

**DA2014-258**

November 18, 2014

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

Attention: Adam Wood, P. Eng.  
Project Leader, Pipelines Engineering

**Burnt River exposed pipeline split and removal**  
**Licence No. 1571**  
**Application No. 1610964**  
**Proceeding No. 3496**

### **Minor pipeline project application**

ATCO Gas and Pipelines Ltd. (South) (ATCO), by Application No. 1610964 registered on October 29, 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 76, Range 5 west of the Sixth Meridian:

- splitting Line 43 into lines 43, 46 and 47
- removal of Line 46

The proposed work is related to the minor split and removal of existing pipe, within the original right-of way, previously constructed and operating in accordance with approvals granted in Licence No. 1571.

ATCO stated that Line 43 is located within Burnt River and was previously abandoned in 2000. A section of the abandoned pipeline has since become exposed on the south bank of the river. ATCO proposed to split Line 43 into lines 43, 46 and 47 and remove the exposed 90 metre long section of abandoned pipeline, Line 46, from Burnt River. The currently operating 114.3 millimetre Grande Prairie/Spirit River transmission pipeline is located approximately 10 metres to the east and runs parallel to the abandoned line. This operating pipeline is not at risk of becoming exposed and will not be impacted by the removal activities.

ATCO stated that it retained SNC Lavalin Inc. to complete an environmental survey and assessment report.<sup>1</sup> Notification was provided to Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource Development (ESRD) under the Code of Practice in accordance with the *Water Act*. Reviews of this project by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada and the Fish and Wildlife Division (FWD) of the ESRD have also been completed. Included in the round one information request responses<sup>2</sup> are the mitigation measures that would be implemented in order to meet all

<sup>1</sup> Exhibit 4.00.ATCO-3496, SNC Lavalin Survey and Assessment Report.

<sup>2</sup> Exhibit 8.01.ATCO-3496, Round 1 IR responses.

applicable environmentally-related federal/provincial acts, which include the Alberta *Wildlife Act*, the Canada *Migratory Birds Convention Act* and the Canada *Species at Risk Act*. ATCO also submitted that this project and the environmental protection plan implemented for the project would adhere to the *Environmental Protection Guidelines for Pipelines (C&R/IL/94-5)* document published by ESRD.

ATCO stated that SNC Lavalin consulted with the FWD respecting this project on its behalf. Additional environmental mitigation measures were incorporated in the report with regard to fish habitat.

ATCO stated that an environmental inspector will be on site as required for the duration of the pipeline removal activities to ensure compliance with the environmental assessment and approvals. Any liquids, if present, contained within the pipe would be captured and disposed of prior to the removal activity.

The proposed pipeline removal is located in lands with a designated historic resource value according to Alberta Culture's Listing of Historic Resources. *Historical Resources Act* clearance was acquired.

ATCO stated that, while the proposed scope of removal does not involve working within the bed and banks of the river, the removal operations would take place outside of the restricted activity period of Burnt River which is from April 16th to July 15th. Construction operations are scheduled to begin in January of 2015.

ATCO stated that it has notified all landowners and occupants along the right-of-way in accordance with AUC Rule 020: *Rules Respecting Gas Utility Pipelines* requirements. There are no outstanding objections or concerns related to the removal of the exposed pipeline within Burnt River.

ATCO stated that an application was made to ESRD for a First Nations consultation adequacy assessment and it was found that no consultation was required for this project.

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.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "B Shand". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "B".

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

Attachment