



# AUC

Alberta Utilities Commission

## **ATCO Gas and Pipelines Ltd. (South)**

### **Pipeline Splits and New Construction**

**Townships 39, 46, 47 and 48, Ranges 18, 20, 21, 22 and 27,  
West of the Fourth Meridian**

**August 24, 2011**

**The Alberta Utilities Commission**

Decision 2011-347: ATCO Gas and Pipelines Ltd. (South)

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Application No. 1607431

Proceeding ID No. 1309

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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. 2526 and Permit and Licence No. 9824 pursuant to Section 11 of the *Pipeline Act* and Section 4.1 of the *Gas Utilities Act* for the following:

Pertaining to Permit and Licence No. 2526

- splitting Line 16 into Line 16 and Line 137
- splitting Line 38 into Line 38 and Line 138
- addition of newly constructed pipeline (Line 139 – 0.02 kilometres (km) of 60.3 millimetre (mm) outside-diameter (OD) pipe).
- addition of newly constructed pipeline (Line 140 – 0.02 km of 60.3 mm OD pipe)
- addition of newly constructed pipeline (Line 141 – 0.04 km of 60.3 mm OD pipe)
- addition of newly constructed pipeline (Line 142 – 0.07 km of 60.3 mm OD pipe)
- amend the grade of the pipe of Line 15, Line 16 and Line 17 from UUU to BW1
- amend the pipe type of Line 22 from UUU to 5L

Pertaining to Permit and Licence No. 9824

- splitting Line 8 into Line 8 and Line 12
- addition of the newly constructed Camrose Lateral Pipeline (Line 13 – 0.90 km of 88.9 mm OD pipe)
- stress level amendment for Line 8
- regulating station located at LSD 05-10-47-20-W4M

(the project).

2. The application was registered on June 24, 2011, as Application No. 1607431.

3. ATCO stated that the project is required to allow for the conversion of service to the new Southern Extension replacement pipeline and future abandonment of the vintage Southern Extension pipeline. The proposed 88.9 mm and 60.3 mm pipelines would tie-in to the new Southern Extension replacement pipeline and connect to existing facilities. The project is required to maintain service to existing customers. The new pipelines must be installed and tied-in to prevent loss of customers when the existing, vintage Southern Extension pipeline is decommissioned and abandoned.

4. ATCO stated that a new regulating station would be installed at LSD 05-10-47-20-W4M to replace the existing regulating station at LSD 12-10-47-20-W4M.
5. In response to an information request, ATCO submitted a noise impact assessment<sup>1</sup> for the regulating station, which included the Appendix 3 Noise Impact Assessment Forms from AUC Rule 012: *Noise Control* (AUC Rule 012). In its submission, ATCO predicted that the noise level would be in compliance with AUC Rule 012.<sup>2</sup>
6. ATCO stated that the proposed regulating station and the Camrose Lateral (Line 13) do not encounter any existing or proposed Ecological Reserves, Provincial Parks, natural areas, or Métis Settlements (Alberta Tourism Parks and Recreation [ATPR]2009a), Environmentally Significant Areas (ATPR 2009b) or Canadian Heritage Rivers (Canadian Heritage Rivers System 2010). The proposed route of the Camrose Lateral (Line 13) of Permit and Licence No. 9824 does not encroach upon any Important Bird Areas (Canadian Nature Federation 2004) or Migratory Bird Sanctuaries (Canadian Wildlife Federation 2006).<sup>3</sup>
7. ATCO stated that during the construction of the project, including the proposed regulating station and the Camrose Lateral (Line 13), minimal disturbance techniques would be employed, where feasible, that would include excavating a narrower trench, compacting the spoil in lifts when returning it to the trench, replacing the spoil into the trench as soon as possible following lowering-in activities and replacing topsoil and completing clean-up as soon as possible following spoil replacement.<sup>4</sup>
8. ATCO stated that the proposed regulating station would be located in an approximately 10 m x 15 m fenced site.<sup>5</sup> The site would house a 2.0 m x 2.6 m building which would contain pressure control equipment to protect the existing lateral (Line 12),<sup>6</sup> which has a maximum operating pressure (MOP) of 2,410 kilopascals (kPa), from being over pressured by the 219 mm Southern Extension mainline which operates at a MOP of 4,830 kPa.
9. ATCO stated that during meetings with the affected parties the land agent reviewed the size and location of the surface lease.<sup>7</sup> He explained that there would be above-ground surface equipment and that the area would be fenced. He also explained that the surface lease would contain a building. The landowners had no concerns or issues with the site so a further, more detailed explanation was not provided.
10. ATCO stated that it completed consultation with the local municipalities including the City of Camrose, Camrose County and Beaver County. The proposed pipeline alignments were arrived at through consultation with stakeholders, as well as the affected landowners.
11. 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.

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<sup>1</sup> Exhibit No. 13.00.ATCO-1309 – Noise Impact Assessment.

<sup>2</sup> Exhibit No. 12.00.ATCO-1309 – Response to Information Request AUC-ATCO-1(a), 1(b) and 1(c).

<sup>3</sup> Exhibit No. 12.00.ATCO-1309 – Response to Information Request AUC-ATCO-2(a).

<sup>4</sup> Exhibit No. 12.00.ATCO-1309 – Response to Information Request AUC-ATCO-2(b).

<sup>5</sup> Exhibit No. 12.00.ATCO-1309 – Response to Information Request AUC-ATCO-3(a).

<sup>6</sup> Aluminum pipeline from 16-9-47-20-W4 to 13-33-48-20-W4.

<sup>7</sup> Exhibit No. 12.00.ATCO-1309 – Response to Information Request AUC-ATCO-3(b), 3(c) and 3(d).

## 2 Findings

12. 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.

13. 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*.

14. 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*.

15. The Commission finds that the pipeline splits and new construction are necessary for the conversion of service to the new Southern Extension pipeline and future abandonment of the vintage Southern Extension pipeline.

16. The Commission also finds that the record amendments are necessary to reflect the actual operation in the pipeline database.

17. The Commission finds that the noise impact assessment submitted by ATCO fulfills the requirements of AUC Rule 012.

18. The Commission notes that the application has been made to Alberta Environment for Conservation and Reclamation approval by ATCO.

19. The Commission finds that Environmental Protection Plan submitted by ATCO fulfills the environmental requirements.

20. 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

21. 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. 2526 and Permit and Licence No. 9824 and grants ATCO the amended permits and licences as set out in Appendix 1 – Gas Utility Pipeline - Pipeline Splits and New Construction – Permit and Licence No. 2526 – August 24, 2011, and Appendix 2 – Gas Utility Pipeline - Pipeline Split and New Construction – Permit and Licence No. 9824 – August 24, 2011 (Appendices 1 and 2 will be distributed separately).

Dated on August 24, 2011.

### The Alberta Utilities Commission

*(original signed by)*

Anne Michaud  
Commission Member