



ATCO Gas and Pipelines Ltd. (South)

Pipeline Split and New Construction

Townships 50 and 51, Range 25, West of the Fourth Meridian

September 16, 2011

The Alberta Utilities Commission

Decision 2011-379: ATCO Gas and Pipelines Ltd. (South)
Pipeline Split and New Construction Townships 50 and 51, Range 25,
West of the Fourth Meridian
Application No. 1607540
Proceeding ID No. 1376

September 16, 2011

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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. 2045 pursuant to Section 11 of the *Pipeline Act* and Section 4.1 of the *Gas Utilities Act* for the following:

- Splitting Line 1 into Lines 1 and 10.
- Addition of newly constructed pipeline (Line 11 – 0.24 kilometres (km) of 219.1 millimetre (mm) outside-diameter (OD) pipeline).
- Addition of newly constructed pipeline (Line 12 – 3.92 km of 219.1 mm OD pipeline).
- Addition of newly constructed pipeline (Line 13 – 0.39 km of 168.3 mm OD pipeline).
- Add missing stress level to the record for Line 1.
- Relocate and upgrade existing control station.

(the project).

2. The application was registered as Application No. 1607540 on July 27, 2011.

3. ATCO stated that the existing 114 mm Nisku lateral pipeline (Line 1), built in 1960 to deliver natural gas into the Nisku area, including the Edmonton International Airport (EIA), is connected to the 406 mm Pembina Transmission pipeline (Licence 102, Line 21) in LSD 02-03-51-25-W4M. At this location, ATCO has an existing Nisku tie-in control station.

4. ATCO stated that due to significant growth in the Nisku, area including the expansion of the EIA, the existing 114 mm Nisku lateral and Nisku tie-in control station have reached maximum capacity. ATCO is required to increase capacity of the Nisku tie-in control station and pipeline system before the fall of 2011 to ensure that adequate pressure and volume supply of natural gas to customers can be maintained for the winter of 2011 and into the future.

5. ATCO proposed to install approximately 4,180 metres of 219 mm pipeline (Lines 11 and 12) and approximately 390 metres of 168 mm pipeline (Line 13) from LSD 01-03-51-25-W4M to the existing Nisku-Skyharbour take-off in LSD 10-27-50-25-W4M where it would tie back into the existing 114 mm Nisku lateral (Lines 1 and 10).

6. ATCO stated that a new upsized Nisku tie-in control station would be constructed in LSD 01-03-51-25W4M, to replace the existing Nisku tie-in control station in LSD 02-03-51-25-W4M. To minimize impact on future development of the land, the landowner requested the location for the new upsized Nisku control station. There would be no cost impact to the overall project by installing the new Nisku tie-in control station at this location, as the existing station is required to be completely replaced. The existing Nisku tie-in control station would be removed upon successful commissioning of the new pipeline and control station.

7. ATCO submitted the responses to information requests for the Nisku tie-in control station.^{1,2}

8. ATCO stated that the proposed site would contain two skid mounted buildings; a 3 metre by 5 metre building containing pressure control equipment to protect the piping/pipeline(s) downstream of the station that has a maximum operating pressure (MOP) of 4,580 kilopascal (kPa) from being over pressured by the piping/pipeline(s) upstream of the station that have a MOP of 6,140 kPa. This building would contain two pressure control runs (one redundant) with two control valves in each run.³ The other building would be 2.5 metres by 3.4 metres and would contain an odorant tank which would provide odorization of the gas downstream of the Nisku tie-in control station. All buildings would be white with red trim.

9. ATCO stated that during meetings and conversations with the potentially affected parties, the land agent and project engineer reviewed the location and equipment to be contained within the proposed site.⁴ In addition, the potentially affected parties visited an existing facility (with similar buildings and equipment) located near-by. The fence style at this similar facility was discussed and it has been determined that a different type of fence would be used for the proposed Nisku tie-in control station. There were no other issues or concerns.

10. ATCO stated that AMEC Environment & Infrastructure was retained to complete a pre-construction site assessment (PCSA) and environmental protection plan (EPP). AMEC would have an environmental inspector on site for the duration of construction activities to ensure compliance with the recommendations set out in the PCSA and EPP.

11. ATCO stated that this project has been advertised in the July 8, 2011, weekly editions of the Leduc Rep, Devon Dispatch, La Nouvelle Beaumont News and Leduc-Wetaskiwin Pipestone Flyer, and that non-objection for the proposed pipeline replacement and control station was obtained from all landowners and occupants of the right-of-way.

12. 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.

¹ Exhibit No. 0011.00.ATCO-1376 - Response to Information Request (Round 1) AUC-ATCO-1(a), 2(a), 3(a) and 3(b).

² Exhibit No. 0016.00.ATCO-1376 - Response to Information Request (Round 2) AUC-ATCO-5(a), 5(b) and 5(c).

³ Exhibit No. 0011.00.ATCO-1376 - Response to Information Request AUC-ATCO-4(a).

⁴ Exhibit No. 0011.00.ATCO-1376 - Response to Information Request AUC-ATCO-4(b), 4(c) and 4(d).

2 Findings

13. 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.
14. 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*.
15. 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*.
16. The Commission finds that the pipeline split and new construction is necessary to accommodate the significant growth in the Nisku area including the expansion of the Edmonton International Airport.
17. The Commission finds that pre-construction site assessment and environmental protection plan submitted by ATCO fulfills the environmental requirements.
18. The Commission finds that the noise impact assessment submitted by ATCO fulfills the requirements of AUC Rule 012: *Noise Control*.
19. The Commission also finds that the record amendment is necessary to reflect the actual operation in the pipeline database.
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. 2045 and grants ATCO the amended permit and licence as set out in Appendix 1 – Gas Utility Pipeline – Pipeline Split and New Construction – Permit and Licence No. 2045 – September 16, 2011 (Appendix 1 will be distributed separately).

Dated on September 16, 2011.

The Alberta Utilities Commission

(original signed by)

Tudor Beattie, QC
Commission Member