

DA2014-189

August 7, 2014

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

Attention: Jo-Anne Van Sickle
Senior Administrative Coordinator

Piper Creek Exposed Pipeline Replacement
Licence No. 2029
Application No. 1610731
Proceeding No. 3336

Minor pipeline project application

ATCO Gas and Pipelines Ltd. (South) (ATCO), by Application No. 1610731 registered on July 15, 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 37, Range 27, west of the Fourth Meridian:

- splitting Line 127 into lines 127, 190, 191, 192 and 193
- removal of Line 191
- addition of newly constructed pipeline (Line 194 – 0.20 kilometres (km) of 168.3 millimetre (mm) 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. 2029.

ATCO stated that the Nevis-Airdrie pipeline is exposed within Piper Creek. Therefore, ATCO proposes to split an existing 1.87-km section of 168.3-mm OD natural gas pipeline and replace the creek crossing. The split of Line 127 would result in lines 127, 190, 191, 192 and 193 having lengths of 0.37 km, 0.11 km, 0.05 km, 0.04 km and 1.30 km, respectively. Line 191 would be removed, while lines 190 and 192 would be abandoned under a separate application. Furthermore, the proposed Line 194 would involve the construction of 0.20 km of 168.3-mm OD natural gas pipeline by way of trenchless horizontal directional drilling to replace the currently exposed creek crossing segment. Line 194 would be slightly offset from the original alignment of the pipeline, but still within the existing right-of-way.

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. Additionally, ATCO stated that no application is required for Navigable Waters (Transport Canada) under the *Navigable Waters Act* as this creek crossing is not within a scheduled water. ATCO also stated that *Historical Resources Act* clearance is not required because the affected lands are not

assigned a historical resource value according to the publication of the March 2014 listing by Alberta Culture.

ATCO stated that Piper Creek is designated a Class C status with a restricted activity period of April 16 to June 30 at this crossing location according to the *Alberta Water Act Code of Practice for Watercourse Crossing Maps (2006)*. Therefore, ATCO proposes to commence construction of this project in August 2014, outside of the restricted activity period.

ATCO submitted an environmental assessment report to Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development as a notification under the Code of Practice for Water Crossings and Pipelines. ATCO also prepared an environmental protection plan for this project. ATCO stated that it would adhere to all recommendations outlined in the environmental protection plan that are applicable to the site conditions and construction methodology at the time of construction as confirmed from a pre-disturbance environmental site assessment and by environmental monitoring during construction. Any liquids contained in the pipe to be removed would be captured and disposed of properly. The topsoil would be stripped and stored, and all surface disturbances would be backfilled before the topsoil is returned.

ATCO stated that consultation was completed with all landowners and occupants in accordance with AUC Rule 020: *Rules Respecting Gas Utility Pipelines*.

ATCO has provided information respecting the need, nature and extent of the project. Since the project involves limited 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 licence is attached.



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

Attachment