

April 30, 2018

Decision 23501-D01-2018

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

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

**Relocation of Portions of the Worsley McLennan Transmission Pipeline
Licences 5923 and 7016
Proceeding 23501
Applications 23501-A001 and 23501-A002**

Minor pipeline project application

1. ATCO Gas and Pipelines Ltd. (ATCO), by applications 23501-A001 and 23501-A002 registered on April 16, 2018, filed applications with the Alberta Utilities Commission under Section 11 of the *Pipeline Act* and Section 4.1 of the *Gas Utilities Act* for the following:

Pertaining to Licence 5923:

- splitting line 3 into lines 3 and 6
- removal of lines 2 and 6
- length amendment of original line 3 from 0.52 kilometres to the revised length of 0.57 kilometres
- length amendment of line 2 from 0.11 kilometres to the revised length of 0.09 kilometres
- mapping amendments of lines 2, 3 and 4
- “From Location” legal subdivision amendment of line 4
- addition of newly constructed pipeline (line 7 – 0.15 kilometres of 114.3-millimetre outside diameter pipeline)
- lines 3 and 4 are to remain in operation

Pertaining to Licence 7016:

- splitting line 1 into lines 1 and 2
- removal of line 1
- addition of newly constructed pipeline (line 3 – 0.12 kilometres of 114.3-millimetre outside diameter pipeline)
- line 2 is to remain in operation

2. The proposed work is related to minor splits, removals and replacement of sections of the existing pipeline, previously constructed and operating in accordance with approvals granted in licences 5923 and 7016.

3. In response to a request from Alberta Transportation, ATCO, under project P25510, proposed to perform the following:

- install a 100-metre long 114.3-millimetre outside-diameter pipeline segment, line 7 of Licence 5923, in a new alignment
- install a 120-metre long 114.3-millimetre outside-diameter pipeline segment, line 3 of Licence 7016, in a new alignment
- remove 90 metres of existing 60.3-millimetre outside-diameter pipe, line 2 of Licence 5923

4. This portion of the proposed work is part of a pipeline relocation and replacement to accommodate construction associated with the twinning of the existing Peace River bridge. The installation would be completed by open-cut method. The line splits and pipeline installation would be completed on private lands.

5. ATCO, under project P25511, also proposed to perform the following:

- install a 50-metre long 114.3-millimetre outside-diameter pipeline segment, line 7 of Licence 5923, in a new alignment
- remove 80 metres of existing 114.3-millimetre outside-diameter pipe, line 6 of Licence 5923
- remove 10 metres of existing 114.3-millimetre outside-diameter pipe, line 1 of Licence 7016
- relocate the Peace River West Block 114.3-millimetre valve to the existing Peace River Gate 4 site

6. This portion of the proposed work is part of a pipeline relocation and replacement to address river bank erosion in the area to mitigate the risk of pipeline exposure. The installation would be completed by open-cut method. The line splits and pipeline installation would be completed on private lands.

7. ATCO prepared an environmental evaluation report^{1,2} for the proposed project. The Commission accepts ATCO's statement that all recommendations included in the environmental evaluation report would be implemented. During construction, ATCO would comply with the requirements of the *Guide for Pipelines Pursuant to the Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act and Regulations* and industry best practices. ATCO also stated that it would apply for and obtain a reclamation certificate for the removed pipelines as required by the *Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act and Regulations* prior to discharging the right-of-way. The pipeline segments would be tested for liquids prior to removal and any liquids found would be removed and properly disposed of.

¹ Exhibit 23501-X0006, Environmental Evaluation Report.

² Exhibit 23501-X0014, Environmental Evaluation Report.

8. ATCO stated that a historical resources application was submitted to Alberta Culture and Tourism for approval and the *Historical Resources Act* approval³ was granted on March 6, 2018.

9. ATCO stated that consultation with landowners and occupants for this work has been completed in accordance with Rule 020: *Rules Respecting Gas Utility Pipelines*. Construction of this project is scheduled to commence in the spring of 2018.

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 limited impact identified. The landowners and occupants of the affected lands did not object to the project.

11. The Commission accepts ATCO's submission that the need for project P25510 has arisen from a request from Alberta Transportation to accommodate a bridge construction project and that the full cost of the project will be borne by Alberta Transportation.

12. The Commission accepts ATCO's rationale for the need for project P25511 in view of the risk of pipeline exposure due to bank erosion in the area and that the full cost of the project will be borne by ATCO.

13. The Commission accepts ATCO's commitment to obtain a reclamation certificate for the removed pipelines from Alberta Environment and Parks prior to discharging the right-of-way.

14. The Commission expects ATCO to abide by the conditions set forth in the *Historical Resources Act* approval granted by Alberta Culture and Tourism on March 6, 2018.

15. 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.

16. The Commission approves the applications. In approving the applications, 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 applications, the costs incurred in carrying out these activities, or the associated rate implications. The amended licences are attached.

Alberta Utilities Commission

(original signed by)

Brian Shand, P. Eng.
Director, Gas Facilities
On behalf of the Alberta Utilities Commission

Attachment

³ Exhibit 23501-X0020, Historical Resources Act Approval.