

DA2014-194

August 18, 2014

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

Attention: Jo-Anne Van Sickle
Senior Administrative Coordinator

St. Mary River Pipeline Removal
Licence No. 2354
Application No. 1610786
Proceeding No. 3377

Minor pipeline project application

ATCO Gas and Pipelines Ltd. (South) (ATCO), by Application No. 1610786 registered on August 14, 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* to remove Line 79 in Township 3, Range 25, west of the Fourth Meridian. The proposed work is related to the minor removal of existing pipe previously constructed and operating in accordance with approvals granted in Licence No. 2354.

ATCO stated that the 168.3-millimetre (mm) Cardston transmission pipeline, Line 79, is exposed in the St. Mary River. A new crossing was installed via horizontal directional drill and tied into the existing pipeline in December 2013 under Application No. 1609983, pursuant to [DA2013-243](#).¹ The existing exposed pipeline would be cut below the river bed, in-stream, by certified divers and pulled from a bell hole upland. The pipeline within the river would be plugged and buried by the divers.

ATCO stated that it has retained an environmental consultant for this project. No application is required for Navigable Waters (Transport Canada) under the *Navigable Waters Act* as this crossing is not within scheduled water. An Environmental Effects Assessment Report was created and submitted to highlight the impact this project will have on the environment. ATCO has also submitted an environment protection plan for this project. All recommendations included in the environmental protection plan would be implemented by ATCO. As no serious harm to fish is expected, no *Species at Risk Act* permit is required prior to the proposed work. Code of Practice notifications were submitted in accordance with the *Water Act* for pipelines crossing a water body to Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development on July 8, 2014. ATCO stated that any liquids contained in the existing pipeline would be captured and disposed during pipeline removal activities.

¹ DA2013-243: ATCO Gas and Pipelines Ltd. (South) – ST. Mary River Exposed Pipeline Replacement – Minor pipeline project application, Application No. 1609983, Proceeding No. 2869, October 21, 2013.

ATCO stated that no application is required for the *Historical Resources Act* clearance because the affected lands have not been assigned an historic resource value according to the publication of the March 2014 Listing of the Historic Resources by Alberta Culture.

ATCO stated that consultation with landowners and occupants has been completed in accordance with AUC Rule 020: *Rules Respecting Gas Utility Pipelines* and there are no outstanding objections.

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 limited 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.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "B. Shand".

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

Attachment