

**DA2014-216**

September 26, 2014

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

Attention: Dale F. Lesik, P. Eng., Pipelines Engineering

**Pipeline Split and Removal  
Licence No. 1950  
Application No. 1610843  
Proceeding No. 3411****Minor pipeline project application**

ATCO Gas and Pipelines Ltd. (South) (ATCO), by Application No. 1610843 registered on September 12, 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 Townships 24 and 25, Range 10 west of the Fifth Meridian:

- splitting Line 129 into lines 129, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141 and 142
- removal of lines 129, 132, 134, 136, 138, 140 and 142
- lines 131, 133, 135, 137, 139 and 141 remain in place as abandoned
- mapping amendment of Line 129

The proposed work is related to the minor split and removal of abandoned pipelines, within the original right-of-way, previously constructed and operated in accordance with approvals granted in licence number 1950.

ATCO stated that its Banff Transmission pipeline was installed in 1951. In 2013, ATCO completed a relocation of approximately 6,000 metres of the pipeline through the town of Canmore (AUC Decision [2012-342](#)<sup>1</sup>) and 5,420 metres of the old pipeline was abandoned in place (AUC Decisions [DA2014-2](#)<sup>2</sup> and [DA2014-33](#)<sup>3</sup>). 3,740 metres of the abandoned pipeline is located within an easement that lies entirely within the Canadian Pacific Railway (CPR) right-of-way. According to the original easement agreement between CPR and ATCO, the abandoned pipeline must be removed from the CPR right-of-way when it is no longer in operation. To fulfil the terms of the existing easement agreement, and at the request of CPR, ATCO proposed to remove approximately 3,610 metres of the abandoned Banff Transmission pipeline within the CPR right-of-way in the town of Canmore. 130 metres of the abandoned

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<sup>1</sup> Decision 2012-342: ATCO Gas and Pipelines Ltd. (SOUTH) – New Construction to Replace a Section of the Banff Transmission Pipeline, Application No. 1608817, Proceeding No. 2123, December 18, 2012.

<sup>2</sup> Decision DA2014-2: ATCO Gas and Pipelines Ltd. (South) – Record amendment application, Application No. 1610212, Proceeding No. 3008, January 8, 2014.

<sup>3</sup> Decision DA2014-33: ATCO Gas and Pipelines Ltd. (South) – Minor pipeline project application, Application No. 1610308, Proceeding No. 3069, February 14, 2014.

pipeline within the CPR right-of-way would remain abandoned in place at road and utility crossings, filled with grout, capped and tagged as necessary.

ATCO stated that the abandoned pipeline is located adjacent to CPR's railway tracks. The CPR right-of-way is a corridor that has substantial train traffic and has been significantly disturbed over the years. The existing abandoned pipeline in the CPR right-of-way does not traverse any water bodies along the pipeline route.

ATCO prepared a Pre-Construction Site Assessment and Environmental Protection Plan report for this project using Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development's (ESRD) older Information Letter *C&R/IL94-5 Environmental Protection Guidelines for Pipelines* as a guideline. Included in the report are the mitigation measures that would be implemented where required by site and pipe-removal conditions in order to meet all applicable environmentally-related federal and provincial acts, including the *Alberta Wildlife Act*, the *Canada Migratory Birds Convention Act* and the *Canada Species at Risk Act*. ATCO stated that it would have an environmental inspector on site during the pipeline removal activities to ensure compliance with all approvals. This project does not require a historical resources overview and a historical resource impact assessment since no historical resources were found or would be impacted through the proposed work area. The pipeline would be tested for liquids prior to removal and any liquids found would be removed and properly disposed of. Final reclamation activities on the pipeline easement within the CPR right-of-way would be completed during construction or in the spring or summer of 2015.

ATCO stated that an assessment was made by ESRD for a First Nations Consultation Adequacy Assessment and it was determined that no consultation is required for this pipeline removal project. Consultation with landowners and occupants for this work has been completed in accordance with AUC Rule 020: *Rules Respecting Gas Utility Pipelines*. There were no outstanding objections or concerns related to the removal of these abandoned pipelines.

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



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

Attachment