

September 7, 2017

Decision 22895-D01-2017

AltaGas Utilities Inc.
5509 45th Street
Leduc, Alta. T9E 6T6

Attention: Jayne Blinzer, P. Eng.
Design Engineer

**New Pipeline Construction Near Stettler
Licence 947
Proceeding 22895
Application 22895-A001**

Minor pipeline project application

1. AltaGas Utilities Inc. (AltaGas), by Application 22895-A001 registered on August 23, 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 addition of a newly constructed pipeline (line 45 – 0.13 kilometres of 60.3-millimetre outside-diameter pipeline) near Stettler.
2. To maintain a safe and reliable system, AltaGas stated that it is currently undertaking a station replacement program to replace aging infrastructure. The existing station, ST025, is within an ATCO Gas and Pipelines Ltd. (ATCO) right-of-way. A station site has been obtained for the new station outside of ATCO's right-of-way that does not allow for an access road. Therefore, AltaGas proposed to install a 130-metre long 60.3-millimetre pipeline from ATCO's right-of-way to the new AltaGas station site. The proposed pipeline would tie-in to ATCO's existing pipeline and then would continue south for 130 metres to the new station site.
3. AltaGas stated that the ST025 station has been identified in AltaGas's 2017 purchase meter station (PMS) Station Refurbishment Program. The need for this project was addressed in Proceeding 20522, Appendix II(d) Station Refurbishments – PBR – Capital Tracker (K Factor) Business Case – Station Refurbishment Program in the AltaGas 2016-2017 Capital Tracker Application.¹ The Commission assessed and approved the need for the station replacement program in Decision 20522-D02-2016.
4. AltaGas retained the services of Amec Foster Wheeler Environment & Infrastructure to prepare an environmental overview report.² The report includes a review of the current environmental conditions as well as proposed mitigation measures to reduce potential adverse environmental effects. The project is on cultivated agriculture land and does not intersect any

¹ Exhibit 20522-X0010.03, AUI Application 2014 TU and 2016-2017 CT – Updated 2015-08-20, PDF pages 247 to 292.

² Exhibit 22895-X0001, ST-025 Environmental Overview.

identifiable wetlands or watercourses and there were no occurrences of sensitive plant species. There was no sensitive critical wildlife habitat identified within 200 metres of the pipeline.

5. AltaGas stated the proposed pipeline would be installed using an open-cut trenching method and horizontal directional drilling at crossing locations. For all excavations the topsoil would be stripped away and all soils would be separated into topsoil and subsoil, as necessary, and stored appropriately to prevent co-mingling of the soil types. In the backfill phase, the stored topsoil and subsoil would be returned to their original layers.

6. AltaGas stated that the 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.

7. AltaGas also submitted a noise impact assessment summary form as part of its application. The Commission accepts AltaGas's assessment that the predicted noise levels associated with the regulating station would be in compliance with the permissible sound levels in Rule 012: *Noise Control*.

8. AltaGas stated that all landowners and occupants have been provided with written notification of the proposed construction, including a general description of the project, and that it received confirmation from landowners and occupants that they have no objection to the project.

9. AltaGas has provided information respecting the need, nature and extent of the project. Since the project involves limited ground disturbance, 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.

10. Based upon the information provided, AltaGas 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.

11. 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