

October 20, 2017

Decision 23003-D01-2017

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

Attention: Amy Boettger, P.Eng.
Project Engineer, Operations Engineering

**Removal of Two Sections of the Previously Abandoned
Petrogas-Meadowfield Transmission Pipeline
Licence 5895
Proceeding 23003
Application 23003-A001**

Minor pipeline project application

1. ATCO Gas and Pipelines Ltd. (ATCO), by Application 23003-A001 registered on October 4, 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 Calgary area:

- splitting of line 195 into lines 195, 205, 206 and 207
- removal of lines 205 and 207
- line length amendment to original line 195
- lines 195 and 206 would remain abandoned in place

2. The proposed work is related to the minor removal of two segments of existing pipe on either side of a wetland, previously abandoned in accordance with approvals granted in Licence 5895.

3. In response to a request from a developer, ATCO proposed to remove approximately 700 metres of the abandoned 323.9-millimetre outside-diameter pipeline, lines 205 and 207, in two segments. There are 590 metres of pipeline north of the wetland and 110 metres south of the wetland that would be removed. The abandoned pipeline beneath the wetland, line 206, would remain abandoned in place, filled with grout and capped.

4. ATCO stated that the total project cost is estimated at \$50,000. The developer would be responsible for 100 per cent of the removal costs.

5. ATCO has developed an environmental protection plan¹ for this project. The Commission accepts ATCO's statement that it would implement all recommendations included within the environmental protection plan. The pipeline would be tested for liquids prior to removal and any liquids found would be removed and properly disposed of. The topsoil would be stripped and

¹ Exhibit 23003-X0002, Environmental Protection Plan.

stored separately from the subsoil to prevent admixing of soil layers, and all surface disturbances would be backfilled before the topsoil is returned. After the sections of pipeline are removed, ATCO would restore the right-of-way to the developer's requirements and would obtain a reclamation certificate as required by the *Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act* prior to discharging the right-of-way.

6. ATCO stated that consultation with landowners and occupants for this work has been completed in accordance with Rule 020: *Rules Respecting Gas Utility Pipelines*. Confirmation of non-objection from directly and adversely affected landowners and occupants has been obtained. Construction is scheduled to start in October or November of 2017.

7. The Commission accepts the rationale for the need for the project in view of the third-party removal request and the 100 per cent developer contribution. 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. In approving the application, however, the Commission makes no determination regarding the regulatory treatment of the costs of the assets to be removed, retired or abandoned pursuant to the application, the costs incurred in carrying out these activities, or the associated rate implications. 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