



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

**Pipeline Removal**

**Township 25, Range 3, West of the Fifth Meridian**

**September 1, 2011**

**The Alberta Utilities Commission**

Decision 2011-361: ATCO Gas and Pipelines Ltd. (South)

Pipeline Removal – Township 25, Range 3, West of the Fifth Meridian

Application No. 1607532

Proceeding ID No. 1375

September 1, 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. 7940 pursuant to Section 11 of the *Pipeline Act* and Section 4.1 of the *Gas Utilities Act* for the following:

- Removal of Line 1.
- Add missing Environmental Code “CC” to Line 1.

(the project).

2. The application was registered as Application No. 1607532 on July 26, 2011.

3. ATCO stated that ATCO Gas has recently upgraded their distribution system and, therefore, ATCO’s high pressure natural gas Springbank Lateral was no longer required. As requested by the landowners, the scope of the project is to remove all 1.6 kilometres of the 42 millimetre lateral.

4. ATCO stated that the landowners have requested the complete removal of the pipeline to accommodate future development.

5. In addition, ATCO stated that ATCO would be responsible for the cost of the removal per the existing agreement with the landowners.

6. ATCO stated that the pipeline would be tested for liquids prior to construction and any liquids found would be removed and properly disposed. The pipeline would be removed by exposing it in as few locations as possible and pulling back the pipe. Open trenching would also be used where required. Any disturbed ground would be reclaimed to its original condition.

7. ATCO stated that Alberta Environment has been notified that the creek crossing removal would be accomplished by pulling the pipe back from one side of the creek.

8. 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**

9. 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.

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. 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*.

12. The Commission finds that the pipeline removal is necessary to accommodate the landowner request since the pipeline is no longer required.

13. 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**

14. 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. 7940 and grants ATCO the amended permit and licence as set out in Appendix 1 – Gas Utility Pipeline – Pipeline Removal – Permit and Licence No. 7940 – September 1, 2011 (Appendix 1 will be distributed separately).

Dated on September 1, 2011.

### **The Alberta Utilities Commission**

*(original signed by)*

Neil Jamieson  
Commission Member