

INDIGENOUS MONITOR OVERVIEW REPORT

Month: July 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 dewatering activities, wildlife management, pipe installation and backfill, air bridge installation and flood response mitigations. The Project Construction Progress Report (Condition 106) for July 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.

Dewatering near Jacko Lake

Near Jacko Lake, construction crews continue trenchless construction activities. Trenchless construction is used to cross underneath environmentally sensitive areas, minimizing the impact on users. Tunnelling activities continued between Borepad 4 and 5.

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 Environmental Inspector.

This water is discharged through a filtration device and into the vegetation. From there, it will slowly infiltrate into local soils.

The Indigenous Monitors inspected the pump-off of water at KP 855 near Borepad 5. Water management mitigation measures were verified and in effect.



Sediment filtration device placed in well-vegetated area near KP 855.

Wildlife Management

While conducting site monitoring, the Indigenous Monitors record and report wildlife sightings to the Environmental Inspector. Indigenous Monitors also participate in discussions with the Environmental Inspection team relating to wildlife protection strategies and monitor and inspect that mitigation measures like environmental feature signage and buffers are effectively in place.

The Indigenous Monitors also participated in wildlife sweeps, including amphibian and migratory nesting bird sweeps alongside the Trans Mountain Resource Specialist prior to clearing and/or other construction activity. Nesting birds that require protection include species of migratory birds and those listed federally and/or provincially. All active nests occupied by any species of bird or its eggs, require protection and are to be avoided. Amphibian fencing was inspected to confirm no damages that required corrective action. No concerns were documented.



Amphibian fencing near KP 886.



Western Toad site at KP 885.

Pipe Installation and Backfill

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.



Backfill activities at AK 16.7.

Air Bridge

An airbridge was installed near KP 954. Airbridges allow access at areas of the construction site that require moving heavy equipment safely across active pipelines or gas lines. Air bridges are designed to support the weight of heavy equipment while protecting the underlying pipeline, culvert or other subterranean material that require bridging, such as historical resource sites.

Indigenous Monitors observed mitigation measures during the air bridge installation, which included installation and maintenance of erosion and sediment control measures to avoid or minimize erosion and the potential discharge of sediment or other substances into any nearby watercourses and connecting drainage systems. All appropriate signage was in place and noted per the Environmental Protection Plan.

The Indigenous Monitors conducted walk-throughs of the area to check for any potential culturally significant items; no potential culturally significant items were identified. No concerns were identified during the inspection.



Airbridge installation at KP 954.

Coldwater 3 River Crossing

Isolated trenched watercourse crossing methodology includes temporarily rerouting the stream around the natural watercourse for a short duration while trenched construction occurs across the watercourse. Once the trench is constructed and the pipe is installed, the trench is backfilled and channel bed and banks are restored, and the water is returned to its natural channel.

At Coldwater River near KP 976, Indigenous Monitors observed flood response mitigation activities after watercourse crossing construction was completed, including grading and workspace preparation along the banks, installation of bypass pumps, erosion and sediment control (ESC) measures, and fish salvage.

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



Installation of isolation fencing near KP 976.



Installation of isolation fencing near KP 976.

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	7	1	8	0	16
Fulfilled	7	1	8	-	16
Outstanding	-	-	-	-	-

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

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