



ATCO Gas and Pipelines Ltd. (South)

Pipeline Splits and Removals

**Amendment to Remove Exposed Sections of
Abandoned Pipeline in Township 47, Range 1,
West of the 6th Meridian and
Township 48, Range 28, West of the 5th Meridian**

October 19, 2010

ALBERTA UTILITIES COMMISSION

Decision 2010-499: ATCO Gas and Pipelines Ltd. (South)
Amendment to Remove Exposed Sections of Abandoned Pipeline
Application No. 1606635
Proceeding ID. 877

October 19, 2010

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**ATCO GAS AND PIPELINES LTD. (SOUTH)
PIPELINE SPLITS AND REMOVALS
AMENDMENT TO REMOVE EXPOSED
SECTIONS OF ABANDONED PIPELINE**

**Decision 2010-499
Application No. 1606635
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1 INTRODUCTION

1. ATCO Gas and Pipelines Ltd. (South) (ATCO) filed an application with the Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC or Commission) seeking approval for an amendment to Permit/Licence 625 for the following:

- Split Line 77 into Lines 77 and 81;
- Split Line 78 into Lines 78 and 82;
- Removal of Lines 19, 78, and 81; and
- Lines 77 and 82 to remain in place;

(Project).

2 BACKGROUND

2. The application was registered on October 5, 2010, as Application 1606635 (Application).

3. ATCO stated that the subject Lines were previously abandoned in 2005 and are located in the bank of Jasper Lake in Jasper National Park. Parts of this abandoned pipeline segment have become exposed due to erosive attack of the Athabasca River channel and wind erosion on the banks of the Jasper Lake sand dunes. The exposed section of this abandoned pipe is a potential safety hazard to park users and diminishes the aesthetics of the rocky mountain national park character.

4. ATCO proposed to remove approximately 1.4 km of abandoned 114 mm outside diameter steel pipeline (line numbers 19, 78 and 81) that are currently exposed and at risk of exposure in the near future. An assessment by ATCO indicated that in the area of the currently exposed pipeline (approximately 100 m), the river channel would continue to erode the sand dunes thereby exposing additional abandoned pipeline in the short-term. ATCO stated that the existing buried pipe would be removed from the ground by pulling out short sections of pipe (approximately 50 m lengths) between spot excavations (bell holes) instead of the open ditch removal method. The salvaged pipe would be cut into specified lengths, bundled and air lifted from site to the Talbot Lake boat launch pull-out to be loaded onto trucks for transport to a metal recycler outside the park.

5. ATCO stated that when scheduling this Project, it considered the least impact to the park's biophysical resources and cultural functions (e.g. wildlife restrictions and park high visitor use period). This work would occur in the fall of 2010, just before freeze-up.

6. ATCO stated that reclamation of the disturbed sites would include restoring all original contours and drainage patterns during final clean-up. Implementing and maintaining both short-term and long-term erosion control due to the severe wind erosion of the active sand dunes would include the placement of erosion control blankets and re-seeding with native seed.

7. ATCO stated that a Participant Involvement Program has been conducted by ATCO 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 exposed sections of abandoned pipeline, 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 625 for the Project and grants ATCO the amended Permit/Licence as set out in Appendix 1 – Gas Utility Pipeline – Pipeline Splits and Removals– Permit/Licence No. 625 – October 19, 2010 (Appendix 1 will be distributed separately).

Dated on October 19, 2010.

ALBERTA UTILITIES COMMISSION

(original signed by)

Tudor Beattie, Q.C.
Commissioner