

May 3, 2017

Decision 22587-D02-2017

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

Attention: Chris O'Donovan, P. Eng.
Project Engineer, Gas Transmission

**Pipeline Removal near Grassy Lake
Licence 2027
Proceeding 22587
Application 22587-A001**

Minor pipeline project application

1. ATCO Gas and Pipelines Ltd. (South) (ATCO), by Application 22587-A001 registered on April 21, 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 removal of line 176 near Grassy Lake. The proposed work is related to the minor removal of an existing pipeline, within the original right-of-way, previously constructed and operated in accordance with approvals granted in Licence 2027.
2. ATCO stated that it received approval from the Commission in Decision 22457-D01-2017¹ to add an existing unlicensed operating pipeline, line 176, near Grassy Lake. That approval also indicated that ATCO planned to subsequently submit a licence amendment application to remove this pipeline from Licence 2027.
3. ATCO stated that since the upstream producer is no longer shipping gas to ATCO's metering facility, it proposed to remove the facility along with line 176 of Licence 2027, both of which are no longer in use. This would assist ATCO in obtaining a reclamation certificate in order to discharge the existing surface lease and portion of right-of-way at that site. The total project cost is estimated at \$235,000. The Commission accepts ATCO's explanation that the pipeline and metering facility are no longer required.
4. ATCO stated that this project does not require a historical resources impact assessment since the proposed work area is not referenced in the latest edition of Alberta Culture and Tourism's listing of historic resources.
5. ATCO stated that the pipeline would be tested for liquids prior to removal and any liquids found would be removed and properly disposed of. The topsoil would be stripped and

¹ Decision 22457-D01-2017: ATCO Gas and Pipelines Ltd. (South) – Pipeline near Grassy Lake, Record Amendment Application, Proceeding 22457, Application 22457-A001, March 17, 2017.

stored and all surface disturbances would be backfilled before the topsoil is returned. There are no watercourse crossings or wetlands that would be affected by the proposed activities.

6. ATCO stated that it would meet the requirements of the Guide for Pipelines pursuant to the *Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act and Regulations (Alberta Environment, 1994)*. A phase 2 environmental assessment would be completed after the removals and the existing surface lease and right-of-way would be discharged.

7. ATCO stated that consultation with landowners and occupants for this work was completed in accordance with Rule 020: *Rules Respecting Gas Utility Pipelines* and that the landowners and occupants of the affected lands did not object to the project. Construction of this project is scheduled to commence in June of 2017.

8. 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.

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 licence is attached.

Alberta Utilities Commission

(original signed by)

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

Attachment