

March 4, 2021

**Decision 26277-D01-2021**

Apex Utilities Inc.  
5509 45 Street  
Edmonton, Alta. T9E 6T6

Attention: Tessa Luppens  
Design Engineer

**New Pipeline Construction in the City of Leduc  
Licence 1055  
Proceeding 26277  
Application 26277-A001**

**Minor pipeline project application**

1. Apex Utilities Inc., by Application 26277-A001, registered on February 10, 2021, 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 replace an existing pipeline with 90 metres of newly constructed 114.3-millimetre outside-diameter pipeline in the city of Leduc. The proposed work is related to the minor replacement of existing pipe, previously constructed and operating in accordance with approvals granted in Licence 1055. The existing pipeline will be abandoned in a subsequent application.
2. Apex is conducting a pipe replacement program to replace aging infrastructure to ensure a safe and reliable system. As part of the replacement program, steel pipe that was installed prior to 1957 is being replaced, due to corrosion and weld failure risks. A portion of a high-pressure line feeding the city of Leduc and surrounding areas falls within this category based on a risk assessment. Apex is applying for approval to construct 90 metres of new 114.3-millimetre outside-diameter steel pipeline, line 115, within a road right-of-way owned by Alberta Transportation. The new pipeline would run from existing Apex pressure regulating station LE085, in Legal Subdivision 1 of Section 34, Township 49, Range 25, west of the Fourth Meridian, to a tie-in point on line 76 of Licence 1055.
3. Apex has received approval from Alberta Transportation to construct the pipeline within the road right-of-way.
4. Apex stated that the need for the pipeline replacement project has been identified as part of its capital tracker pipe replacement program. The need for this project was addressed in Proceeding 20522 as part of Apex's pre-1957 steel replacement program in Section 3 of Appendix II(a) – Business Case for Replacement of Pre-1957 Steel Pipe in the AltaGas Utilities Inc. 2016-2017 capital tracker application.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Exhibit 20522-X0010.03, AUI Application 2014 TU and 2016-2017 CT – Updated 2015-08-20, PDF pages 96-103.

5. Apex stated that the new pipeline would be installed using the trench method. The soil would be separated into topsoil and subsoil and would be stored appropriately to prevent co-mingling of the soil types. In the backfill phase, the stored subsoil and topsoil would be returned to their original layers.
6. Apex contracted Aurora Land Consulting Inc. to prepare an environmental protection plan,<sup>2</sup> for the project. The project location is not on the *Listing of Historic Resources* by the Alberta government. Mitigation measures would be put in place during construction including those addressing invasive species management, handling and storage of soil, erosion and settlement control, cleanup and revegetation, air quality management, and management of waste.
7. Apex stated that the proposed pipeline would tie-in to the existing regulator station, LE085, and the noise levels would be unchanged.
8. Apex stated that consultation with landowners and occupants for this work has been completed in accordance with Rule 020: *Rules Respecting Gas Utility Pipelines*. There were no objections from directly and/or adversely affected landowners and occupants. The installation is planned for 2021.
9. The Commission accepts that the proposed project addresses the need to replace the aging infrastructure and to ensure a safe and reliable supply of natural gas to the city of Leduc and surrounding areas.
10. Apex has provided information respecting the need, nature and extent of the project. Since the project involves no significant ground disturbance and is within the road plan, the resultant environmental impact of the work has been assessed with no significant impact identified. The landowners and occupants of the affected lands did not object to the project.
11. 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.
12. The Commission approves the application. The amended licence is attached.
13. 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.  
Applications Director, Facilities Division  
On behalf of the Alberta Utilities Commission

Attachment

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<sup>2</sup> Exhibit 26277-X0003, Environmental Protection Plan for Apex's Proposed Pipeline, November 22, 2020.