

INDIGENOUS MONITOR OVERVIEW REPORT

Month: December 2022

Indigenous Monitor days on-site: 16

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

**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 environmental features, dewatering activities, pipe installation and reclamation monitoring of snake habitat. The Project Construction Progress Report (Condition 106) for December 2022, 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.

Environmental Features

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.

The Indigenous Monitors conducted inspections in areas of known environmental features to ensure flagging and staking of buffer zones are the correct distances. During the inspection, Indigenous Monitors identified a section of fencing that required maintenance and a damaged sign. Both corrective actions were brought to the attention of the environmental inspection team, which led to the items being repaired immediately. No further concerns were identified at this location.



Snow fencing installed at an environmental feature near AK 16 on the Coldwater Alternative Route.

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 927. They observed water coming out of the filtration bag free of sediment. The release site was noted as well vegetated and the filtration bag was clean. The surface water pump-off mitigation measures were followed and verified. No concerns were identified.



Pigpen installation with filtration bag at KP 927.

Pipe Installation

Topsoil stripping, pipe installation and backfill activities continue on 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. It was noted that construction activities were confined to the construction right-of-way. No issues or potential chance finds were identified.



Pipe installation and trench backfill activities at KP 914.

Snake Habitats

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 assisted Environmental Inspectors and Resource Specialists at KP 903 with reclamation activities for the artificial snake den and snake habitats previously identified during preconstruction assessments. Topsoil and materials such as rocks and woody debris were salvaged from disturbed snake den sites and used to reconstruct the snake habitat during the reclamation phase. Indigenous Monitors conducted inspections focusing on signage and fencing around the snake habitat. No concerns were identified.



Reclaimed snake habitat near KP 903.

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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