

September 22, 2017

Decision 22929-D01-2017

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

Attention: Jayne Blinzer, P. Eng.
Design Engineer

Morinville High-Pressure Steel Pipeline Replacement Project
Licence 3491
Proceeding 22929
Application 22929-A001

Minor pipeline project application

1. AltaGas Utilities Inc. (AltaGas), by Application 22929-A001 registered on September 7, 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 near Morinville:

- addition of a newly constructed pipeline (line 49 – 0.83 kilometres of 168.3-millimetre outside-diameter pipeline)
- addition of a newly constructed pipeline (line 50 – 0.77 kilometres of 114.3- millimetre outside-diameter pipeline)
- addition of a newly constructed pipeline (line 51 – 0.04 kilometres of 88.9- millimetre outside-diameter pipeline)
- splitting line 4 into lines 4 and 52
- line 4 is to remain in operation
- line 52 is to be abandoned and then recorded as abandoned under a subsequent application

2. To maintain a safe and reliable system, AltaGas stated that it is currently undertaking a program to replace aging infrastructure. As part of this replacement program, pipelines that were installed prior to 1957 are being replaced, due to the risk of corrosion and weld failure. A portion of the high-pressure line feeding the town of Morinville falls within this category and has been targeted for replacement in 2017 based on a risk assessment. AltaGas proposed to replace its existing 114.3-millimetre pipeline with an 830-metre long section of new 168.3-millimetre pipeline, line 49, and a 770-metre long section of 114.3-millimetre pipeline, line 50.

3. ATCO proposed to split line 4 into lines 4 and 52 and replace line 52 with lines 49 and 50. A 40-metre long 88.9-millimetre lateral pipeline, line 51, is proposed to connect to the above-ground valve site and connect to existing line 39 at its other end. AltaGas will submit an application for abandonment of the replaced section of pipeline, line 52, after the new pipelines are installed.

4. AltaGas stated that the proposed pipeline has been sized to serve current and future demand requirements including provision for 50 per cent growth. The existing 114.3-millimetre pipeline is a constraint on the existing high-pressure system. Therefore, a portion of the pipeline has been upsized to 168.3 millimetres.
5. AltaGas stated that the need for the Morinville High-Pressure Steel Pipeline Project has been identified as part of its Capital Tracker Pipeline Replacement program. The need for this project was addressed in Proceeding 20522 as part of AltaGas' pre-1957 steel replacement program in Section 3 of Appendix II(a) – Business Case for Replacement of Pre-1957 Steel Pipe in the AltaGas 2016-2017 Capital Tracker Application.¹ The Commission assessed and approved the need for the pipeline replacement program in Decision 20522-D02-2016.
6. AltaGas retained the services of Amec Foster Wheeler Environment & Infrastructure to prepare a pre-construction site assessment and environmental protection report for the project.² The report includes a review of the current environmental conditions as well as proposed mitigation measures to reduce potential adverse environmental effects.
7. AltaGas stated that the proposed pipelines would be installed using an open-cut trenching method and utilize 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 to prevent co-mingling of the soil types. In the backfill phase, the stored topsoil and subsoil would be returned to their original layers.
8. 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.
9. AltaGas also submitted noise impact assessment summary forms as part of its application. The Commission accepts AltaGas's assessment that the predicted noise levels associated with the existing pressure regulating station at Legal Subdivision 4, Section 2, Township 56, Range 25, west of the Fourth Meridian and existing metering and pressure regulating station at Legal Subdivision 1, Section 2, Township 56, Range 25, west of the Fourth Meridian would be in compliance with the permissible sound levels in Rule 012: *Noise Control*.
10. AltaGas stated that all landowners, occupants and municipalities have been provided with written notification of the proposed construction, including a general description of the project, and that it received confirmation from landowners, occupants and municipalities that they have no objection to the project.
11. 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

¹ Exhibit 20522-X0010.03, AUI Application 2014 TU and 2016-2017 CT – Updated 2015-08-20, PDF pages 96 to 103.

² Exhibit 22929-X0003, Morinville PCSA & EPP.

work has been assessed with no significant impact identified. The landowners and occupants of the affected lands did not object to the project.

12. 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.

13. 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