

March 27, 2018

Decision 23425-D01-2018

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

Attention: Eric Filipowski, EIT
Project Engineer, Gas Transmission

Pipeline Removal Crossing the Bow River in Calgary
Licence 4826
Proceeding 23425
Application 23425-A001

Minor pipeline project application

1. ATCO Gas and Pipelines Ltd. (ATCO), by Application 23425-A001 registered on March 16, 2018, 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 removal of line 15 in the city of Calgary. The proposed work is related to the minor removal of an abandoned pipeline, within the original right-of-way, previously constructed in accordance with approvals granted in Licence 4826.
2. ATCO stated that it received approval from the Commission in Decision 23380-D01-2018¹ to add an existing but unlicensed abandoned pipeline, line 15, crossing the Bow River in the city of Calgary. That approval also indicated that ATCO planned to subsequently submit a licence amendment application to remove this pipeline from Licence 4826.
3. ATCO stated that the abandoned 168.3-millimetre Bow River crossing pipeline, line 15, has become exposed along the width of the Bow River, with a portion slightly suspended along the west bank. ATCO proposed to remove this pipeline in order to meet depth of cover requirements specified in the *Pipeline Rules AR91/2005* pursuant to the *Pipeline Act* and CSA Z662.15, Clause 4.11. In addition the *Pipeline Rules* require that the pipeline be left in a safe condition, but because it is exposed and suspended in a location with high boat traffic ATCO identified that this provision is not being met. The total cost of the removal project is estimated at \$950,000. The Commission accepts ATCO's conclusion that removing line 15 is required to address the potential hazards associated with the exposed pipeline.
4. ATCO stated that it engaged the services of a qualified aquatic environmental specialist, through CH2M HILL Energy Canada, Ltd., to prepare a pre-construction site assessment, an

¹ Decision 23380-D01-2018: ATCO Gas and Pipelines Ltd. – Addition of an Existing Unlicensed Pipeline in the City of Calgary, Record Amendment Application, Proceeding 23380, Application 23380-A001, March 7, 2018.

environmental protection plan² and an aquatic assessment of fish habitat³ for this project. The Commission accepts ATCO's statement that all recommendations included in the environmental protection plan will be implemented. CH2M HILL Energy Canada, Ltd. has determined, by means of the self-assessment criteria provided by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, that the work for this project does not require a request for review.

5. ATCO stated that it applied to Alberta Culture and Tourism for *Historical Resources Act* clearance for this project and is waiting for approval. Any conditions brought forward by Alberta Culture and Tourism will be followed and removal activities will not take place until ATCO has received approval from Alberta Culture and Tourism.

6. Code of practice notification⁴ for pipelines crossing a water body were submitted to the Alberta Energy Regulator on February 20, 2018, in accordance with the *Water Act*. ATCO also stated that it will acquire temporary field authorization pursuant to the *Public Lands Act* prior to construction.

7. ATCO stated that the 168.3-millimetre Bow River crossing pipeline is located across a Class C waterbody with a dual restricted activity period (RAP) of May 1 to July 15 (inclusive) and September 16 to April 5 (inclusive). As this pipeline is exposed across the width of the Bow River in a high boat traffic location, ATCO considers that it is necessary to remove it during the first construction window outside the RAP (April 6 to April 30) before the anticipated boat traffic increases. Signage for boat traffic and marker buoys have been put in place to mitigate the risk to the public. These mitigations are being monitored on a weekly basis. To facilitate the removal within this period, construction activities are proposed to begin by April 9, 2018.

8. ATCO stated that the pipeline will be tested for liquids prior to removal and any liquids found will be removed and properly disposed of.

9. ATCO stated that consultation with landowners and occupants for this work was completed in accordance with Rule 020: *Rules Respecting Gas Utility Pipelines* and that the landowners and occupants of the affected lands did not object to the project. Final workspace agreements with landowners will be acquired prior to proceeding with construction.

10. 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.

11. 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.

² Exhibit 23425-X0006, Pre-Construction Site Assessment and Environmental Protection Plan.

³ Exhibit 23425-X0005, Aquatic Assessment of Fish Habitat.

⁴ Exhibit 23425-X0004, Code of Practice Notification.

12. 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