

November 1, 2017

Decision 23026-D01-2017

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

Attention: Justin Middleton, E.I.T.
Project Engineer, Operations Engineering

**Split and Removal on the Abandoned Southern Extension Transmission Pipeline
Licence 2526
Proceeding 23026
Application 23026-A001**

Minor pipeline project application

1. ATCO Gas and Pipelines Ltd. (ATCO), by Application 23026-A001 registered on October 13, 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 Lacombe area:

- splitting of line 146 into lines 146, 215 and 216
- removal of line 215

2. The proposed work is related to the minor split and removal of existing pipe, within the original right-of-way, previously constructed and operated in accordance with approvals granted in Licence 2526.

3. ATCO stated that a developer has requested the removal of a 100-metre long section of the previously abandoned 168.3-millimetre Southern Extension Transmission Pipeline, line 215, within its property. ATCO will monitor the removal of the pipeline which will be completed by the developer. The removal is scheduled to begin in the fall of 2017.

4. ATCO stated that the need for the project has not been established in a previous submission. The total cost is estimated at \$70,000. The developer will be responsible for 100 per cent of the costs.

5. ATCO filed an environmental evaluation report¹ for this project. ATCO indicated that it would ensure that all recommendations in the environmental evaluation report would be implemented by the developer. During construction, ATCO will ensure the developer complies with the requirements of the *Guide for Pipelines Pursuant to the Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act and Regulations* (Alberta Environment, 1994) and industry best practices.

¹ Exhibit 23026-X0002, Environmental Evaluation Report.

6. ATCO stated that the pipeline would be tested for liquids prior to removal and any liquids found would be removed and properly disposed of.
7. ATCO stated that consultation with landowners and occupants for this work has been completed in accordance with Rule 020: *Rules Respecting Gas Utility Pipelines*.
8. With consideration that the developer is responsible for the entire cost of the project, the Commission accepts that the need for the pipeline removal has been established. 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.
9. 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.
10. 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