

**DA2013-207**

September 5, 2013

ATCO Gas and Pipelines Ltd. (South)  
7210 – 42 Street N.W.  
Edmonton, Alberta T6B 3H1

Attention: Chris Johnson, P. Eng.  
Pipelines Engineering, ATCO Pipelines

**Removal of Abandoned Pipelines from Three Point Creek  
Permit and Licences No. 1534 and No.47944  
Application No. 1609843  
Proceeding ID No. 2785**

### **Minor pipeline project application**

ATCO Gas and Pipelines Ltd. (South) (ATCO), by Application No. 1609843 registered on August 14, 2013, filed an application with the Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC or the Commission) under Section 11 of the *Pipeline Act* and Section 4.1 of the *Gas Utilities Act* for the following in Townships 20 and 21, Range 2, west of Fifth Meridian:

Pertaining to Permit and Licence No. 1534:

- splitting Line 3 into lines 3, 78 and 79
- removal of Line 78

Pertaining to Permit and Licence No. 47944:

- splitting Line 5 into lines 5 and 47
- removal of Line 5

The proposed work is related to the minor splits and removals of abandoned pipelines, within the original road allowance, previously constructed and operated in accordance with approvals granted in Licence No. 1534 and Licence No. 47944.

ATCO stated that in 2006, ATCO replaced the vintage 273.1 millimetre (mm) Turner Valley No. 2 transmission pipeline. The vintage pipeline was mainly abandoned in place with small sections removed as required. Since this work has taken place, the vintage pipeline, an abandoned 114.3 mm pipeline and a casing pipe of unknown dimensions have had their cover become shallow or had pipe exposed in Three Point Creek. Since these pipelines do not currently meet the depth of cover requirements, ATCO proposed to remove these pipelines from Three Point Creek.

ATCO proposed to remove approximately 54 metres of the vintage 273.1 mm Turner Valley No. 2 transmission pipeline, 44 metres of the abandoned 114.3 mm pipeline and 15 metres of the casing pipe from Three Point Creek. The new Turner Valley No. 2 transmission pipeline parallels the abandoned pipelines and is not shallow or at risk of being exposed. This 219.1 mm operating pipeline would not be impacted by the removal activities.

ATCO stated that it retained EnviroMak Inc., environmental management consultants, to complete an environmental assessment notification report and to obtain all necessary environmental approvals for the pipeline removals. ATCO included the environmental assessment report with the application. Notification has been provided to Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resources Development under the Code of Practice in accordance with the *Water Act*. A review by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada has also been completed. An environmental inspector would be on-site as required for the duration of the pipeline removal activities to ensure compliance with the environmental assessment and approvals.

ATCO stated that construction operations need to take place outside of the Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development restricted activity period for fish species. Three Point Creek has a restricted activity period of May 1 to August 15, and September 15 to April 15. During the recent flooding in southern Alberta, the amount of exposed pipelines has increased substantially due to bank erosion. ATCO proposed to remove these abandoned pipelines as soon as possible, to ensure that the work can be completed outside of the restricted activity period and that the exposures do not increase any further.

The proposed pipeline removals are located in lands with a designated historic resource value according to Alberta Culture and Community Spirit's listing of historic resources. *Historical Resources Act* clearance has been acquired and a copy of a clearance letter was submitted with the application.

ATCO stated that it has notified all landowners and occupants along the right-of-way in accordance with AUC Rule 020 : *Gas Utility Pipelines* requirements. There are no outstanding objections or concerns related to the removal of proposed pipelines within Three Point Creek. However, ATCO is currently working with one adjacent landowner on a concern regarding bank erosion that occurred downstream of the exposed pipeline crossing during the recent flooding in southern Alberta. The landowner has expressed a concern that ATCO's exposed pipeline contributed to additional downstream erosion of the south bank of Three Point Creek outside of ATCO's right-of-way. The landowner is concerned regarding the potential the loss of property if erosion of the south bank was to continue. The landowner has not objected to ATCO moving forward with this AUC permit application.<sup>1</sup> In this regard, ATCO stated that Northwest Hydraulic Consultants has been retained to complete a field assessment to determine if the exposed pipelines were a contributing factor to the bank erosion. ATCO indicated that it is committed to work with the landowner and consultant to address the bank erosion concerns and come to a mutually agreeable resolution.

ATCO has also included a record of consultation activities on the project and a sample notification package with the application.

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<sup>1</sup> Exhibit No. 0020.00.ATCO-2785, Revised Cover Letter; Exhibit 0021.00.ATCO-2758, Revised Application; Exhibit 0022.00.ATCO-2758, Revised Application.

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 undeveloped road allowance, 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.

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.

The Commission approves the application. The amended permits and licences are attached.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "B. Shand", is written over a light grey rectangular background.

Brian Shand, P. Eng.  
Director, Gas Facilities  
On behalf of the Alberta Utilities Commission

Attachment