

October 30, 2018

Decision 23980-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

**Acheson Transmission Pipeline Section Removal
Licence 1670
Proceeding 23980
Application 23980-A001**

Minor pipeline project application

1. ATCO Gas and Pipelines Ltd. (ATCO), by Application 23980-A001 registered on October 16, 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:

- splitting line 35 into lines 35 and 36
- removal of line 35

2. The proposed work is related to the minor split and removal with respect to existing pipe, within the original right-of-way, previously constructed and operating in accordance with approvals granted in Licence 1670.

3. ATCO proposed to remove a section of the existing 168.3-millimetre Acheson Transmission Pipeline to accommodate a future development as requested by West End Nissan. West End Nissan would perform the removal of the pipeline, new line 35, under the supervision of ATCO. The abandonment of line 36 would be applied for under a subsequent application.

4. ATCO stated the total cost is estimated to be \$20,000 and West End Nissan would be responsible for 100 per cent of the project costs. 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, because 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. An environmental evaluation report has been developed for this project. ATCO stated that all recommendations included in the environmental evaluation report would be implemented.

6. ATCO stated that during construction, ATCO and West End Nissan would comply with the requirements of the *Guide for Pipelines Pursuant to the Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act and Regulations* and industry best practices. The pipeline would be tested for liquids prior to removal and any liquids found would be removed and properly disposed of. There are no watercourse crossings that would be affected by the project.
7. ATCO would obtain a reclamation certificate as required by the *Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act* prior to discharging the right-of-away.
8. ATCO stated that consultation with landowners and occupants for this work was completed in accordance with Rule 020 and submitted that the landowners and occupants of the affected lands did not object to the project. Construction of the project is proposed to begin in the first quarter of 2019.
9. The Commission accepts ATCO's submission that the need for the project has arisen from a request by West End Nissan to accommodate proposed land development and that the full cost of the project will be borne by West End Nissan.
10. ATCO has provided information respecting the need, nature and extent of the project. Since the project involves no significant 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.
11. 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.
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