

**DA2014-88**

April 9, 2014

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

Attention: Jo-Anne Van Sickle  
Senior Administrative Coordinator

**Pipeline Splits and Removals at Oldman River  
Permit and Licence No. 2027  
Application No. 1610399  
Proceeding No. 3134**

**Minor pipeline project application**

ATCO Gas and Pipelines Ltd. (South) (ATCO), by Application No. 1610399, registered on March 19, 2014, 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 9, Range 21 west of the Fourth Meridian:

- splitting Line 22 into lines 22 and 150
- splitting Line 23 into lines 23 and 151
- splitting Line 119 into lines 119 and 152
- splitting Line 121 into lines 121 and 153
- removal of lines 21, 150, 151, 152 and 153
- lines 22, 23, 119 and 121 would remain abandoned in place
- “to location” LSD amendment of Line 119 from 14 to 13
- “from location” LSD amendment of Line 119 from 15 to 14
- length amendment of original Line 119 from 0.30 kilometres (km) to 0.15 km
- length amendment of original Line 121 from 0.40 km to 0.19 km

The proposed work is related to minor splits and removals of existing pipe, within the original right-of-way, previously constructed and operating in accordance with approvals granted in Permit and Licence No. 2027.

ATCO stated that the subject lines are located within the Oldman River and were previously abandoned in 1989. Several sections of these lines were then removed after having become exposed within the river channel in 2009. This particular section of the Oldman River is very active and some additional sections of abandoned pipe have since become exposed on the east bank of the river and within the side channel. ATCO proposed to remove the exposed sections of abandoned pipeline, as well as any sections of abandoned pipeline that have been deemed to be at risk of becoming exposed in the future. This includes the removal of approximately 210 metres of the 323.9-millimetre East Main Line transmission pipeline and 60 metres of the 406.4-millimetre East Main Line transmission pipeline from the Oldman River. The currently operating

406.4-millimetre East Main Line transmission pipeline is located approximately 150 metres to the south and runs parallel to these abandoned lines. This operating pipeline is not shallow or at risk of being exposed and will not be impacted by the removal activities.

ATCO stated that it has notified all landowners and occupants along the right-of-way in accordance with AUC Rule 020: *Rules Respecting Gas Utility Pipelines* requirements. There are no outstanding objections or concerns related to the removal of these pipelines within the Oldman River. An application was made to Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development (AESRD) for a First Nations consultation adequacy assessment and it was found that no consultation is required for this project.

ATCO stated that it retained SNC-Lavalin to complete an Environmental Survey and Assessment Report. A copy of this report was filed with the application.<sup>1</sup> In response to information requests by the Commission, SNC-Lavalin revised its Environmental Survey and Assessment Report as described in a letter filed with the Commission on April 4, 2014. The letter stated that in consultation with the AESRD, a description of wildlife habitat was added and environmental mitigation measures were amended.<sup>2</sup> ATCO stated that it would comply with all recommended environmental mitigation measures.

ATCO stated that notification has been provided to AESRD 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. The proposed pipeline removal is located in lands with a designated historic resource value according to Alberta Culture's listing of historic resources. *Historical Resources Act* clearance has been acquired and was filed with the application. Any liquids, if present, contained within the pipe would be captured and disposed of prior to the removal activity.

ATCO stated that since the proposed scope of removal involves working within the bed and banks of the river, the removal operations need to take place outside of the restricted activity period of the Oldman River, which is in between April 1st and July 31st. Construction operations are scheduled to be started in August of 2014 upon receipt of approval from the AUC.

ATCO has provided information respecting the need, nature and extent of the project. Since the project involves minor 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.

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<sup>1</sup> Exhibit 11.00.ATCO-3134, Survey and Assessment Report.

<sup>2</sup> Exhibit 14.00.ATCO-3134, Round 1 IR Response, SNC-Lavalin Letter.

The Commission approves the application. The amended permit and licence is attached.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "B. Shand". The signature is written in a cursive, somewhat stylized font.

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

Attachment