

March 28, 2017

Decision 22473-D01-2017

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

Attention: Konstantin Kaindl, EIT
Project Engineer, Pipelines Engineering

**Abandonment of the House Mountain Transmission Pipeline
Licences 3861 and 20102
Proceeding 22473
Applications 22473-A001 and 22473-A002**

Minor pipeline project application

1. ATCO Gas and Pipelines Ltd. (South) (ATCO), by applications 22473-A001 and 22473-A002 registered on March 13, 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 in the Swan Hills area:

- abandonment of lines 33 and 37 of Licence 3861
- abandonment of lines 2, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11, 13, 14, 17 and 18 of Licence 20102
- mapping amendment of lines 1, 10 and 14 of Licence 20102

2. The proposed work is related to the abandonment of existing pipe, within the original right-of-way, previously constructed in accordance with approvals granted in licences 3861 and 20102.

3. ATCO stated that it had abandoned the 54.3-kilometre 114.3-millimetre House Mountain Transmission Pipeline, in the Swan Hills area, from the Judy Creek Control Station to the House Mountain Receipt Station. The abandonment included the Swan Hills Miscible Injection Delivery Station, Inverness River Receipt Station and House Mountain Receipt Station. The 114.3-millimetre House Mountain Transmission Pipeline was installed in 1974 and has been susceptible to circumferential stress corrosion cracking due to slope stability issues as well as disbondment of the original tape coating.

4. ATCO had previously applied to the Commission on December 31, 2014 for technical approval to insert a 101-millimetre composite pipe into the existing 114.3-millimetre steel House Mountain Transmission Pipeline due to ongoing integrity issues with the pipeline. In Decision 19756-D01-2015,¹ the Commission denied the request to utilize composite pipe to

¹ Decision 19756-D01-2015: ATCO Gas and Pipelines Ltd. (South) – Request for Technical Approval to Insert Composite Pipe into Existing House Mountain Transmission Pipeline, Proceeding 19756, Application 1611130, February 19, 2015.

replace the House Mountain Transmission Pipeline. Subsequent to the composite pipe proceeding, ATCO has not found a suitable, long-term, cost-effective solution for this pipeline and has proceeded with abandonment.

5. ATCO stated that during the abandonment it was found to be advantageous to remove a 30-metre segment of 60.3-millimetre pipe located within the Inverness River Receipt Station site, line 1 of Licence 20102. The pipeline was wholly contained within the existing surface lease of the site. The majority of the pipeline was required to be excavated during construction to complete pipeline abandonment requirements at the tie in location and station site. At that time, it was determined that minimal effort was required to remove the small segment of pipeline. The removal of line 1 will be reflected in a subsequent application.

6. ATCO stated that ground disturbance was limited to excavations needed for cleaning pig runs for the House Mountain Transmission Pipeline and removals of associated riser piping to conform to abandonment requirements. During the abandonment, ATCO complied with the requirements of the *Guide for Pipelines Pursuant to the Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act and Regulations* (Alberta Environment, 1994) and industry best practices. No watercourses or wetlands were affected by the abandonment. Temporary field authorizations were obtained from the Alberta Energy Regulator for all sites that had temporary working space that exceeded 0.04 hectares in size. The abandonment work included cleaning the pipe by means of a foam pig prior to installing caps and abandonment tags. Liquids were gathered and properly disposed of.

7. ATCO stated that notification of the abandonment of the House Mountain Transmission Pipeline was completed in accordance with Rule 020: *Rules Respecting Gas Utility Pipelines*.

8. ATCO has provided information respecting the need, nature and extent of the project. Since the project involves no significant 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.

9. Based upon the information provided, ATCO has demonstrated that the proposal is of a minor nature, no person other than the landowners 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.

10. The Commission approves the application. The amended licences are attached.

Alberta Utilities Commission

(original signed by)

Brian Shand, P. Eng.
Director, Gas Facilities
On behalf of the Alberta Utilities Commission

Attachments