

May 2, 2017

Decision 22588-D01-2017

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

Attention: Kirby Ringland
Co-op Student, Pipelines Engineering

**Removal of Two Sections of the Fort McMurray Transmission Pipeline
Licence 6733
Proceeding 22588
Application 22588-A001**

Minor pipeline project application

1. ATCO Gas and Pipelines Ltd. (South) (ATCO), by Application 22588-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 following in Fort McMurray:

- splitting of line 5 into lines 5, 15 and 16
- splitting of line 14 into lines 14, 17 and 18
- removal of lines 15 and 17

2. The proposed work is related to the minor split and removal of previously abandoned pipe, within the original right-of-way, previously constructed in accordance with approvals granted in Licence 6733.

3. ATCO stated that two segments of the previously abandoned Fort McMurray Transmission Pipeline, lines 15 and 17, have become exposed due to slope instability. ATCO proposed to remove the lines in order to meet depth of cover requirements specified in the *Pipeline Rules AR91/2005* pursuant to the *Pipeline Act* and CSA Z662.15, Clause 4.11. The Commission accepts ATCO's conclusion that removing lines 15 and 17 is required to address the potential hazards associated with the exposed line segments. The cost of removal was estimated at \$250,000 and has been included in a business case for a depth of cover program in ATCO's 2017-2018 general rate application.¹ Approval of this specific project does not infer any broader approval with respect to the overall general rate application program.

4. ATCO filed an environmental protection plan² and stated that it describes the measures that would be implemented during the project. ATCO also stated that the pipeline would be tested for liquids prior to removal and that any liquids found would be properly disposed of.

¹ Exhibit 22588-X0002, Depth of Cover Business Case with Table.

² Exhibit 22588-X0005.01, Environmental Protection Plan.

5. ATCO stated that it applied to Alberta Culture and Tourism for *Historical Resources Act* clearance for this project and is waiting for approval. Any conditions brought forward by Alberta Culture and Tourism would be followed and removal activities would not take place until ATCO has received approval from Alberta Culture and Tourism.
6. ATCO stated that it has completed notification in accordance with Rule 020: *Rules Respecting Gas Utility Pipelines* requirements, including public lands and the local municipality, and that there are no outstanding concerns or objections related to this project.
7. 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.
8. 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.
9. 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