



## ATCO Gas and Pipelines Ltd. (South)

Pipeline Removals, Record Corrections and  
New Construction

Amendment/Addition to Remove and Replace  
Exposed Pipelines in Crossing of Willow Creek

July 15, 2010

**ALBERTA UTILITIES COMMISSION**

Decision 2010-332: ATCO Gas and Pipelines Ltd. (South)

Amendment/Addition to Remove and Replace Exposed Pipelines in Crossing of Willow Creek

Application No. 1606349

Proceeding ID. 724

July 15, 2010

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**ATCO GAS AND PIPELINES LTD. (SOUTH)  
PIPELINE REMOVALS, RECORD  
CORRECTIONS, AND NEW CONSTRUCTION  
AMENDMENT/ADDITION TO REMOVE AND REPLACE  
EXPOSED PIPELINES IN CROSSING OF WILLOW CREEK**

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## **1 INTRODUCTION**

1. ATCO Gas and Pipelines Ltd. (South) (Applicant) filed an application with the Alberta Utilities Commission (AUC or Commission) seeking approval for an amendment/addition to Permit/Licence 2172 for the following:

- ‘To’ LSD Correction and Length Adjustment of Lines 29 and 41;
- Environmental Code Correction on Line 29;
- Removal of Line 29 and Line 41; and
- Addition of newly constructed pipeline (Line 61 – 0.22 km of 168.3 mm OD pipe)

(Project).

## **2 BACKGROUND**

2. The application was registered on July 9, 2010 as Application 1606349 (Application).

3. The Applicant stated that the amendment/addition was necessary to remove and replace two exposed pipelines in a creek crossing. Frequent flooding of Willow Creek has caused scouring, shifting, and erosion of the creek bed. This led to the exposure of two ATCO Pipelines’ 168 mm OD pipelines crossing the creek. One of the lines was abandoned and the other pipeline is active and carries sweet natural gas. The recent replacement of the creek crossing occurred in 1996. At the time of replacement the existing line was blown down and purged with air and abandoned in place. ATCO Pipelines proposed to remove the abandoned 168 mm pipeline and install a new pipeline at a greater depth. Once the line has been replaced the other pipeline will be removed from the creek. A hydraulic consultant has been utilized to determine the best location and depth for the new crossing to prevent future exposures. In addition, armouring of the creek banks was recommended to provide more stability of the banks and longevity of the crossing.

4. The Application stated that a participant involvement program has been conducted by the Applicant and that there were no outstanding public or industry objections or concerns.

5. Pipe will be removed by excavating a catch pit and digging bell holes along the pipeline. The pipeline will be cut and pulled into the catch pit. An attempt will be made to minimize surface disturbances. Any liquids contained in the pipe to be removed will be captured and disposed of prior to the removal activity.

### **3 DISCUSSION**

6. The Commission has reviewed the Application and has determined that it meets the requirements as stipulated in *AUC Rule 020*.

7. Since no parties objected to the Application and the Project is necessary to remove and replace two exposed pipelines in a creek crossing, the Commission considers the Project to be in the public interest.

### **4 DECISION**

8. Pursuant to section 11 of the *Pipeline Act* and section 4.1 of the *Gas Utilities Act*, the Commission approves the amendment/addition to Permit/Licence 2172 for the Project and grants the Applicant the amended Permit/Licence as set out in Appendix 1 – Gas Utility Pipeline – Pipeline Removals, Record Corrections and New Construction – Permit/Licence No. 2172 – July 15, 2010 (Appendix 1 will be distributed separately).

Dated on July 15, 2010.

### **ALBERTA UTILITIES COMMISSION**

*(original signed by)*

Thomas McGee  
Commissioner