INDIGENOUS MONITOR OVERVIEW REPORT

Month: November 2021

Indigenous Monitor days on-site: 21

Project Region: Fraser Valley

Kilometre Posts (KPs) monitored: KP 1075–KP 1160

Indigenous Monitors on the Trans Mountain Expansion Project – Overview

The Trans Mountain Expansion Project (the Project or TMEP) is retaining 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 impacts 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 Fraser Valley. The purpose of this report is to provide an update on Indigenous Monitor activity to Indigenous groups.

During this reporting period, key Project activities in the Fraser Valley Region involving Indigenous Monitors included construction on Spread 6/7A. Activities included heritage resource site monitoring, Sumas River Direct Pipe Installation, environmental feature and Traditional Land Use (TLU) site flagging and staking, and erosion and sediment control. The Project Construction Progress Report (Condition 106) for November 2021, which reports environmental events and deficiencies in Tables 4 and 5 respectively, is found here.

The Project has a process for sharing information related to potential TLU and Heritage Resource chance finds during construction. Protecting TLU and Cultural Heritage Resources Fact Sheet (link here) provides an overview of the chance find communication process. Applicable Indigenous groups are notified and engaged directly on potential chance finds.

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.

For more information: transmountain.com/covid19

Sumas River Direct Pipe Installation (DPI)

The Sumas River Crossing will involve direct pipe installation (DPI), starting from the east and advancing to the west side of the Sumas River (BC-726). The Sumas River DPI is approximately 258 metres in length and the channel is located from KP 1112 to KP 1112 near the City of Abbotsford, BC. When complete, the casing pipe will be removed simultaneously as the installed pipe is encased in grout or bentonite prior to being tied into the TMEP system via conventionally trenched segments on either side of the Sumas River.

In November, the Indigenous Monitors observed various environmental mitigations at the Sumas River DPI site, including but not limited to:

- Erosion and Sediment Control (ESC) measures: silt fencing, slope restoration and polyethylene sheeting secured in place
- Water management: Pumping of stormwater into a functioning water treatment system
- Topsoil handling and storage: Stored off the right-of-way, covered in polyethylene sheeting, secured and labelled
- Environmental Feature staking and flagging: archaeological, TLU and wildlife features
- Site housekeeping: Inspection of waste segregation, recycling and that drip trays are placed under idle vehicles and machinery

Sediment trapped inside silt fencing at KP 1112.5 near Lightning Rock at Sumas DPI.

Environmental Feature and Traditional Land Use Site Flagging and Staking

The Indigenous Monitors conducted inspections in areas of known environmental features to check on flagging/marking and to verify buffer zones are clearly marked. As part of pre-construction activity, environmental features such as wildlife species of concern, rare plants and rare ecological communities, archaeological features, wetlands, watercourses, TLU sites and any other sensitive environmental features are staked, flagged and sometimes fenced by Resource Specialist teams. The features are clearly marked so they can be appropriately protected during construction.

In November, the Indigenous Monitors inspected Culturally Modified Tree (CMT) flagging near KP 1076 and KP 1077, and TLU signage at KP 1112. The Indigenous Monitor also participated in a CMT walkthrough from KP 1075 to 1075. No potential CMTs were identified.

View of CMT walkthrough at KP 1075.2).

Erosion and Sediment Control

Erosion and sediment control (ESC) measures are monitored and inspected to ensure they are functioning as intended to mitigate erosion and sediment transport from construction sites to downstream areas, including watercourses and the marine environment. On-site ESC mitigations include sediment fences, swales, wattles, straw, polyethylene sheeting, coco matting and hydroseeding, as well as water drainage control measures.

After the extreme weather conditions and heavy rainfall in mid-November, the Indigenous Monitors alongside the Environmental Inspector checked ESC measures in construction areas that were safely accessible. For example at KP 1077, it was noted that the exclusion fencing had been compromised and more sandbags were required. Near KP 1076, the silt fencing was observed to be in good condition and at KP 1077 the sandbags were functional.

Due to the extreme weather conditions, many construction areas in the Fraser Valley were closed in November due to flooding and access safety concerns.

Sediment fence and flagging adjacent to a watercourse at KP 1076.8. Mitigation measure was not compromised despite the heavy rainfall.

Heritage Resource Site

Resource-Specific Mitigation Tables and Environmental Alignment Sheets are used to identify locations of and summarize specified mitigation for previously identified historical resources and TLU areas. Such locations have been identified via TLU studies conducted by Indigenous groups and archaeology baseline assessments conducted over many years of Project planning.

In November, the Indigenous Monitors observed the implementation of Archaeological Impact Assessments (AIAs) conducted near KP 1159 and KP 1164. The assessments, completed by a qualified archaeologist and Indigenous participants include visual inspection to identify features with predictable archaeological potential, surface inspection of areas with exposed sediments for cultural materials and subsurface testing (shovel testing) of terrain features exhibiting archaeological potential.

If an archaeological site is found, Trans Mountain completes the applicable reporting and applies for the required permits in alignment with the Heritage Conservation Act.

Ongoing AIA activities continue in the Fraser Valley.

KP1164.7. Archaeological Resource Specialist conducting evaluative unit excavation and screening.

Indigenous Monitor Request Dashboard

Indigenous Monitors are provided 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	Rolling Total and Type of Requests				
	Project Reports/ Documents	Environmental Resource Specialists	Elder/Cultural Knowledge Holder	Other	Total
Total	0	2	0	0	2
Fulfilled	-	2	-	-	2
Outstanding	-	0	-	-	0

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

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