

April 6, 2017

Decision 22461-D01-2017

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

Attention: Dean Millis, P.Eng.
Project Engineer, Pipelines Engineering

**Pipeline Removal and Replacement in the Grande Prairie Area
Licence 1571
Proceeding 22461
Application 22461-A001**

Minor pipeline project application

1. ATCO Gas and Pipelines Ltd. (South) (ATCO), by Application 22461-A001, registered on March 3, 2017, filed an application with the Alberta Utilities Commission under Section 11 of the *Pipeline Act* and Section 4.1 of the *Gas Utilities Act* for the following:

- splitting of line 33 into lines 33, 48, 49, 50 and 51
- lines 52 and 53 to be added onto Licence 1571 as permitted lines
- removal of lines 48 and 50
- mapping corrections for lines 14, 32, 33, 34 and 44

2. The proposed work is related to the minor split, removal and replacement of existing pipe, previously constructed and operating in accordance with approvals granted in Licence 1571.

3. ATCO stated that the existing Grande Prairie Transmission Pipeline has become exposed in two locations where a seasonal run-off channel crosses the pipeline, north of Grande Prairie. The proposed project involves replacement of two 290-metre segments of 114.3-millimetre pipe of the Grande Prairie Transmission Pipeline to be installed within the same right-of-way as the existing pipeline. The existing exposed pipe sections are planned to be removed.

4. ATCO stated that the Grande Prairie Transmission Pipeline became exposed in two locations in an unnamed creek due to natural erosion. It is a requirement to have a minimum depth cover of 1.2 metres at a watercourse crossing in accordance with Table 4.9 of CSA Z662-15 *Oil and gas pipeline systems*.

5. A portion of ATCO's business case from the 2017-2018 general rate application related to a depth of cover program,¹ submitted as part of this application, included an alternative that considered leaving the existing, exposed, non-compliant segments of the Grande Prairie

¹ Exhibit 22461-X0002, Depth of Cover Business Case w Table.

Transmission Pipeline operating in the unnamed creek. That alternative was dismissed since it is a requirement of CSA Z662-15 for a pipeline to have a minimum depth cover of 1.2 metres at a water crossing. A second alternative considered was to install engineered cover over the exposed pipeline within the unnamed creek to cover requirements of CSA Z662-15. That alternative was also dismissed because the Alberta Environment and Parks *Code of Practice for Pipelines and Telecommunication Lines Crossing a Water Body* does not allow armoring the bed and bank of a water body where the pipeline does not currently meet the scour depth requirements. The Commission accepts that the unnamed creek pipeline crossing replacements are required to meet the CSA Z662-15 requirements and that the selected alternative is appropriate for the specific circumstances of the Grande Prairie project, which will maintain pipeline safety and security of supply. This decision does not make findings with respect to other aspects of the depth of cover program identified in the 2017-2018 general rate application.

6. ATCO stated the total project cost is estimated to be \$650,000. This includes an installation cost of \$600,000 and a removal cost of \$50,000.²

7. An environmental protection plan has been prepared for this project by EnviroMak Inc. Environmental Management Consultants.³ ATCO confirmed that it would implement all recommendations included in the environmental protection plan for the removal and replacement of the pipeline segments in both the southwest quarter of Section 24, Township 74, Range 6, west of the Sixth Meridian and the northwest quarter of Section 24, Township 74, Range 6, west of the Sixth Meridian.⁴

8. ATCO stated that the unnamed creek is designated a Class D water body with no restricted activity period for fisheries according to the Alberta Water Act Code of Practice for Watercourse Crossings Maps. A code of practice notification will be submitted in accordance with the *Water Act* at least 14 days prior to activity. ATCO stated that EnviroMak Inc. has determined, by means of the self-assessment criteria tool provided by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, that the work for this project does not require a request for review. No application is required for Navigable Waters (Transport Canada) under the *Navigation Protection Act* as this watercourse is not listed as a scheduled watercourse.⁵

9. ATCO stated the pipeline will be tested for liquids prior to removal activities and any liquids found will be removed and properly disposed of. Best management practices for soil removal, handling, separating and storage will be applied including separate salvage of bed materials, vegetation strippings and topsoil.

10. ATCO stated that consultation with landowners and occupants for this work has been completed in accordance with Rule 020: *Rules Respecting Gas Utility Pipelines*. Confirmation of non-objection was obtained by ATCO from both landowners who may be directly and adversely affected by the project.

² Exhibit 22461-X0016, Lic 1571 – IR Round 1 Responses.

³ Exhibit 22461-X0003, 11-07-25 ATCO Pipeline Replace Unnamed Creek EA EPP Report.

⁴ Exhibit 22461-X0016, Lic 1571 – IR Round 1 Responses.

⁵ Exhibit 22461-X0003, 11-07-25 ATCO Pipeline Replace Unnamed Creek EA EPP Report.

11. ATCO stated that the project does not require a historical resource impact assessment since the proposed work area is not referenced in the latest edition of Alberta Culture and Tourism's Listing of Historic Resources.⁶

12. ATCO has provided information respecting the need, nature and extent of the project. Since the project involves limited ground disturbance and is within the original right-of-way, the resultant environmental impact of the work has been assessed with no significant impact identified. The landowners and occupants of the affected lands did not object to the project.

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

14. The Commission approves the application. The amended licence is attached.

Alberta Utilities Commission

(original signed by)

Wade Vienneau
Executive Director, Facilities Division
On behalf of the Alberta Utilities Commission

Attachment

⁶ Exhibit 22461-X0001.01, Lic 1571 – Line Split – Removal – Install – Cover Letter.