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**ENERGY RESOURCES CONSERVATION BOARD**

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**Calgary Alberta****ALTAGAS LTD.****APPLICATIONS FOR A NEW PIPELINE LICENCE****AND A PIPELINE ABANDONMENT****NORRIS FIELD****Decision 2010-008****Applications No. 1609170 & 1620466**

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**1 DECISION**

The Energy Resources Conservation Board (ERCB/Board) has accepted a request from AltaGas Ltd. (AltaGas) to withdraw the applications, and will not reschedule a public hearing to consider them.

**2 APPLICATIONS**

AltaGas submitted an application, in accordance with Part 4 of the *Pipeline Act*, for approval to construct and operate a polyethylene pipeline for the purpose of transporting salt water from Legal Subdivision (LSD) 9, Section 28, Township 53, Range 18, West of the 4th Meridian, to a disposal well at LSD 11-28-53-18W4M. The proposed pipeline would be about 1.12 kilometres (km) in length with a maximum outside diameter of 88.9 millimetres (mm), and would transport salt water with a maximum hydrogen sulphide (H<sub>2</sub>S) concentration of 0.00 moles per kilomole (mol/kmol) (0.0 per cent). The proposed pipeline would be operated as a level-1 pipeline.

AltaGas also submitted an application, in accordance with Part 4 of the *Pipeline Act*, for approval to abandon a steel pipeline transporting salt water from LSD 9-28-53-18W4M to a disposal well at LSD 11-28-53-18W4M. The pipeline is about 1.12 km in length, with a maximum outside diameter of 60.3 mm, and transports salt water with a maximum H<sub>2</sub>S concentration of 0.00 mol/kmol (0.0 per cent).

An objection to the applications was filed by Jim and Melinda Smyth, who are the owners of the northwest quarter of LSD 28-53-18W4M, where the proposed new construction and abandonment were to take place. The objection was based on concerns regarding the devaluation of property that the pipeline and existing wellsite might cause, as well as potential disturbance to wetlands in the area. These wetlands include a dugout located approximately 100 m north of the proposed pipeline, and a low, seasonally wet area that the new pipeline would cross.

**3 DISCUSSION**

The Board was scheduled to hold a public hearing in Fort Saskatchewan, Alberta, on December 2, 2009, before Board Member Brad McManus, Q.C. (Presiding Member) and Board Members Theresa Watson, P.Eng, and Gordon Miller. On November 25, 2009, the Board received a request from AltaGas to adjourn the public hearing, citing the unavailability of proper witnesses.

After consideration, the Board granted the adjournment request on November 27, 2009. The date on which the hearing was to be rescheduled remained pending.

On January 6, 2010, the applicant requested a withdrawal of Applications No. 1609170 and 1620466, pursuant to Section 21 of the *Energy Resources Conservation Board Rules of Practice*. Additional information was provided by AltaGas on January 8, 2010. In this additional information, AltaGas stated that its initial decision to proactively replace the original steel pipeline was based on a technical recommendation that suggested the pipeline was approaching the end of its service life. However, AltaGas stated that analysis conducted on a similar pipeline that was of the same vintage, diameter, materials, and fluid service as the pipeline in question indicated that the original technical recommendation may be incorrect. AltaGas also stated that, through its Pipeline Operating and Maintenance management system, the framework is in place to ensure the integrity and safety of the original steel pipeline. Based on these factors, AltaGas requested that the applications be withdrawn, and indicated that it will investigate the feasibility of conducting selective sampling and replacement of the original steel pipeline. After considering this additional information, the Board accepts the withdrawal of the applications.

Dated in Calgary, Alberta, on February 8, 2010.

**ENERGY RESOURCES CONSERVATION BOARD**

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Brad McManus, Q.C.  
Presiding Member