

INDIGENOUS MONITOR OVERVIEW REPORT

Month: April 2023

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

Indigenous Monitor days on-site: 24

**Kilometre Posts (KPs) monitored:
KP 806–974**

Indigenous Monitors on the Trans Mountain Expansion Project – Overview

The Trans Mountain Expansion Project (the Project or TMEP) 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 took place from KP 806 to 974 in Spread 5A and included monitoring site housekeeping, pipe installation, watercourse crossings and snake habitats. The Project Construction Progress Report (Condition 106) for April 2023, 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 Traditional Land Use (TLU) and Heritage Resource chance finds during construction. The [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.

Kingsvale 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 critical components of the pipeline operations system, containing electric motors to drive the pumps to move oil through the pipeline.

At Kingsvale Pump Station adjacent to the Coquihalla Highway, Indigenous Monitors completed site inspections. The inspection included observing and documenting general housekeeping, waste management and hazardous materials storage.

During the inspection, spill kits were inspected for containment volume and spill response material and to ensure the appropriate placement in relation to work fronts. Signage was noted in place and the ground was free of garbage and debris. The Indigenous Monitors observed compliance measures were followed.



General housekeeping inspection.



General housekeeping inspection.

Pipe Installation

Topsoil stripping, pipe installation and backfill activities continue in Spread 5A. When removing soil in construction areas, required mitigation includes segregation of topsoil from root zone material, proper storage to reduce potential erosion, effective labelling and signage, and inspection of soil piles to ensure they are within the survey limits of the right-of-way and no soil has gone outside these limits.

The Indigenous Monitors noted mitigations for the topsoil piles to reduce erosion potential, including grading and identifying drainage pathways to reduce ponding. The Indigenous Monitors observed sand and subsoil being backfilled over the pipe prior to topsoil being replaced and ensured backfill activities were confined to the construction right-of-way. Construction activities were noted as confined to the construction right-of-way. No issues or potential chance finds were identified.



Pipe installation and trench backfill at KP 953.



Pipe installation and trench backfill at KP 953.

Coldwater Creek DPI

Direct Pipe Installation (DPI) is a trenchless construction method limited to thrusting in one direction as compared to horizontal direction drilling, which involves a push-pull approach to pipe placement.

Noise mitigations are implemented at the drilling entry location such as maintaining equipment in good working condition, maintaining noise suppression equipment and scheduling construction activities in accordance with applicable local government noise bylaws.

Near AK 16 at Coldwater Creek, Indigenous Monitors observed DPI activities, including grading and workspace preparation, sheet piling and excavating.

A floc tank was noted on-site for the storage of fluids such as contaminated water and drilling fluids. Floc tanks feature an open top to allow operators to observe floc conditions and levels.

Mitigations noted during monitoring included spill kits available on-site, spill trays used for fuel storage on-site, excavated material placed above the high-water mark to ensure sediment re-entry to the watercourse is prevented and ongoing water quality monitoring by qualified professionals. No concerns were identified.

Three Coldwater River DPIs were completed, including BC-548, BC-559 and BC-570. The remaining two DPIs on the Coldwater Alternative Route have commenced activities.



DPI workspace preparation near AK 16.



Flock tank near AK 16.



Sheet piling near AK 16.

Reptile Habitats

Overwintering dens provide important snake lifecycle habitat and require specific mitigation and management if they cannot be avoided by Project activity. When overwintering dens are occupied by federally and provincially listed species, mitigations are implemented.

At AK 3.5, Indigenous Monitors observed Environmental Inspectors and Resource Specialists releasing Northern Alligator Lizards and Garter Snakes into the reptile den reconstruction sites. Topsoil and materials such as rocks and woody debris were salvaged from disturbed snake den sites and used to reconstruct the snake habitat. Indigenous Monitors conducted inspections focusing on signage, fencing and housekeeping. No concerns were identified.



Releasing Northern Alligator Lizards at reptile den reconstruction site near AK 3.5.



Reptile den reconstruction site near AK 3.5.

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 requests 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	6	1	8	0	15
Fulfilled	6	1	8	-	15
Outstanding	-	-	-	-	-

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

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