

DA 2011-81

October 4, 2011

ATCO Gas and Pipelines Ltd. (South)
7210 – 42 Street N.W.
Edmonton, Alberta T6B 3H1

Attention: Jo-Anne Van Sickle
Pipelines Engineering Clerk

**Amendment in order to relieve stress on Worsley-McLennan pipeline
Permit and Licence No. 1 – October 4, 2011 Amendment
Application No. 1607726
Proceeding ID No. 1475**

Minor pipeline project application

ATCO Gas and Pipelines Ltd. (South) (ATCO), by Application No. 1607726 registered on September 29, 2011, filed an application with the Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC or the Commission) under Section 11 of the *Pipeline Act* and Section 4.1 of the *Gas Utilities Act* for the following in Township 83, Range 21, west of the Fifth Meridian:

- Splitting Line 6 into Lines 6 and 25.
- Splitting Line 15 into Lines 15 and 26.
- Removal of Lines 15 and 25.
- Addition of a newly constructed pipeline (Line 27 - 0.30 kilometres of 114.3 millimetre (mm) outside-diameter pipeline).

The proposed work is related to a minor removal and replacement of existing pipe, previously constructed and operating in accordance with approvals granted in Permit and Licence No. 1.

ATCO stated that due to shifting of the slopes at what is locally referred to as Judah Hill, significant stress has been placed on ATCO's 114 mm Worsley-McLennan Transmission Pipeline. In order to relieve the stress on the pipeline, a 300 metre segment must be relocated from its current location on Judah Hill parallel to Highway 744 south of Peace River. The new alignment would also parallel Highway 744 however; it would be closer to the highway and farther from the active, shifting slopes of the hill. In order to install the proposed pipeline along the ridge of Judah Hill, a large segment of the existing pipeline would have to be exposed and, therefore, it was proposed that the existing pipeline should be removed instead of abandoned in place. ATCO Pipelines would pay for 100 per cent of the project costs.

ATCO also stated that the pipeline would be tested for liquids prior to construction and any liquids found would be removed and properly disposed of. Open trenching would be used for the installation and removal of the pipeline and all surface disturbances would be restored as per landowner specification. A review of the historical resource listing indicated a very low risk of encountering a historical resource. As the proposed relocation is to occur in a pre-disturbed pipeline right-of-way and a highway road allowance no further action was taken.

The Commission notes that ATCO has provided information respecting the need, nature and extent of the minor pipeline project. Since the minor pipeline project involves no significant ground disturbance, and is within a pre-disturbed right-of-way and a highway road allowance, the resultant environmental impact of the work has been assessed with no significant impact identified. The Commission notes that there were no landowner objections to the project.

Based upon the information provided, ATCO has demonstrated that the proposal is of a minor nature, no person other than the owners and occupants of the land upon which the pipeline project takes place will likely be directly affected by the proposal, and no significant adverse environmental impact will be caused by the proposed pipeline project.

The Commission approves the application. The amended permit and licence is attached.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "J W Vienneau". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Wade Vienneau
Executive Director – Facilities Division

On behalf of the Alberta Utilities Commission