

August 15, 2019

Decision 24785-D01-2019

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

Attention: Eric Filipowski, EIT
Project Engineer, Major Projects, UPR

Pipeline Crossing the Bow River in Calgary
Licence 4826
Proceeding 24785
Application 24785-A001

Record amendment application

1. ATCO Gas and Pipelines Ltd., by Application 24785-A001 registered on July 29, 2019, filed an application with the Alberta Utilities Commission under Section 11 of the *Pipeline Act* and Section 4.1 of the *Gas Utilities Act* to reinstate unremovable pipeline segments of line 15, previously approved to be removed, as abandoned lines 16 and 17, in the city of Calgary.
2. The proposed amendment is related to facilities previously constructed in accordance with approvals granted in Licence 4826.
3. ATCO stated that it received approval from the Commission in Decision 23425-D01-2018¹ to remove the abandoned 168.3-millimetre pipeline crossing the Bow River, line 15, to address the potential hazards associated with the exposed pipeline.
4. ATCO stated that it was not able to remove the entirety of the abandoned 168.3-millimetre pipeline crossing the Bow River as intended. Due to the flooding in 2013, the pipe covered by the central gravel bar was bent downstream by the water current and could not be removed without significant environmental disturbance. Therefore, this section of the abandoned 168.3-millimetre pipeline in the central gravel bar, line 16, was cut below ground, left in place and is adequately covered. The pipe in the east bank was initially thought to exist at a reasonable depth. However, after hydrovac exposure of the capped end of the abandoned pipe, the depth was confirmed to be approximately five metres. The in-bank pipeline could not be removed without significant bank disruption which could have caused long-term bank destabilizing effects. Therefore, this section of the abandoned 168.3-millimetre pipeline in the east bank, line 17, was also cut below ground, left in place and is adequately covered. The covered pipe sections in the central gravel bar and in the east bank were abandoned in compliance with CSA Z662 standards.

¹ Decision 23425-D01-2018: ATCO Gas and Pipelines Ltd. – Pipeline Removal Crossing the Bow River in Calgary, Minor pipeline project application, Proceeding 23425, Application 23425-A001, March 27, 2018.

5. ATCO provided information respecting the need, nature and extent of the pipeline record amendment. Since the record amendment does not involve a ground disturbance, there will be no environmental impact.
6. Based upon the information provided, the Commission is satisfied that the proposal is of a minor nature, no person was directly and adversely affected by the proposal, and no adverse environmental impact will be caused by the proposed record amendment.
7. The Commission approves the application. In approving the application, however, the Commission makes no determination regarding the final 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.
8. The Commission may, within 30 days of the date of this decision and without notice, correct typographical, spelling and calculation errors and other similar types of errors and post the corrected decision on its website.

Alberta Utilities Commission

(original signed by)

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

Attachment