to Line 21

(the project).

2. The application was registered on May 3, 2011, as Application No. 1607293.

3. ATCO stated that the project includes a pipeline split and removal of two line segments of a previously-abandoned pipeline. Pipeline segments to be removed on the previously-abandoned pipeline include (i) an exposed segment on the west slope of the Oldman River west sub-channel using open trench methods and (ii) an exposed segment in the Oldman River west sub-channel using trenchless methods. Any liquids contained in the pipe to be removed would be captured and disposed of prior to the removal activity.

4. ATCO stated that a Pre Construction Site Assessment (PCSA) and Environmental Protection Plan (EPP) have been completed which include soil handling and erosion control contingency measures.

5. ATCO stated that notification has been submitted to Alberta Environment for the proposed removal of the exposed previously abandoned pipeline segment from the west sub-channel and that notification will be re-submitted as the construction window approaches.

6. ATCO stated that a letter of advice has been received from the Department of Fisheries and Oceans in response to ATCO's request for a case-specific review of the proposed removal of the exposed previously-abandoned pipeline segment from the west sub-channel. The letter of advice includes recommended mitigation measures to be implemented to reduce potential impact on fish and fish habitat.

7. ATCO stated that approval has been received from Navigable Waters for this project.

8. ATCO also stated that removal operations are proposed to commence in September 2011 upon receipt of approval from the AUC.

9. 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

10. 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*.

11. The Commission finds that the pipeline split and removal are necessary to eliminate the exposed pipeline segments on the west slope and in the Oldman river west sub-channel.

12. The Commission notes that the Water Act Code of Practice – Notification has been submitted to Alberta Environment for this project by ATCO.

13. The Commission also notes that the Department of Fisheries and Oceans has approved the proposed project in the letter of advice which includes recommended mitigation measures to be implemented to reduce potential impact for fish and fish habitat.

14. The Commission notes that ATCO has submitted the approval issued by Transport Canada (Navigable Water Protection Program).

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

16. 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

17. 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. 2027 for the project and grants ATCO the amended permit and licence as set out in Appendix 1 – Pipeline Split and Removal – Permit and Licence No. 2027 – May 20, 2011 (Appendix 1 will be distributed separately).

Dated on May 20, 2011.

The Alberta Utilities Commission

(original signed by)

Mark Kolesar
Commission Member