

DA2014-225

October 3, 2014

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

Attention: Kellen Westman, P. Eng.
Project Engineer, Major Projects

Pipeline Split and Removal
Licence No. 47944
Application No. 1610872
Proceeding No. 3436

Minor pipeline project application

ATCO Gas and Pipelines Ltd. (South) (ATCO), by Application No. 1610872 registered on September 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 Townships 20 and 21, Range 2, west of the Fifth Meridian:

- splitting Line 19 into lines 19, 48 and 49
- removal of Line 48

The proposed work is related to the minor split and removal of an existing pipeline, within the original right-of-way, previously constructed and subsequently abandoned in accordance with approvals granted in Licence No. 47944.

ATCO stated that the pipeline would be tested for liquids prior to removal and any liquids found would be removed and properly disposed of. The topsoil would be stripped and stored, and all surface disturbances would be backfilled before the topsoil is returned.

ATCO stated that as a result of erosion due to last year's flooding in southern Alberta and additional high water this season, a significant pipeline exposure developed within the bank of Threepoint Creek at LSD 01-05-021-02 W5M. The pipeline exposed was one of a group of three parallel ATCO Turner Valley transmission pipelines: one 273.1-millimetre (mm) outside diameter (OD) abandoned line (Licence No. 1534), one 114.3-mm OD abandoned line (Licence No. 47944), and one 273.1-mm OD operating line (Licence No. 1534). The exposed pipeline was field confirmed to be abandoned at the time of discovery, but was misidentified as being 273.1-mm OD, resulting in Application No. 1610794, which requested a line split and pipeline removal of the 273.1-mm OD abandoned pipeline. This error was identified during the pre-mobilization site assessment on September 23, 2014, where the line was confirmed to be 114.3-mm OD. An application to reinstate Line 80 of Licence No. 1534 will follow.

ATCO stated that the three pipelines do not cross Threepoint Creek in this location, but rather parallel the Municipal District of Foothills No. 31 (MD) Township Road 210 adjacent to the creek. The erosion that exposed the 114.3 mm-OD abandoned pipeline is also putting the MD road at risk. Preliminary bank armouring has already been installed by the MD, however, the removal of the exposed portion of the 114.3-mm OD line, Line 48, is required to allow completion of its project. Completion was planned for early September, however, the MD has experienced delays in its project resulting in some delays with ATCO's removal. The MD bank protection work will also protect the abandoned 273.1-mm OD line under the road, and the operating 273.1-mm OD line south of the road.

ATCO stated that 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 this pipeline.

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 incremental 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