

February 9, 2018

**Decision 23279-D01-2018**

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

Attention: Alex Burnside, P. Eng.  
Project Engineer, Pipelines Engineering

**Removal of Sections of the 42.2-millimetre Swan Hills Transmission Pipeline  
Licence 7317  
Proceeding 23279  
Application 23279-A001**

**Minor pipeline project application**

1. ATCO Gas and Pipelines Ltd. (ATCO), by Application 23279-A001 registered on January 24, 2018, 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 in the city of Edmonton:

- splitting of previously abandoned line 3 into lines 3, 37, 38, 39 and 40
- removal of lines 37 and 39
- lines 3, 38 and 40 are to remain abandoned in place

2. The proposed work is related to the minor split and removal of a portion of a previously abandoned pipeline, within the original right-of-way, previously constructed in accordance with approvals granted in Licence 7317.

3. ATCO proposed to remove 600 metres of the abandoned 42.2-millimetre Swan Hills Transmission Pipeline, lines 37 and 39, to accommodate a proposed land development, as requested by the developer. ATCO stated that the developer would perform the removal activities under its supervision. The proposed removal would take place on private lands. The total project cost is estimated at \$40,000, and the developer would be responsible for 100 per cent of the project costs.

4. The Commission accepts ATCO's assessment that the project meets the criteria for an abbreviated need project as per Rule 020: *Rules Respecting Gas Utility Pipelines*, Section 3.3, Table 3.1, as this is a removal project for an existing facility where the project is reimbursed under the terms of a third-party contribution, project costs are forecast at less than \$2,000,000 and there are no unresolved interested party objections or significant environmental impacts.

5. ATCO prepared an environmental evaluation report<sup>1</sup> for the proposed project. The Commission accepts ATCO's statement that all recommendations included in the environmental evaluation report would be implemented. During construction it would ensure that the developer complies with the requirements of the *Guide for Pipelines Pursuant to the Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act and Regulations* and industry best practices. ATCO also stated that it would apply for and obtain a reclamation certificate for the removed pipelines as required by the *Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act* prior to discharging the right-of-way. The pipeline segments would be tested for liquids prior to removal and any liquids found would be removed and properly disposed of.
6. ATCO stated that an application for *Historical Resources Act* clearance was submitted to Alberta Culture and Tourism on November 29, 2017, and approval was granted on December 21, 2017.
7. ATCO stated that consultation with landowners and occupants for this work was completed in accordance with Rule 020 and submitted that the landowners and occupants of the affected lands did not object to the project. Construction of this project is scheduled to commence in February of 2018.
8. ATCO has provided information respecting the need, nature and extent of the project. Since the project involves limited ground disturbance on land with ongoing development and is within the original right-of-way, the resultant environmental impact of the work has been assessed with no significant impact identified.
9. The Commission accepts ATCO's submission that the need for the project has arisen from a request from the developer to accommodate a proposed land development and that the full cost of the project will be borne by the developer.
10. The Commission accepts ATCO's statement that it will obtain a reclamation certificate for the removed pipelines from Alberta Environment and Parks prior to discharging the right-of-way.
11. 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.

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<sup>1</sup> Exhibit 23279-X0002, Environmental Evaluation Report.

12. 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, the costs incurred in carrying out these activities, or the associated rate implications. The amended licence is attached.

**Alberta Utilities Commission**

*(original signed by)*

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

Attachment