

May 15, 2018

Decision 23524-D01-2018

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

Attention: David Korpany, EIT
Project Engineer, Pipelines Engineering

**Canmore Mines Pipeline Crossing Removal
Licence 1950
Proceeding 23524
Application 23524-A001**

Minor pipeline project application

1. ATCO Gas and Pipelines Ltd. (ATCO), by Application 23524-A001 registered on April 27, 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 following in the town of Canmore:

- splitting line 64 into lines 64 and 161
- splitting line 93 into lines 93 and 162
- removal of lines 93 and 161
- wall thickness amendment of original line 64 from 3.91 millimetres to the revised thickness of 2.77 millimetres
- line 162 is to be abandoned in place and then recorded as abandoned under a subsequent application

2. The proposed work is related to the minor splits and removals of existing pipeline within the original right-of-way, previously constructed and operating in accordance with approvals granted in Licence 1950.

3. ATCO stated that during a follow-up depth of cover survey in July of 2017, a section of the previously discontinued 88.9-millimetre Canmore Mines Pipeline, crossing the Bow River in the town of Canmore, was discovered to be exposed. Therefore, ATCO proposed to remove an exposed section of the discontinued 88.9-millimetre Canmore Mines Pipeline, line 93. The 88.9-millimetre Canmore Mines Pipeline was discontinued in 2003. High spring runoff flows are believed to have caused erosion of the bank, contributing to the exposure. The total project cost is estimated at \$460,000.

4. ATCO stated that after reviewing its as-built information, it was determined that a short section of 60.3-millimetre pipeline, approximately 20 metres, line 161, previously part of line 64 was discontinued at the same time in 2003 when line 93 was discontinued but the record was not

updated. In this application, ATCO also proposed to remove a 20-metre long section of the previously discontinued 60.3-millimetre pipeline, line 161, to ensure that this pipeline does not become exposed due to future bank erosion. The cost to remove this section of pipeline would have negligible effects on the overall cost of the project.

5. As stated the project was identified under its depth-of-cover program. It was included in its 2017-2018 general rate application, and was approved in Decision 22011-D01-2017.¹

6. In the general rate application depth-of-cover program, ATCO identified that it would be replacing and removing sections of pipeline that do not have sufficient depth of cover on various transmission systems across ATCO's network in order to maintain code compliance. The Commission accepts that the Canmore Mines Pipeline Crossing Removal project falls within the need rationale associated with the general rate application business case.

7. ATCO retained CH2M HILL Energy Canada, Ltd. to complete a pre-construction site assessment and environmental protection plan² for this project. The Commission accepts ATCO's statement that it would implement all recommendations included within the environmental protection plan. The Bow River is designated as a Class C watercourse with a restricted activity period of September 1 to April 30 according to the *Alberta Water Act Code of Practice for Watercourse Crossing Maps (2007)*. Removal of the pipelines is proposed to begin in May of 2018, outside the restricted activity period. Temporary field authorization pursuant to the *Public Lands Act* is being acquired for the workspace between and surrounding the banks of the Bow River. The pipelines would be cleaned prior to removal and any liquids found would be removed and properly disposed of. The topsoil would be stripped and stored and all surface disturbances would be backfilled before the topsoil is returned.

8. ATCO stated that it was determined, by means of the self-assessment tool provided by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, that the work for this project does not require a request for review. Code of Practice notifications were submitted to the Alberta Energy Regulator in accordance with the *Water Act* for pipelines crossing a water body on March 12, 2018. No application is required for Navigable Waters (Transport Canada) under the *Navigable Waters Act* since the associated river crossing is not within a scheduled watercourse.

9. ATCO stated that a historical resources impact assessment is not required for the proposed project since the proposed work area is not referenced in the latest edition of Alberta Culture and Tourism's listing of historic resources.

10. ATCO stated that consultation with landowners, occupants and stakeholders for this work has been completed in accordance with Rule 020: *Rules Respecting Gas Utility Pipelines*. As the site is mostly within Crown land, a temporary field authorization was applied for at all workspaces. The Commission expects that ATCO will abide by any conditions in the field authorization and will not proceed prior to its receipt.

¹ Decision 22011-D01-2017, ATCO Pipelines, 2017-2018 General Rate Application, Proceeding 22011, August 29, 2017, page 20, paragraph 51.

² Exhibit 23524-X0006, Pre-construction Site Assessment and Environmental Protection Plan.

11. The Commission finds that the environmental information required for the project has been sufficiently addressed within the environmental protection plan. The Commission accepts ATCO's commitment to follow the recommendations presented in the environmental protection plan and also that a *Historical Resources Act* clearance is not required for this project.

12. 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.

13. 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.

14. 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