

DA2014-187

August 6, 2014

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

Attention: Jo-Anne Van Sickle
Senior Administrative Coordinator

Pothole Creek Exposed Pipeline Replacement
Licence No. 2354
Application No. 1610749
Proceeding No. 3349

Minor pipeline project application

ATCO Gas and Pipelines Ltd. (South) (ATCO), by Application No. 1610749 registered on July 25, 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 6, Range 21, west of the Fourth Meridian:

- splitting Line 3 into lines 3, 83, 84, 85 and 86
- removal of lines 83 and 85
- addition of newly constructed pipeline (Line 87 – 0.16 kilometres of 114.3 millimetre outside-diameter (OD) pipeline)

The proposed work is related to minor replacement of an existing pipeline, within the original right-of-way, previously constructed and operating in accordance with approvals granted in Licence No. 2354.

ATCO stated that the 114.3 millimetre OD Cardston transmission pipeline is exposed within Pothole Creek. Therefore, ATCO proposes to split an existing 20.60 kilometres of 114.3 millimetre OD natural gas pipeline and replace the creek crossing. The split of Line 3 would result in lines 3, 83, 84, 85 and 86 having lengths of 4.46 kilometres, 0.08 kilometres, 0.05 kilometres, 0.03 kilometres and 15.98 kilometres, respectively. Lines 83 and 85 would be removed, while Line 84 would be abandoned in place under a subsequent application. Furthermore, the proposed Line 87 would involve the construction of 0.16 kilometres of 114.3 millimetre OD natural gas pipeline by way of horizontal directional drilling to replace the currently exposed creek crossing segment.

ATCO stated that the proposed crossing is not within scheduled water. Therefore no application is required for Navigable Waters (Transport Canada) under the *Navigable Waters Act*. In addition, by means of the self-assessment tool provided by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, ATCO determined that this project does not require a request for review.

ATCO stated that code of practice notifications were submitted in accordance with the *Water Act* for pipelines crossing a water body to Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resources Development (ESRD) on July 8, 2014. Furthermore, ATCO stated that an ESRD public lands and temporary field authorization application is not necessary as this work would occur with an existing disposition (ROE 2562).

ATCO stated that the proposed pipelines traverse lands with a designated historical resource value of five for paleontological interest, as listed by Alberta Culture. *Historical Resources Act* (HRA) clearance was applied for on July 23, 2014 and the application is currently under review. ATCO stated it would not commence with construction until HRA clearance has been obtained.

ATCO has prepared an environment effects assessment (EA) report and an environment protection plan (EPP) for this project. ATCO stated that all recommendations included in the EPP would be implemented. Any liquids contained in the existing pipeline would be captured and disposed during pipeline tie-in and removal activities. ATCO stated that it would implement all recommendations included in the EPP.

ATCO stated as per Section 34(1) of the *Species at Risk Act* (SARA), no SARA review/approval is required with regard to the presence of Northern Leopard Frogs as the work is not occurring on federal lands. However, the Commission expects ATCO to satisfy its protection commitments regarding the Northern Leopard Frog as described in the EA and EPP reports as ATCO stated that it would implement all recommendations included in the EPP.

ATCO stated that consultation was completed with all landowners and occupants in accordance with AUC Rule 020: *Rules Respecting Gas Utility Pipelines*. Additionally, a First Nations consultation adequacy assessment tool was used to determine that consultation with First Nations is not required for the proposed project.

ATCO has provided information respecting the need, nature and extent of the project. Since the project involves no excessive 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 landowner 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 licence is attached.



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

Attachment