

Memo

To: Enoch Band Members
From: Michelle Wilsdon & Shane Peacock
cc: Consultation Department
Date: October 12, 2016
Re: Anthony Henday Graveyard and the ATCO South West Connector Project

Thank you to the numerous band members who have recently contacted our Consultation Department with concerns regarding construction activity near the Anthony Henday graveyard site. The graveyards of our ancestors are spiritually significant and we place great importance on protecting these sacred places.

Sharing the deep concerns of our band members, our Consultation Department took immediate precautions and visited the construction site to request a stop-work order until they could gather the required information to fully assess the project and determine the appropriate next steps. ATCO Pipelines complied with the department staff's request and preparations were made for a site visit the following day.

Enoch Elders, Consultation Department staff and ATCO Pipelines representatives visited the site to determine the extent of impacts upon the graveyard. We thank our Elders for contributing their knowledge to assist in the protection of our Nation's interests.

Based on our Elders' contributions, information provided by ATCO Pipelines representatives, and other information gathered by Enoch Consultation Department staff, we are pleased to provide the following update to membership:

Project Information

- 1) The ATCO South West Connector Project is part of the Urban Pipeline Replacement Program. The purpose of this program is to replace old pipeline infrastructure to ensure safe and reliable gas for residents in the City of Edmonton.
- 2) The South West Connector Project entails the installation of two lines (508 mm and 323 mm) within the existing Anthony Henday Right of Way, and parallel to the highway.
- 3) The location of the pipelines is proposed at a minimum of 40-45 meters away from the West fence line of the marked burial ground and will be located at a minimum depth of 20 meters below ground. To minimize surface disturbance in the area, the pipeline will be laid through a directional drilling process rather than by way of trenching.
- 4) Rig mats have been placed throughout the area to allow construction traffic to travel to the different areas of the project with minimal disturbance/impacts. There will be no excavation past the Entry and Exit points where the topsoil has already been stripped.

Consultation History

- 1) May 30, 2012 - ATCO notified Enoch Cree Nation about the South West Connector project.
- 2) June 26, 2012 – ATCO met with approximately 20-25 members/Elders in Enoch. The location of the proposed project and installation of the pipeline was discussed. There were concerns about traditional pipeline installation methods using trenching, backfill, and surface restoration. The option of horizontal drilling through the area was discussed, as it was an option which would decrease the ground disturbance in the area.
- 3) August 21, 2012 – ATCO met with approximately 20-25 Enoch members/Elders. Confirmed with the members/Elders present that it was possible to drill the area and the surface would just be used for access. The drill would be completed by having entry and exit locations excavations completed and then installing the pipeline with a directional drill.
- 4) September 30, 2016 – Consultation Department conducts site visit, requests that ATCO stop work pending further assessment of the project.
- 5) October 6, 2016 – Consultation Department staff coordinate with ATCO representative and Elders to conduct a site visit immediately.
- 6) October 7, 2016 – Consultation department conducts site visit with Enoch Elders and ATCO representatives and establishes mitigation steps required to address concerns about the project. Accompanying Elders were satisfied with the accommodations in place and did not cite further project related concerns. Elders recommended protocol ceremony take place before further work on/near the site.

Mitigation Steps

- 1) October 11, 2016 – Protocol is offered and a sweat lodge ceremony is held to show respect and pray for our ancestors buried at the Anthony Henday site.
- 2) We are actively examining the options of conducting ground penetrating radar directly over the proposed location of the lines to ensure there are no burial remains located there, even though the site is located outside the existing graveyard boundaries.
- 3) Enoch will provide monitors to keep a close eye on the construction activity and ensure minimal disturbance and full restoration.
- 4) ATCO committed that they would not complete any excavations at the Drill Entry and Exit Points until we have worked out the details for monitors from Enoch to be present and on site during the excavation activities. During this time the construction crew will still utilize the access on the rig mats, but no excavation will take place in the area.

On behalf of the Consultation Department, we thank our community for remaining vigilant in protecting our collective rights, interests, and sacred places. We encourage anyone who has concerns about this project, or any other project, to bring them to the attention of the Consultation Department. Together, we can cast a wider net of awareness on what is happening in our territory and empower us to take action in protecting our lands.

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Michelle Wilsdon and Shane Peacock
ECN Council Members, Intergovernmental Relations and Economic Development