

INDIGENOUS MONITOR OVERVIEW REPORT

Month: August 2023

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

Indigenous Monitor days on-site: 27

**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 hydrostatic testing, pipe installation and backfill, dewatering methods, reclamation and borepad construction. The Project Construction Progress Report (Condition 106) for August 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.

Hydrostatic Testing

Once the pipe is installed and backfill is complete, crews begin the hydrostatic testing process. Hydrostatic testing involves testing the pipeline for strength and integrity. The test involves filling the pipe section with water and the pressurization of the system to a specified test pressure.

Indigenous Monitors attended pre-withdrawal meetings, reviewed the water withdrawal permit, compliance checklists and inspected withdrawal and release points to see mitigations in place to prevent scouring.

Indigenous Monitors inspected these sites throughout the hydrostatic testing process. When the hydrostatic test was complete, discharge to source began. Indigenous Monitors talked with the Environmental Inspector on-site about the discharge water test results from the ongoing sampling, confirming no deleterious material was detected. Further discussions took place about proper filters in use and allowable flow rate used while releasing water to source. Indigenous Monitors visited the test location to confirm these mitigations were in place. No issues were identified during these inspections.



Preping the hydrotest site near AK 4.



Monitor dewatering activities after hydrostatic test on portion of Zoht 4

Dewatering Management

During construction activity, water that accumulates within the Project area from precipitation or groundwater seepage is visually assessed prior to being pumped to areas approved by the Trans Mountain Environmental Inspector.

This water is discharged through a filtration device and into a well-vegetated area. From there, it will slowly infiltrate into local soils.

The Indigenous Monitors inspected the pump-off of water near KP 976. They observed water coming out of the silt bag free of sediment. The release site was noted as well vegetated and the silt bag was working effectively. The Indigenous Monitors observed surface water pump-off mitigation measures being followed.



Dewatering activities near KP 976.

Jacko Lake General Inspection

Environmental features that occur on or adjacent to the construction footprint are staked and flagged by Resource Specialist crews prior to commencing construction. This may include rare plants and rare ecological communities, wildlife species of concern, archaeological features, TLU sites and any other sensitive environmental or cultural features. The features are clearly marked so they may be avoided and/or protected during construction.

At Jacko Lake near KP 851 at Borepad 6, sheet piling, excavation and work to build up the pad extension continues. Indigenous Monitors inspect the ground near parked machinery for surface staining. Good housekeeping and proper waste management procedures were identified during the inspection. Indigenous Monitors also monitored excavation activities to confirm activities stayed within the construction boundaries. Further, Indigenous Monitors monitored environmental features for continued avoidance, appropriate signage and buffers. No concerns were identified.



Sheet piling and excavation activities monitored near KP 851, Borepad 6.



Monitoring construction boundaries at Borepad 6.



Monitoring of laydown area at Borepad 6. Secondary containment confirmed.

Cleanup and Reclamation

Cleanup and reclamation are important steps in returning disturbed sites to a stable condition similar to pre-construction conditions.

Mitigation measures implemented during the cleanup and reclamation part of construction include:

- Cleaning up all associated debris and materials
- Re-establishing the construction site, including watercourse bed and banks to a stable condition
- Re-establishing positive drainage across the worksite
- Preventing surface material loss due to soil erosion by wind and water
- Establishing a vegetative cover compatible with surrounding vegetation and land uses and deterring the proliferation of weeds

The Indigenous Monitors inspected reclamation activities near KP 957 and AK 16. Observations included re-seeding in previously excavated and backfilled areas and correct signage. The Indigenous Monitors also monitored topsoil replacement and general site housekeeping efforts. No concerns were identified.



Restoration activities at Kingsvale Creek KP 957.



Right-of-way cleanup at KP 957.



Cleanup activities at AK 16.

Pipe Installation and Backfill

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 storing topsoil to reduce erosion potential, including grading, applying tackifiers and reducing ponding. Inspections were focused on the excavated soil placed in the trench over the installed pipe. The Indigenous Monitors observed sand and subsoil being backfilled over the pipe prior to topsoil being replaced and ensure backfill activities are confined to the construction right-of-way. No issues or potential chance finds were identified.



Soil screening conducted for backfill at KP 908.



Soil screening conducted for backfill at KP 908.

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)

CONTACT US:

Trans Mountain

info@transmountain.com

1.866.514.6700

transmountain.com



@TransMtn



youtube.com/transmtn



PO Box 81018

Burnaby, BC V5H 3B0



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