



ATCO Gas and Pipelines Ltd. (South)

Pipeline Split and Removals

Amendment to Retire the Valley Ridge Pipeline West of Calgary

July 30, 2010

ALBERTA UTILITIES COMMISSION

Decision 2010-370: ATCO Gas and Pipelines Ltd. (South)
Amendment to Retire the Valley Ridge Pipeline West of Calgary
Application No. 1606346
Proceeding ID. 721

July 30, 2010

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Fifth Avenue Place, 4th Floor, 425 - 1 Street SW
Calgary, Alberta
T2P 3L8

Telephone: (403) 592-8845
Fax: (403) 592-4406

Web site: www.auc.ab.ca

**ATCO GAS AND PIPELINES LTD. (SOUTH)
PIPELINE SPLIT AND REMOVALS
AMENDMENT TO RETIRE VALLEY RIDGE PIPELINE
WEST OF CALGARY**

**Decision 2010-370
Application No. 1606346
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1 INTRODUCTION

1. ATCO Gas and Pipelines Ltd. (South) (ATCO Pipelines) filed an application with the Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC or Commission) seeking approval for an amendment to Permit/Licence 2856 for the following:

- Splitting Line 1 into Lines 1, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, and 16; and
- Removal of Lines 6, 8, 10, 12, and 14

(Project).

2 BACKGROUND

2. The application was registered on July 8, 2010 as Application 1606346 (Application).

3. ATCO Pipelines stated that the pipeline was originally installed in 1961. Since that time, there has been significant residential development in the area. To accommodate the residential development, the original pipeline was abandoned after the installation of a new 168 mm OD pipeline installed in a road allowance adjacent to the development.

4. Several landowners requested ATCO Pipelines to remove sections of the abandoned pipeline at its expense to eliminate interference in lot development in the area.

5. ATCO Pipelines proposed to remove the pipe by excavating a catch pit and digging bell holes along the pipeline. The pipeline would be cut and pulled into the catch pit. ATCO Pipelines stated that there are no contamination concerns at this time. ATCO Pipelines stated that a Phase 1 Environmental assessment would be completed after the removal has been completed. Any liquids contained in the pipe would be collected and disposed of prior to the removal activity.

6. In addition, ATCO Pipelines stated that through discussions with each affected landowner, ATCO Pipelines would level and replace topsoil as required over the areas affected by the removal. ATCO Pipelines would also reseed grass at the request of the landowner; however, would not be responsible for any additional landscaping.

7. The Application stated that a participation involvement program has been conducted by ATCO Pipelines and that there are no outstanding public or industry objections or concerns.

3 DISCUSSION

8. The Commission has reviewed the Application and has determined that it meets the requirements as stipulated in *AUC Rule 020*.

9. Since no parties objected to the Application and the Project is necessary to remove sections of the Valley Ridge Pipeline to permit lot development, the Commission considers the Project to be in the public interest.

4 DECISION

10. Pursuant to section 11 of the *Pipeline Act* and section 4.1 of the *Gas Utilities Act*, the Commission approves the amendment to Permit/Licence 2856 for the Project and grants ATCO Pipelines the amended Permit/Licence as set out in Appendix 1 – Gas Utility Pipeline – Pipeline Split and Removals – Permit/Licence No. 2856 – July 30, 2010 (Appendix 1 will be distributed separately).

Dated on July 30, 2010.

ALBERTA UTILITIES COMMISSION

(original signed by)

Thomas McGee
Commissioner