

DA2013-216

September 13, 2013

ATCO Gas and Pipelines Ltd. (South)
7210 – 42 Street NW
Edmonton, AB T6B 3H1

Attention: Jo-Anne Van Sickle
Pipelines Engineering Clerk

**Exposed Pipeline Removal from Grizzly Bear Creek
Permit and Licence No. 2742
Application No. 1609850
Proceeding ID No. 2789**

Minor pipeline project application

ATCO Gas and Pipelines Ltd. (South) (ATCO), by Application No. 1609850 registered on August 16, 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 Township 48, Range 5 west of the Fourth Meridian:

- splitting Line 1 into lines 1, 16 and 17
- removal of Line 16
- length amendment to the original Line 1
- environmental code amendment to original Line 1

The proposed work is related to minor split and removal of existing pipe, within the original right-of way, previously constructed and operating in accordance with approvals granted in Permit and Licence No. 2742.

ATCO stated that it has retained EnviroMak Inc., environmental management consultants, to complete an environmental assessment notification report and to obtain all necessary environmental approvals for the pipeline removal.¹ Notification has been provided to Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resources Development (AESRD) under the code of practice in accordance with the *Water Act*. A review by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) has also been completed. An environmental inspector will be on-site, as required, for the duration of the pipeline removal activities to ensure compliance with the environmental assessment and approvals.

¹ Exhibit 0002.00.ATCO-2789, Environmental Assessment Notification Report.

ATCO stated that a pre-disturbance environmental site assessment of the project footprint, including a wildlife survey component, would be conducted immediately prior to construction and in conjunction with the environmental monitoring of the construction. The exact timing of this assessment would depend on construction timing. Depending upon the construction timing, bird nest surveys may be conducted immediately prior to the work commencing if necessary, as per point 23 in Section 7.0 of the report.² As this work is expected to occur outside of the migratory bird nesting period there would be no need for a bird nest survey. If the work were to occur within the nesting period then a nest survey would be conducted no sooner than 72 hours prior to construction start up, otherwise there is a possibility of birds constructing new nests between the survey and construction time.

ATCO stated that it has completed the necessary consultation for the proposed pipeline removal in accordance with AUC Rule 020: *Rules Respecting Gas Utility Pipelines* requirements including notification and approval from AESRD Public Lands. There are no outstanding objections or concerns related to this project.

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.

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 permit and licence is attached.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "B. Shand", is enclosed in a thin black rectangular border.

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

Attachment

² Exhibit 0002.00.ATCO-2789, Environmental Assessment Notification Report, Page 11.