

June 14, 2017

Decision 22690-D01-2017

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

Attention: Adam Weir, E.I.T.
Project Engineer, Major Projects

**Removal of a Section of the 273.1-millimetre North Branch Pipeline
Licence 1951
Proceeding 22690
Application 22690-A001**

Minor pipeline project application

1. ATCO Gas and Pipelines Ltd. (South) (ATCO), by Application 22690-A001 registered on May 26, 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 city of Calgary:

- splitting of previously abandoned line 1 into lines 1 and 18
- removal of line 1
- line 18 is to remain abandoned in place

2. The proposed work is related to the minor split and removal of previously abandoned pipeline, within the original right-of-way, previously constructed in accordance with approvals granted in Licence 1951.

3. ATCO proposed to remove approximately 900 metres of the abandoned 273.1-millimetre North Branch Pipeline in the Calgary transportation utility corridor (TUC) to accommodate the construction of the southwest Calgary ring road as requested by KGL Constructors. The existing alignment of the 273.1-millimetre North Branch Pipeline lies within the boundaries of the proposed Sarcee/Glenmore interchange and therefore requires removal prior to road construction. KGL Constructors would be responsible for 100 per cent of the removal costs.

4. ATCO stated that the proposed pipeline removal would have limited environmental impact. The land surrounding the abandoned pipeline has been fully developed with the alignment running parallel to high voltage power lines and Sarcee Trail within the TUC. To minimize the ground disturbance, the 900 metres of the abandoned pipeline would be removed using cut-and-pull methodology. Small bell holes would be excavated at approximately 50 to 100 metre intervals to expose the pipeline. The pipeline would be then be cut and the sections of pipeline would be pulled out of the ground with heavy machinery. The excavated topsoil would be stripped and stored and all surface disturbances would be backfilled before the topsoil is returned.

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.

6. ATCO stated that after the removal, KGL Constructors would commence the development of the Sarcee/Glenmore interchange. This would include stripping soils and re-grading the entire pipeline removal workspace.

7. ATCO stated that consultation for this work was completed in accordance with Rule 020: *Rules Respecting Gas Utility Pipelines*. Construction of this project is scheduled to commence in September to November of 2017.

8. With respect to development in the TUC, Section 4(2) of the *Calgary Restricted Development Area Regulations* states:

No Minister of the Crown, government official or government agency shall, without the written consent of the Minister of Infrastructure, exercise any power under the *Municipal Government Act*, *The Pipeline Act*, 1975, the *Water Resources Act* or any other Act to order, authorize, approve, permit or consent to any operation or activity that causes, is likely to cause or will cause a surface disturbance of any land in the Area, or issue or cause to be issued any order, authorization, approval, permit, licence or consent instrument for that purpose.

9. ATCO indicated that it received a letter from Alberta Infrastructure¹ stating that it has no objections to the project and that ministerial consent for the project within the TUC would be issued subsequent to Commission approval.

10. 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.

11. The Commission accepts ATCO's submission that the need for the project has arisen from a request from KGL Constructors to accommodate the construction of the southwest Calgary ring road and that the full cost of the project will be borne by the KGL Constructors.

12. 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.

¹ Exhibit 22690-X0002 – MCC Letter of Non-Objection.

13. The Commission approves the application, subject to ATCO obtaining written consent from the Minister of Infrastructure for the pipeline removal within the TUC and providing the Commission with written confirmation of that consent. Upon receipt of that consent, the Commission will issue the amended licence.

Alberta Utilities Commission

(original signed by)

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