

September 22, 2017

**Decision 22873-D01-2017**

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

Attention: Doug Rowan, P. Eng.  
Senior Project Engineer, Pipelines Engineering

**Replacement of the Glenwood Transmission Pipeline across the Waterton River  
Licence 7455  
Proceeding 22873  
Application 22873-A001**

**Minor pipeline project application**

1. ATCO Gas and Pipelines Ltd. (ATCO), by Application 22873-A001 registered on August 18, 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:

- splitting of line 1 into lines 1, 30 and 31
- splitting of line 16 into lines 16 and 32
- splitting of line 23 into lines 23, 33 and 34
- lines 30, 32 and 33 are to be abandoned in place under a separate application
- removal of lines 20, 23 and 31
- addition of newly constructed pipeline (line 35 – 0.58 kilometres of 88.9-millimetre outside diameter pipeline)
- mapping amendment of original line 1

2. The proposed work is related to the minor split, removal and replacement of existing pipe, previously constructed and operating in accordance with approvals granted in Licence 7455.

3. ATCO stated that the existing 88.9-millimetre Glenwood Transmission Pipeline has inadequate depth of cover on the west bank of the Waterton River and requires replacement. The crossing was installed in 1996 and is critical in order to maintain safe and reliable service in the Glenwood area.

4. ATCO proposed to install line 35 that would consist of approximately 500 metres of 88.9-millimetre pipeline across the Waterton River, by horizontal directional drilling, and 75 metres of 88.9-millimetre pipeline on the east side of the Waterton River, by open cutting. Line 35 would replace the existing 88.9-millimetre Waterton River pipeline crossing, lines 23 and 33, as well as lines 20, 30, 31 and 32. Line 23 would be removed on the west side of the Waterton River, line 33 would be abandoned in place under the river and line 34 on the east side

of the river would remain in operation. Line 1, on the west side of the Waterton River, would also remain in operation. Line 30 would be abandoned in place and line 31 would be removed. Line 16, on the west side of the Waterton River, would remain in operation, line 32 would be abandoned in place and line 20 would be removed.

5. ATCO stated the project was identified under its depth-of-cover program, which was included in its 2017-2018 general rate application and was recently approved in Decision 22011-D01-2017.<sup>1</sup>

6. In the general rate application depth-of-cover program, ATCO identified that it would be replacing and removing sections of pipeline that do not have sufficient depth of cover on various transmission systems across ATCO's network in order to maintain code compliance. ATCO stated that the cost provision in the general rate application was based upon a 3-year historical average cost for generic depth-of-cover projects. Although the Waterton River project was not explicitly included in the list of projects mentioned in the business case attachment, ATCO explained that the business case was a summary of the projects that were identified at the time of filing the general rate application. The Commission accepts that the Waterton River project falls within the need rationale associated with the general rate application business case.

7. ATCO filed a pre-construction site assessment and environmental protection plan<sup>2</sup> for this project and stated that it would implement all of the recommendations. ATCO also filed a project assessment report prepared by a qualified aquatic environment specialist (QAES)<sup>3</sup> that was completed in October 2016. The site-specific fish and fish habitat information collected during the site assessment was used to develop mitigation measures for the protection of aquatic resources. ATCO also notified the local Alberta Environment and Parks wildlife biologist of this project.

8. ATCO stated that notifications under the *Water Act Code of Practice for Pipelines and Telecommunications Lines Crossing a Waterbody* have been submitted to the Alberta Energy Regulator for both the pipeline replacement and removal activities. ATCO indicated that it would comply with the code of practice in accordance with the *Water Act*. At the crossing location, the Waterton River is a mapped, Class C watercourse with an instream restricted activity period of September 1 to August 15. Pipeline removal activities would take place outside the wetted width of the river but within the boundaries of the ordinary high-water mark. Mitigation measures to protect fish and fish habitat related to pipeline removal activities have been developed by the QAES and are included in the QAES report.

9. ATCO stated that the sections of pipeline to be removed and abandoned would be cleaned and any liquids, if present, would be captured and disposed of prior to the removal or abandonment activity. Construction is planned for the fourth quarter of 2017.

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<sup>1</sup> Decision 22011-D01-2017, ATCO Pipelines, 2017-2018 General Rate Application, Proceeding 22011, August 29, 2017, pg.12 paragraph 51.

<sup>2</sup> Exhibit 22873-X0006, PCSA and EPP.

<sup>3</sup> Exhibit 22873-X0007, QAES Assessment Report.

10. ATCO has obtained *Historical Resources Act* clearance from Alberta Culture and Tourism.
11. ATCO stated that it has completed consultation and notification in accordance with Rule 020: *Rules Respecting Gas Utility Pipelines*. There are no outstanding objections or concerns related to this project. A temporary field authorization has been obtained for a temporary workspace on Crown land.
12. 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.
13. 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.
14. 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