

INDIGENOUS MONITOR OVERVIEW REPORT

Month: November 2020

Indigenous Monitor days on-site: 25

**Project Region: BC Interior
Spread 5A**

**Kilometre Posts (KPs) monitored:
KP 806–885 of Spread 5A**

Indigenous Monitors on the Trans Mountain Expansion Project – Overview

The Trans Mountain Expansion Project (the Project) has retained Indigenous Monitors as integrated members of its construction Environmental Inspection team. Indigenous Monitors work with Environmental Inspectors to monitor compliance with mitigation measures to minimize impacts to traditional resource use and cultural/heritage sites during construction. Indigenous Monitors have a strategic role in providing traditional knowledge directly and pragmatically to construction oversight practices and bring an Indigenous lens to daily environmental inspection activities.

This Overview Report provides highlights of the Indigenous Monitors' day-to-day work and key mitigation measures observed by the Monitors related to Project construction in the BC Interior Region. The purpose of this report is to provide an update on Indigenous Monitor activity to Indigenous groups.

During this reporting period, key activities in the BC Interior region involving Indigenous Monitors included monitoring cultural sites, pump station construction preparation, pipeline construction and snake habitat restoration. The Project Construction Progress Report (Condition 106) for November 2020, which reports environmental events and deficiencies in Tables 4 and 5 respectively, is found [here](#).

For more information: email info@transmountain.com or call 1.866.514.6700.

Trans Mountain COVID-19 – Our Response

Trans Mountain is actively monitoring the COVID-19 situation with the help of federal, provincial and local agencies. Trans Mountain's top priority remains the health and safety of its workforce, their families and our communities. Trans Mountain and its construction contractors are working diligently together to adhere to all advice and direction from government and health officials, while ensuring the safe uninterrupted operation of the Trans Mountain Pipeline and the continued, safe construction of the Expansion Project. Measures being undertaken at construction sites include: temperature screening; following physical distancing guidelines, staggering work shifts and breaks; eliminating or minimizing in-person meetings; enhancing cleaning and sanitizing; and ensuring workers' orientation includes COVID 19 expectations, awareness and prevention.

For more information: transmountain.com/covid19

Heritage Resource and Cultural Sites

Resource-Specific Mitigation Tables and Environmental Alignment Sheets are used to locate and summarize specified mitigation for previously identified historical resources and Traditional Land Use (TLU) areas. Such locations have been identified via traditional use studies conducted by Indigenous groups and archeology baseline assessments that have been conducted in relation to the Project over many years of planning.

The Indigenous Monitors inspected TLU areas to verify the sites have been appropriately identified for construction. Ongoing monitoring and inspections occur at such sites as construction continues. To protect highly confidential cultural information, it is important to note the nature of some traditional use sites are not shared widely within the team nor with the public/regulator if the sites have been deemed confidential by the Indigenous group that identified them.

In the event a site or location is noted that may be a previously unidentified traditional use area, the Traditional Land Use (TLU) Site Discovery Contingency Plan is followed. Per the contingency plan, the following measures are implemented at site: the Indigenous Monitor and Environmental Inspector are notified; the site is flagged or fenced off; where applicable local indigenous communities are notified and the Indigenous Monitor and a TLU Resource Specialist collaborate to assess and develop an appropriate mitigation plan to be implemented on-site.

The Indigenous Monitor participated in the implementation of the TLU Site Discovery Contingency Plan in an area where a potential cultural trail was identified. After review by the Indigenous Monitor, ongoing consultation and validation with Indigenous community members will determine potential future mitigations for the specific area.



Culturally significant areas near trails and travelways.

Black Pines Pump Station

As part of the Trans Mountain Expansion Project, 12 new pump stations will be added to the pipeline system, 11 for the new pipeline and one for the existing pipeline. Pump stations are a critical component of the pipeline operations system, containing electric motors to drive the pumps to move oil through the pipeline.

At Black Pines Pump Station, 40 km north of Kamloops, ongoing preparation occurred related to the arrival of construction crews and equipment including: surveying, clearing, installing fencing and signage. Indigenous Monitors have started to complete safety orientations and site tours of the facility in preparation of future construction activities and monitoring work. Indigenous Monitors indicated the cultural significance of the area as they observed marked and flagged archeological areas near the site, and the importance of ongoing Indigenous Monitor presence during construction activities.



Black Pines Pump Station near KP 806.

Topsoil Stripping and Pipe Installation

Topsoil stripping, pipe installation and backfill activities continue on Spread 5A. When removing topsoil, key mitigation requirements include: inspection of topsoil piles to ensure they are within the survey limits of the right-of-way and no soil has gone outside these limits. Appropriate construction equipment must also be used during topsoil stripping when frozen ground conditions are encountered.

The Indigenous Monitors noted mitigations for the topsoil piles to reduce erosion potential. The Indigenous Monitors inspected the excavated soil placed in the trench over the installed pipe. The Indigenous Monitors observed the subsoil being backfilled over the pipe prior to topsoil being replaced and ensure backfill activities are confined to the construction right-of-way.



Right-of-way near KP 838.

Snake Habitat Restoration

The Western Rattlesnake and Great Basin Gophersnake Mitigation Plan focuses on Trans Mountain's commitment to avoid and mitigate Project effects on the Western Rattlesnake and Great Basin Gophersnake and their habitats, through application of mitigation and restoration measures.

Indigenous Monitors conducted inspections to observe the construction activities around snake habitat identified during pre-construction wildlife surveys, along with signage and fencing.



Snake habitat mitigation.

Indigenous Monitor Request Dashboard

Indigenous Monitors are provided with daily on-site field support from Environmental Inspectors and office support from Indigenous Monitor Coordinators. Indigenous Monitors can also make specific support requests or submit questions through their daily report. Examples include but are not limited to: request for Project reports, input from an environmental resource specialist or on-site support from an Elder or other cultural knowledge holder. Monthly requests and their completion status are noted below.

Status	Number and Type of Requests				
	Project Reports/Documents	Environmental Resource Specialists	Elder/Cultural Knowledge Holder	Other	Total
Total	6	-	0	0	6
Fulfilled	6	-	-	-	6
Outstanding	-	-	-	-	-

This report has been reviewed by the active Indigenous Monitor(s)

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