

September 21, 2018

Decision 23865-D01-2018

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

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

**Installation of New Pipeline and Meter and Regulation Station
Licence 6192
Proceeding 23865
Applications 23865-A001**

Minor pipeline project application

1. AltaGas Utilities Inc. (AltaGas), by Application 23865-A001 registered on August 28, 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 near the city of Medicine Hat:

- addition of newly constructed pipeline (line 49 – 0.036 kilometres of 60.3-millimetre outside-diameter pipeline)
- addition of a meter and regulation station

2. To accommodate system demand growth, AltaGas is currently undertaking upgrades to its rural natural gas distribution system southwest of the city of Medicine Hat. As part of these upgrades, AltaGas proposed to install a 36-metre long, 60.3-millimetre outside-diameter pipeline that would be installed from a NOVA Gas Transmission Ltd. pipeline (line 12 of Licence 80505) to the proposed AltaGas metering, pressure regulating and odorizing station.

3. AltaGas stated that it received new service applications in the vicinity of this project and that the existing natural gas distribution system is unable to supply the amount of gas requested by the applicants and therefore system upgrades are required. AltaGas further stated that it determined that the most effective system upgrade involves the construction of the new pipeline and station. AltaGas explained that the selection and design of this upgrade included the consideration of hydraulic analysis, project cost, expected growth, the availability of natural gas supply taps and landowner and municipality requests. This project is being funded by both AltaGas and contributions received from new service applicants.

4. The Commission accepts AltaGas'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 new growth project for receipt or delivery connections involving less than 100 metres of pipeline and the associated metering and regulating facilities.

5. AltaGas retained the services of Aurora Land Consulting Ltd. to prepare an environmental protection plan.¹ The environmental protection plan includes a consideration of soils, vegetation, wetlands, wildlife, aquatic resources, groundwater use, and historical resources. AltaGas stated it would follow all recommended mitigation and monitoring measures to reduce potential adverse effects of this project on the environment.

6. AltaGas stated the proposed pipeline would be placed within a right-of-way and installed using an open-cut trenching method and horizontal directional drilling at crossing locations. For all excavations, 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 submitted a noise impact assessment summary form² as part of its application. The Commission accepts AltaGas's assessment that the predicted noise levels associated with the meter and regulation station would be in compliance with the permissible sound levels in Rule 012: *Noise Control*.

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 from landowners, occupants and residents that they have no objection to the project.

9. AltaGas 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, AltaGas assessed the resultant environmental impact of the work as limited. The landowners and occupants of the affected lands did not object to the project.

10. Based upon the information provided, the Commission is satisfied that the proposal is of a minor nature, no person will be directly and adversely affected by the proposal, and no significant adverse environmental impact is likely to be caused by the proposed project.

11. The Commission approves the application. 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

¹ Exhibit 23865-X0009, Environmental Protection Plan.

² Exhibit 23865-X0002, Rule 12 Appendix Form - Noise.