

AUC Rule 020: Rules Respecting Gas Utility Pipelines

Commission responses to stakeholder comments received between February 28, 2019 and March 1, 2019

Stakeholders: ATCO Gas and Pipelines Ltd. (ATCO), AltaGas Utilities Inc. (AltaGas)

Issues	Stakeholder comments	Commission responses
<p>Owner to Submit Application to Update AER Database</p>	<p>ATCO has no concerns with the proposal for the owner to submit applications directly to the AER, though it will result in a higher administrative workload. It is ATCO's understanding that previously approved facilities applications with outstanding AER Onestop applications will be completed by the AUC.</p> <p>AltaGas observes that this proposed change transfers the administration of filing an "application" with the AER from the AUC to the owners of the gas utility pipeline. AltaGas notes the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The proposed change would be a manual process and require AltaGas to provide duplicate information to multiple regulators, which is clearly not a more efficient and effective process for AltaGas. • The proposed change would require AltaGas to develop additional internal processes and associated training so that it could fulfill its new role in facilitating the transfer of information between the AUC and AER. • AltaGas is unclear how this change will result in greater efficiencies for all parties because the total workload is not reduced, but rather shifted from the AUC to AltaGas. • In the interest of greater efficiencies for all parties, AltaGas suggests the AUC and AER consider the creation of a central repository for all facilities data where the owners are able to upload all required documentation once. • In the absence of a central repository, it would be more efficient and effective for the AUC to continue to provide both the approved application and licence directly to the AER as part of the AUC to AER handoff process. AltaGas agrees, however, that it may be more practical and efficient for the AER to follow up directly with AltaGas to resolve any errors found in the applications. Once resolved, the AER should then directly notify both the AUC and AltaGas when its licence confirmation is issued. This approach would facilitate a better use of resources of all 	<p>The Commission will complete the outstanding AER applications for previously approved facilities applications.</p> <p>The AUC has previously investigated the potential for a shared database and was informed that, for security and data integrity reasons the AER would retain control of the pipeline database.</p> <p>The AUC considers that it is more efficient for the holder of the gas utility pipeline license to make the necessary updates to the AER database because the licence holder has all of the pertinent information related to the pipeline that is the subject of the application.</p> <p>The OneStop system is fully automated. Requiring AltaGas and ATCO to complete OneStop applications will not result in material duplication of efforts. The AER acknowledges that the Commission will be performing the technical analysis on applications before issuing a decision, and therefore would not subject the application to further technical analysis. This is the reason one of the requirements specified in Bulletin 2019-01 is for owners to reference AUC on applications filed to the AER. Owners can reference AUC as part of the application's project name when initiating new applications in OneStop.</p>

	<p>parties as it would streamline the process by eliminating unnecessary procedural steps.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In the event, however, that the AUC implements the proposed change, AltaGas suggests that the AUC and AER provide clear instructions on what must be included in the AER filing and would encourage the AUC and AER to make the process as simple as possible in order to minimize the additional burden on AltaGas. For example, the need to reformat information that has already been provided to the AUC should be kept to a minimum. Furthermore, given that the technical analysis will be performed by the AUC, the Bulletin should clearly acknowledge that the AER is not performing any further technical analysis but rather, that the referenced identification of errors relates to matters of an administrative nature related to the filing system. Once the information is submitted to the OneStop system and any errors are resolved, the AER licence should be issued as a matter of course. 	
<p>60 day timeline for owners to provide licence confirmation from AER</p>	<p>ATCO is concerned with the AUC's proposed requirement to provide a license confirmation from the AER within 60 days of receiving the AUC's approval. While application quality and completeness are within ATCO's control, AER processing timelines are not. ATCO is concerned that a 60-day timeline is not enough and is requesting a change to 90 days.</p> <p>AltaGas also notes the references to the proposed timing for updating the AER record refers to the submission of the AER licence to the AUC within 60 days of AUC approval rather than the actual timing for submission to the AER system. If this is meant to impose a timeline for providing the information to the AER system, the wording should be amended accordingly. If it is intended to reflect when the AER licence should be provided to the AUC, the time period should run from the date the AER licence is issued rather than from the date of the AUC approval; otherwise, AltaGas may be faced with a circumstance where it cannot meet the 60-day timeline due to the AER licence not being issued.</p>	<p>The Commission accepts the stakeholder's concerns regarding the 60-day timeline and will change the timeline to 90 days.</p> <p>The timeline being imposed by the Commission is to ensure the stakeholders notify the AUC after the receipt of the licence from AER. Even though AER's processing timeline varies based on the application, the Commission believes the proposed 90-day timeline is sufficient to allow filing of the application and the receipt of licence from the AER.</p>
<p>Tier Designations Proposal</p>	<p>This proposal stated that the AUC would issue an updated licence, but no decision report for pipeline amendment applications that address minor, administrative changes. Applications involving approvals for more significant changes will continue to receive both a decision report and a licence from the AUC.</p> <p>ATCO has no concerns in principle with this proposal.</p> <p>AltaGas agrees with the proposed change, as it will result in greater administrative efficiency and more timely response times for all applications.</p>	