



Smoky Lake County

Meeting Agenda

Special County Council Meeting

August 4, 2026 - 10:00 AM

In Person - Council Chambers

4612 - McDougall Drive, Smoky Lake, Alberta

Please join using this link:

<https://video.businessconnect.telus.com/join/311575520>

1. CALLED TO ORDER
2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA
3. REQUESTS FOR DECISION
 - 3.1. Natural Gas Pipeline Replacement
4. IN CAMERA
5. ADJOURNMENT



Request for Decision (RFD)

Meeting Date: August 4, 2026

Agenda Item: #3.1

Topic: Natural Gas Pipeline Replacement

Presented By: Daniel Moric, Natural Gas Manager

That Smoky Lake County Council approve an unbudgeted capital expenditure for the repair of the natural gas pipeline located on NW-13-60-17-W4 and SE-14-61-17-W4 from the Natural Gas 2026 Budget in the amount of \$120,000.

Background:

On Sunday July 25 at approx. 11:55pm, there was a lightning strike on our TAP 4 aluminum natural gas pipeline located at SE-14-60-17-W4. Staff responded and completed the repair at the initial strike location July 26 at 10:00am. As per instructions from Alberta Energy Regulator (AER), following the repair, we leak detected along the entire 7.5 kms of the pipeline. In doing so, there was 6 additional smaller leaks found along a 1.1 km section of pipe, ranging from 325 meters west of the initial strike location and 730 meters east of the strike location. Our engineering firm, Hames Engineering, has been working with us regarding the situation. The pipeline integrity and the coating has been compromised from the lightning strike and replacement is recommended. Repair would be difficult due to the locations of the leaks. Stock of the aluminum pipe is very limited to smaller repair jobs, so replacement with aluminum pipe is not feasible. High pressure flexpipe is a substitution for aluminum in high pressure applications. It is also rated for higher pressure, so future replacement of the remainder of the existing pipeline would allow for additional expansion of the natural gas supply in the area. The installation of the flexpipe is out-of-scope for our equipment and staff, as the pipe diameter is wider than our equipment can install and staff do not have the joining certification, as due to the procedure and techniques, it is not feasible for Co-op's and Utilities to complete in-house. This expenditure would include a quote for Skocdopole Construction to complete the pipeline replacement, engineering fees, cathodic protection redesigning, licensing fees, and other potential costs in order to complete the repair. This would not include the cost of gas loss. AON Insurance, the insurance provider for the natural gas infrastructure, has been contacted and a claim has been started, for cost recovery efforts. It is still unclear as to what would qualify for funding for the repair/replacement, but all efforts will be made to recover costs through insurance.

This is the second time a lightning strike has damaged this pipeline. On May 31, 2025 there was a lightning strike that was repaired on this same pipeline 3.1 km downstream of the lightning strike that occurred on July 25, 2026. That lightning strike was not as powerful as the most recent one, as there was only a single leak in the pipeline. The protective coating on this pipeline may be damaged as a result of the multiple pipeline strikes, and maintenance efforts to examine the coating are scheduled with the cathodic protection contractor. Coating damage will increase the ability for the pipeline to corrode. There is detection methods to determine coating damage and will be utilized and repairs to the coating will be completed in 2026.



Request for Decision (RFD)

Benefits:

Replacement of the affected section of pipeline would eliminate the potential of future issues, stemming from the decreased integrity of the pipeline and the coating from the lightning strike.

Disadvantages:

Unbudgeted expense.

Alternatives

Repair in place and increase monitoring and maintenance on the pipeline. This would result in increased annual maintenance costs.

Financial Implications:

\$120,000 unbudgeted capital expenses.

Legislation:

- Canadian Standards Association CSA Z662:23 Oil and Gas Pipeline Systems (CSA Z662)
- Alberta Pipeline Act and Rules

Intergovernmental:

N/A

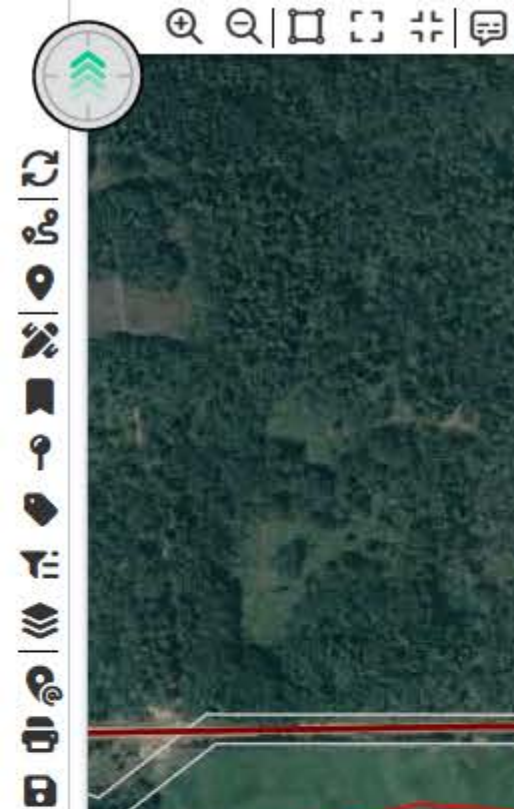
Strategic Alignment:

Asset Management & Infrastructure

Enclosure(s):

1. Quote from Skocdopole Construction dated July 30, 2026.
2. Pipe Replacement Length.
3. Leak Locations.

Signature of the CAO: _____



Imagery

54.185228, -112.432739

100 yd
100 m

Owner: Ruedrich, U
Roll: 17601410
Rural Legal: SE-14-60-17-4
Urban Legal:
Address:

46.88 sq. m
504.66 sq. ft

68.37 sq. m
735.97 sq. ft

95.23 sq. m
1025.1 sq. ft

75.21 sq. m
809.56 sq. ft

63.49 sq. m
683.39 sq. ft

58.6 sq. m
630.8 sq. ft

© Catalis, © OpenStreetMap contributors

Current Scale 1: 4993

Map navigation controls including zoom in (+), zoom out (-), pan, and other map tools.

Imagery

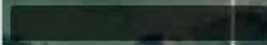
1.04 km
3409.95 ft

STRIKE

TWP RD 602A

RGE RD 171

Map navigation controls including zoom in (+), zoom out (-), pan, and other map tools.



100 yd
100 m

© Catalis, © OpenStreetMap contributors.

Current Scale 1: 4993