

June 18, 2018

**Decision 23595-D01-2018**

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

Attention: Jacqueline Fusco, EIT  
Project Engineer, Operations Engineering

**Viking #1 and Viking #2 Transmission Pipelines  
Licences 9413 and 9414  
Proceeding 23595  
Applications 23595-A001 and 23595-A002**

**Minor pipeline project application**

1. ATCO Gas and Pipelines Ltd. (ATCO), by applications 23595-A001 and 23595-A002 registered on May 29, 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 within Strathcona County.

Pertaining to Licence 9413:

- splitting of previously abandoned line 32 into lines 32, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96 and 97
- removal of lines 88, 90, 92, 94 and 96
- length amendment of original line 32 from 3.37 kilometres to the revised length of 3.44 kilometres
- lines 32, 89, 91, 93, 95 and 97 are to remain abandoned in place

Pertaining to Licence 9414:

- splitting of previously abandoned line 23 into lines 23, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69 and 70
- removal of lines 61, 63, 65, 67 and 69
- length amendment of original line 23 from 3.26 kilometres to the revised length of 3.44 kilometres
- lines 23, 62, 64, 66, 68 and 70 are to remain abandoned in place

2. The proposed work is related to the minor splits and removals of previously abandoned pipelines, within the original right-of-way, previously constructed in accordance with approvals granted in licences 9413 and 9414.

3. ATCO proposed to remove 1.38 kilometres of the abandoned 304.8-millimetre Viking #1 Transmission Pipeline, lines 88, 90, 92, 94 and 96 and 1.38 kilometres of the abandoned 323.9-millimetre Viking #2 Transmission Pipeline, lines 61, 63, 65, 67 and 69, to accommodate the widening of Wye Road between Cloverbar Road and Highway 21, as requested by Strathcona County. The proposed removal would take place on private lands. The total project cost is estimated at \$1,000,000 with Strathcona County responsible for 100 per cent of the project costs.

4. The Commission accepts ATCO's assessment that the project meets the criteria for an abbreviated need project as per Rule 020: *Rules Respecting Gas Utility Pipelines*, Section 3.3, Table 3.1. This is a removal project for an existing facility where the project is reimbursed under the terms of a third-party contribution, project costs are forecast at less than \$2,000,000 and there are no unresolved interested party objections or significant environmental impacts.

5. ATCO prepared an environmental evaluation report<sup>1</sup> for the proposed project. The Commission accepts ATCO's statement that all recommendations included in the environmental evaluation report would be implemented. During construction it would comply with the requirements of the *Guide for Pipelines Pursuant to the Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act and Regulations* and industry best practices. After the sections of pipeline are removed, ATCO would restore the right-of-way to the developer's requirements. The pipeline segments would be tested for liquids prior to removal and any liquids found would be removed and properly disposed of. 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* 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. Construction of this project is scheduled to commence in the summer of 2018.

7. ATCO has provided information respecting the need, nature and extent of the project. Since the project involves limited ground disturbance on land with ongoing development and is within the original right-of-way, the resultant environmental impact of the work has been assessed with no significant impact identified.

8. The Commission accepts ATCO's submission that the need for the project has arisen from a request from Strathcona County to accommodate the widening of Wye Road and that the full cost of the project will be borne by Strathcona County.

9. 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.

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<sup>1</sup> Exhibit 23595-X0005, Environmental Evaluation Report.

10. 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.

11. 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

Attachments