

August 2, 2018

**Decision 23751-D01-2018**

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

Attention: Justin Middleton, P. Eng.  
Project Engineer, Transmission Engineering

**Removal and Replacement of Portions of the Viking Transmission Pipelines  
Licences 9413, 9414, 9416 and 9417  
Proceeding 23751  
Applications 23751-A001 to 23751-A004**

**Minor pipeline project application**

1. ATCO Gas and Pipelines Ltd. (ATCO), by applications 23751-A001 to 23751-A004 registered on July 18, 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 in the town of Tofield:

Pertaining to Licence 9413:

- splitting of previously abandoned line 99 into lines 99 and 100
- removal of line 99
- line 100 is to remain abandoned in place

Pertaining to Licence 9414:

- splitting of previously abandoned line 72 into lines 72 and 73
- removal of line 72
- line 73 is to remain abandoned in place

Pertaining to Licence 9416:

- splitting line 13 into lines 13, 51 and 52
- removal of line 51
- length amendment of original line 13 from 8.39 kilometres to the revised length of 8.70 kilometres
- wall thickness amendment of original line 13 from 0.00 millimetres to 9.53 millimetres
- “To Location” legal subdivision amendment of original line 13 from 15 to 14
- addition of newly constructed pipeline (line 53 – 0.10 kilometres of 406.4-millimetre outside diameter pipeline)
- lines 13 and 52 are to remain in operation

Pertaining to Licence 9417:

- splitting line 7 into lines 7, 53 and 54
- removal of line 53
- length amendment of original line 7 from 9.07 kilometres to the revised length of 9.45 kilometres
- pipe type amendment of original line 7 from UUUUUU to 5L
- “To Location” legal subdivision and section amendments of original line 7 from 01-02 to 02-01
- addition of newly constructed pipeline (line 55 – 0.10 kilometres of 406.4-millimetre outside diameter pipeline)
- lines 7 and 54 are to remain in operation

2. The proposed work is related to minor splits, removals and replacement of sections of existing pipelines, two of which are operating and two of which are abandoned, in accordance with approvals granted in licences 9413, 9414, 9416 and 9417.

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

- remove 80 metres of abandoned 304.8-millimetre outside-diameter Viking 1 Transmission Pipeline, line 99 of Licence 9413
- remove 80 metres of abandoned 304.8-millimetre outside-diameter Viking 2 Transmission Pipeline, line 72 of Licence 9414
- remove 100 metres of currently operating 406.4-millimetre outside-diameter Viking 3 Transmission Pipeline, line 51 of Licence 9416 and install a new 100-metre long 406.4-millimetre outside-diameter pipeline, line 53 of Licence 9416
- remove 100 metres of currently operating 406.4-millimetre outside-diameter Viking 4 Transmission Pipeline, line 53 of Licence 9417 and install a new 100-metre long 406.4-millimetre outside-diameter pipeline, line 55 of Licence 9417

4. The proposed work is to accommodate the road realignment plans at Highway 834 and would be completed on private lands. The total project cost is estimated at \$920,000 and Alberta Transportation would be responsible for 100 per cent of the project costs.

5. 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, as this is a removal and replacement 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.

6. 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. Specifically, ATCO stated that, during construction, it

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<sup>1</sup> Exhibit 23751-X0004, Environmental Evaluation Report.

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.

7. 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 fall of 2018.

8. ATCO has provided information respecting the need, nature and extent of the project. Because the project involves limited ground disturbance and is within the original right-of-way, ATCO assessed the resultant environmental impact of the work as limited. The landowners and occupants of the affected lands did not object to the project.

9. The Commission accepts ATCO's submission that the need for the project arose from a request from Alberta Transportation to accommodate the road realignment plans at Highway 834 and that the full cost of the project will be borne by Alberta Transportation.

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

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.

12. 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