

August 19, 2019

Decision 24810-D01-2019

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

Attention: Graeme Allin
Project Coordinator, Transmission Engineering

**Acheson Transmission Pipeline Split and Removal
Licence 1670
Proceeding 24810
Application 24810-A001**

Minor pipeline project application

1. ATCO Gas and Pipelines Ltd., by Application 24810-A001 registered on August 12, 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* for the following:

- splitting line 33 into lines 33, 37 and 38
- removal of line 37

2. The proposed work is related to the minor split and removal of a section of an abandoned pipeline, within the original right-of-way, previously constructed in accordance with approvals granted in Licence 1670.

3. ATCO stated that Sunwapta West Partnership has requested that a 350-metre segment of the abandoned 168.3-millimetre Acheson Transmission Pipeline, line 37, be removed to accommodate a future development. ATCO further stated that the project would take place on private lands only and a contractor would be performing the removals under ATCO's supervision. The total project cost is estimated at \$45,000 and Sunwapta West Partnership 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. This is a removal project for an existing facility where the project is reimbursed under the terms of a third-party contribution, the project costs are forecast at less than \$2,000,000 and there are no unresolved interested party objections or significant environmental impacts.

5. ATCO included an environmental evaluation report¹ for the proposed project. The Commission accepts ATCO's statement that all recommendations included in the environmental evaluation report would be implemented by the contractor, who will complete the removal under

¹ Exhibit 24810-X0004, Acheson EER.

ATCO's supervision. Specifically, ATCO stated that during construction it would comply 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 pipeline 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. ATCO noted that asbestos coating was found on the abandoned 168.3-millimetre Acheson Transmission Pipeline west of the proposed removal site and as a result, ATCO would follow the applicable procedures for asbestos pipeline removal.

6. ATCO stated that notification to landowners and occupants for this work has been completed in accordance with Rule 020. There are no outstanding objections or concerns related to the project. Construction of the project is scheduled to commence in the third quarter of 2019.

7. ATCO has provided information respecting the need, nature and extent of the project. Because the project involves limited ground disturbance and is within or adjacent to the original right-of-way, ATCO assessed the resultant environmental impact of the work as limited. The landowners and occupants of the affected lands did not object to the project.

8. The Commission accepts ATCO's submission that the need for the project has arisen from a request from Sunwapta West Partnership to accommodate a future development and that the full cost of the project will be borne by Sunwapta West Partnership.

9. The Commission accepts ATCO's commitment to obtain a reclamation certificate for the removed pipeline prior to discharging the right-of-way.

10. Based upon the information provided, the Commission is satisfied that the proposal is of a minor nature, no person will be directly and adversely affected by the proposal, and no significant adverse environmental impact is likely to be caused by the proposed project.

11. 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.

12. 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