



ATCO Gas and Pipelines Ltd. (South)

Pipeline Split, Removal and New Construction

Township 49, Range 1, West of the Fifth Meridian

August 22, 2011

The Alberta Utilities Commission

Decision 2011-345: ATCO Gas and Pipelines Ltd. (South)

Pipeline Split, Removal and New Construction

Township 49, Range 1, West of the Fifth Meridian

Application No. 1607587

Proceeding ID No. 1397

August 22, 2011

Published by

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. 678 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, 5 and 6
- removal of Line 6
- addition of newly constructed pipeline (Line 7 – 1.67 kilometres (km) of 88.9 millimetre (mm) outside-diameter (OD) pipe
- mapping correction of Line 3

(the project).

2. The application was registered on August 15, 2011, as Application No. 1607587.

3. ATCO stated the proposed 88 mm Thorsby lateral loop is required to maintain adequate pressure within the existing 42 mm Thorsby lateral. The proposed 88 mm Thorsby lateral loop would complete the looping of the 42 mm Thorsby lateral from LSD 5-26-49-1-W5M to LSD 13-14-49-1-W5M. The 42 mm Thorsby lateral would be removed and would be replaced with the 88 mm Thorsby lateral from LSD 13-14-49-1-W5M to LSD 12-14-49-1-W5M within the same right-of-way to reduce the amount of land required on the small lot within the Village of Thorsby. The proposed 88 mm Thorsby lateral loop would terminate at the existing ATCO Gas Thorsby Gate Station.

4. ATCO stated that Line 3 would remain operating. Line 5 would be abandoned in place under a separate application once the work is complete. Line 6 would be removed to allow for the installation of Line 7 within the existing right-of-way.

5. ATCO stated the proposed pipeline would be installed by a combination of open trench and trenchless methods. The proposed road crossings and creek crossing would be installed by horizontal directional drilling. Drilling fluid would be required for the drill which crosses under the south part of Highway 778 and Weed Creek. To maintain adequate depth under Weed Creek, the drill must be located within bedrock. A copy of the *Horizontal Directional Drilling Feasibility Assessment* report was filed with the application. For the part of the project where the pipeline would be installed using a trench, topsoil would be stripped and stockpiled. The pipe would be removed by excavating "bell holes" and pulling the existing pipe out in sections. If necessary, the pipeline would be excavated, removed and the resultant trench backfilled. Any liquids contained in the pipe to be removed would be captured and disposed of prior to the

removal activity. All disturbed areas would be reclaimed to the condition that they were in before the removal took place.

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

2 Findings

7. The Commission considered ATCO's submission that a participant involvement program has been conducted and that there are no outstanding public or industry objections or concerns.

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. Due to the nature of the application, a notice of application was not issued and, therefore, a hearing was not required as the Commission considered that its decision or order would not directly and adversely affect the rights of a person pursuant to Section 9 of the *Alberta Utilities Commission Act*.

10. The Commission finds that the project is necessary to maintain adequate pressure within the existing 42 mm Thorsby lateral.

11. The Commission notes that the mapping correction of Line 3 is required to properly represent the pipeline on the base map.

12. 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

13. 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. 678 and grants ATCO the amended permit and licence as set out in Appendix 1 – Gas Utility Pipeline – Pipeline Split, Removal and New Construction – Permit and Licence No. 678 – August 22, 2011 (Appendix 1 will be distributed separately).

Dated on August 22, 2011.

The Alberta Utilities Commission

(original signed by)

Tudor Beattie, QC
Commission Member