

July 12, 2018

Decision 23678-D01-2018

AltaGas Utilities Inc.
5509 45th Street
Leduc, Alta. T9E 6T6

Attention: Braden Kowalyk, E.I.T.
Design Engineer

Pipeline Relocation in the Town of St. Paul
Licence 2843
Proceeding 23678
Applications 23678-A001

Minor pipeline project application

1. AltaGas Utilities Inc. (AltaGas), by Application 23678-A001 registered on June 21, 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 St. Paul:

- splitting line 54 into lines 54, 85 and 86
- length amendment of original line 54 from 3.96 kilometres to the revised length of 3.99 kilometres
- mapping amendment of line 54
- addition of newly constructed pipeline (line 87 – 0.07 kilometres of 114.3-millimetre outside diameter pipeline)
- lines 54 and 86 are to remain in operation
- line 85 is to be abandoned in place and then recorded as abandoned under a subsequent application

2. The proposed work is related to the minor split and replacement of a section of the existing pipeline, previously constructed and operating in accordance with approvals granted in Licence 2843.

3. AltaGas stated that it has recently discovered that a section of line 54 has inadequate clearance to a storm sewer. Because of the inadequate clearance the pipeline presents a risk to the public in the event of a gas leak and gas was to enter the storm sewer system. To remedy this situation, AltaGas is proposing to replace this section of the pipeline.

4. AltaGas proposed to split line 54 of Licence 2843 into lines 54, 85 and 86 to accommodate the future abandonment of line 85. Line 85 would be replaced with a new 114.3-millimetre outside diameter pipeline and lines 54 and 86 would remain in operation. The expected cost of this project is \$52,300 and AltaGas would be responsible for 100 per cent of the project costs.

5. The Commission accepts AltaGas' 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, as this is a relocation project for an existing facility within or in close proximity to the existing right-of-way, where project costs are forecast at less than \$500,000 and there are no unresolved interested party objections or significant environmental impacts.
6. AltaGas stated the proposed pipeline would be placed entirely within a road right-of-way and installed using an open-cut trenching method and horizontal directional drilling at crossing locations. For all excavations the topsoil would be stripped away and all soils would be separated into topsoil and subsoil, as necessary, and stored appropriately to prevent co-mingling of the soil types. In the backfill phase, the stored topsoil and subsoil would be returned to their original layers.
7. AltaGas also stated that the construction activities for this project will be limited to underneath a gravel road and within its associated ditches. Due to this project being entirely within a developed area of limited size, AltaGas expects no significant environmental impacts resulting from it.
8. AltaGas stated that all landowners, occupants and residents have been provided with written notification of the proposed construction, including a general description of the project, and that it received confirmation of non-objection from the municipality for the construction of the proposed pipeline within the road right-of-way. Construction of this project is scheduled to commence in the summer of 2018.
9. AltaGas 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.
10. The Commission accepts AltaGas' rationale for the need to relocate a portion of the pipeline in view of the risk of inadequate clearance to the storm sewer system.
11. Based upon the information provided, AltaGas 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.

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