

November 14, 2017

Decision 23047-D01-2017

ATCO Gas and Pipelines Ltd.
7210-42 Street N.W.
Edmonton, Alta. T6B 3H1

Attention: Curtis Meunier, E.I.T.
Project Engineer, Pipelines Engineering

**Pipeline Removal and Replacement in the Battle River
Licence 1653
Proceeding 23047
Application 23047-A001**

Minor pipeline project application

1. ATCO Gas and Pipelines Ltd. (ATCO), by Application 23047-A001 registered on October 25, 2017, filed an application with the Alberta Utilities Commission under Section 11 of the *Pipeline Act* and Section 4.1 of the *Gas Utilities Act* for the following:

- removal of line 21
- addition of a newly constructed pipeline (line 24 – 0.11 kilometres of 219.1-millimetre outside diameter pipeline)

2. The proposed work is related to the removal and replacement of an existing pipeline within the original right-of-way, previously constructed and operating in accordance with approvals granted in Licence 1653.

3. ATCO stated that, in Decision 21791-D01-2016,¹ it received approval to install a new pipeline, line 23, under the Battle River, using an open-cut technique, and to remove line 21. In Decision 21791-D01-2016, the Commission accepted the need to replace the pipeline in the river crossing because the pipeline was exposed and therefore not in compliance with the minimum depth of cover specified in CSA Z662.15 *Oil and gas pipeline systems*. ATCO was not able to construct line 23 due to higher than expected flow on the Battle River during the last half of 2016. ATCO received approval to amend the status of line 23 from operating to not-constructed in Decision 22985-D01-2017.² ATCO is now seeking approval to install line 24 to replace the 219.1-millimetre Wainwright Transmission Pipeline exposed within the Battle River.

¹ Decision 21791-D01-2016: ATCO Gas and Pipelines Ltd. – Pipeline Removal and Replacement in the Battle River, Proceeding 21791, Application 21791-A001, July 22, 2016.

² Decision 22985-D01-2017: ATCO Gas and Pipelines Ltd. – Status Amendment of Two Sections of the Wainwright Transmission Pipeline at the Battle River Crossing, Proceeding 22985, Application 22985-A001, October 12, 2017.

4. ATCO stated that the existing and proposed pipelines traverse lands with a designated historical resource value of 5 for archeological interests, as listed by Alberta Culture and Tourism. The *Historical Resources Act* approval was received on July 27, 2016.
5. ATCO stated that Code of Practice notifications were submitted in accordance with the *Water Act*, for pipelines crossing a water body, to the Alberta Energy Regulator on October 5, 2017. The application was reviewed by the Alberta Energy Regulator and was found to have no deficiencies. An environmental assessment³ (EA) and environmental protection plan⁴ (EPP) have been prepared by a qualified aquatic environmental specialist for this project. All recommendations included in the EPP and EA would be implemented by ATCO. The Battle River at the crossing location is designated as a Class C watercourse with a restricted activity period of April 16th to June 30th according to the Alberta Water Act Code of Practice for Watercourse Crossing Maps (2006). No construction activities would take place within the Battle River during the restricted activity period. ATCO stated that removal of the exposed pipeline may take place during the restricted activity period but the removal method will ensure that there is no disturbance to the bed or banks of the Battle River and there will be no equipment within the river during that restricted time period. Removal activities are scheduled to take place in the second quarter of 2018, after the pipeline has been tied-in.
6. ATCO stated that the pipeline would be tested for liquids prior to removal activities 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.
7. ATCO stated that consultation with landowners and occupants for this work has been completed in accordance with Rule 020: *Rules Respecting Gas Utility Pipelines*. Confirmation of non-objection by directly and adversely affected landowners was obtained by ATCO on September 14, 2017. Construction of the new pipeline crossing is scheduled to start in early November of 2017.
8. ATCO has provided information respecting the need, nature and extent of the project. Since the project involves no construction activities within the Battle River during the restricted activity period 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.
9. 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.

³ Exhibit 23047-X0006, Environmental Assessment.

⁴ Exhibit 23047-X0007, Environmental Protection Plan.

10. The Commission approves the application. In approving the application, however, the Commission makes no determination regarding the regulatory treatment of the costs of the assets to be removed, retired or abandoned pursuant to the application, cost incurred in carrying out these activities, or the associated rate implications. The amended licence is attached.

Alberta Utilities Commission

(original signed by)

Wade Vienneau
Executive Director, Facilities Division
On behalf of the Alberta Utilities Commission

Attachment