

COUNCIL MEETING DATE: FEBRUARY 25, 2025

REQUEST FOR DECISION - TO COUNCIL

SUBJECT

CROWN LAND APPLICATIONS – MOTION REQUIRED

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the County of Vermilion River send a letter requesting reduced timelines in processing applications for pipelines on public lands to the Alberta Minister of Forestry and Parks, carbon copied to the Ministry of Service Alberta and Red Tape Reduction, Ministry of Energy and Minerals, MLA Garth Rowsell, and the Federation of Alberta Gas Co-operatives.

DETAILS

Background: The Gas Utility is experiencing unreasonable delays in processing applications for new gas lines on Crown Lands. These projects are typically oil and gas related but can be residential gas lines as well. The most recent application involves a 750 meter low pressure fuel gas supply/gas gathering pipeline to an existing approved oil well. Gas Utility began the application process in October 2023. Initial delays (by the Provincial Aboriginal Consultation Office) set the application back 2-3 months, but by April 2024 we had completed all of the pre-application requirements including adequate First Nations Consultations, Environmental Supplements, Leaseholder Consents, etc. In May 2024 we received notice from Forestry and Parks that our application met all of the requirements, but that they need to departmental merit review. As of February 2025, the Application remains outstanding, and the project has been cancelled by the customer.

This is the third similar experience in the past seven (7) years of projects cancelled due to major delays in approvals. Gas Utility has not experienced significant delays in First Nations Consults, Environmental Assessments, Leaseholder and Public Consultation in these applications. All major delays seem to stem back to Forestry and Parks, both the main office and our local field office. Gas Utility follows up multiple times throughout the application process and never receives any updates of substance. In the time we wait for applications to be processed Oil and Gas producers are forced to either truck in propane for fuel gas or flare excess gas.

ATTACHMENTS

N/A

PREPARED BY: Louis Genest

DATE: February 18, 2025