



ATCO Gas and Pipelines Ltd. (South)

Pipeline Split, Removal and New Construction

Township 51, Ranges 24, 25 and 26, west of the Fourth Meridian

June 23, 2011

The Alberta Utilities Commission

Decision 2011-265: ATCO Gas and Pipelines Ltd. (South)

Pipeline Split, Removal and New Construction

Application No. 1607388

Proceeding ID No. 1283

June 23, 2011

Published by

The Alberta Utilities Commission

Fifth Avenue Place, Fourth Floor, 425 First Street S.W.

Calgary, Alberta

T2P 3L8

Telephone: 403-592-8845

Fax: 403-592-4406

Website: www.auc.ab.ca

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. 1829 pursuant to Section 11 of the *Pipeline Act* and Section 4.1 of the *Gas Utilities Act* for the following:

- Splitting Line 3 into Lines 3, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86 and 87.
- Removal of Lines 80, 82, 84 and 86.
- Addition of newly constructed pipeline (Line 88 – 0.05 kilometres (km) of 323.9 millimetre (mm) outside-diameter (OD) Pipe)
- Addition of newly constructed pipeline (Line 89 – 0.05 km of 323.9 mm OD Pipe)
- Addition of newly constructed pipeline (Line 90 – 0.07 km of 323.9 mm OD Pipe)
- Addition of newly constructed pipeline (Line 91 – 0.07 km of 323.9 mm OD Pipe)
- Lines 3, 81, 83, 85 and 87 remain in place.

(the project).

2. The application was registered on June 7, 2011, as Application No. 1607388.

3. ATCO stated that a class location assessment completed by ATCO indicated that development is occurring or proposed in the area adjacent to ATCO's existing pipeline right-of-way in sections 13 and 14 -51-25-W4M (Chappelle neighbourhood) and in SW24-51-25-W4M (Heritage Valley 12 neighbourhood) in the City of Edmonton. Consequently, when the area is fully developed and occupied, the pipeline class location designation will change from Class 1 and 3 to Class 4. To meet the safety requirements specified in *CSA Z662 Oil and Gas Pipeline Systems*, ATCO's existing road crossings in this area 323.9 mm Bonnie Glen transmission line will require replacement. To meet the safety requirements for a Class 4 location, the 323.9 mm pipeline would be taken out of service and new higher grade pipe would be installed at four road crossing locations in the same alignment as the existing pipeline in ATCO's right-of-way. The 323.9 mm pipeline road crossing replacements would occur in conjunction with ATCO's 609.6 mm Homeglen Transmission Line (Licence No. 13452) replacement project in this Class 4 location area.

4. ATCO stated that the area being developed where ATCO pipelines are located is becoming congested and working space adjacent to ATCO's right-of-way is limited making it necessary to replace the pipe at this time. In the future, when this developing area is considered to be a Class 4 location, it is intended also that the maximum operating pressure would be lowered for ATCO's existing 323.9 mm and 219.1 mm pipelines traversing this area to satisfy the safety requirements for a Class 4 Location.

5. ATCO stated that during construction, the existing pipelines would be tested for liquids prior to removal. Any liquids found would be removed and properly disposed of. Open trenching would be used for the pipeline removals except at one existing road crossing where a closed bore method is planned to remove the old pipe and install the new pipe.

6. ATCO also stated that the area is under heavy development and construction activities are extensive and ongoing. Much of the topsoil in the area has been disturbed or removed. Where required to facilitate pipeline construction activities, the topsoil on the right-of-way and workspace would be stripped and stored, and all surface disturbances would be backfilled before the topsoil is returned.

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 has reviewed the application and has determined that it meets the requirements as stipulated in AUC Rule 020: *Rules Respecting Gas Utility Pipelines*.

9. The Commission finds that the pipeline split, removal and new construction are necessary to meet minimum regulatory requirements that include the requirements of *CSA Z662 Oil and Gas Pipeline Systems*.

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

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. 1829 for the project and grants ATCO the amended permit and licence as set out in Appendix 1 – Pipeline Split, Removal and New Construction – Permit and Licence No. 1829 – June 23, 2011 (Appendix 1 will be distributed separately).

Dated on June 23, 2011.

The Alberta Utilities Commission

(original signed by)

Tudor Beattie, QC
Commission Member