

INDIGENOUS MONITOR OVERVIEW REPORT

Month: June 2023
Project Region: BC Interior
Spread 5A

Indigenous Monitor days on-site: 26
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, reclamation activities and watercourse crossings. The Project Construction Progress Report (Condition 106) for June 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.

Coldwater River Watercourse Crossing

Isolated trenched pipeline crossing methodology includes temporarily rerouting the stream flow 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.

At Coldwater River near AK 1.3, Indigenous Monitors observed cleanup activities after the completion of pipe installation under the Coldwater River. Cleanup activities included preparing the removal of meter bags and storage cans and de-mobbing equipment. No concerns were identified.



Cleanup activities observed at Coldwater River near AK 1.3.

Reclamation at Mill Creek

Cleanup and reclamation are important steps in returning disturbed sites to a stable condition similar to pre-construction activity. Inspections are conducted to evaluate whether the sites reclamation success is on the correct trajectory, including vegetation establishment, erosion control and weed growth.

Mitigation measures implemented during monitoring include:

- Cleaning up all associated debris and materials
- 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 to maintain equivalent land capability

The Indigenous Monitors inspected and participated in monitoring activities at KP 912 near Mill Creek, inspecting vegetation establishment and weed management in previously excavated and backfilled areas, and ensuring correct signage is in place. At KP 914, a survey was conducted to identify locations of future shrub planting. The Indigenous Monitors also monitored general site housekeeping efforts. No concerns were identified.



Reclaimed site near Mill Creek.



Reclamation near Mill Creek. Construction completed in the area.



Survey activities to identify location of planned shrub planting near KP 914.

Archaeological Impact Assessments (AIA)

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 through TLU studies conducted by Indigenous groups and archaeology baseline assessments conducted in relation to the Project for more than seven years.

The Indigenous Monitors observed the implementation of an AIA conducted near KP 954 near Gillis Creek. The assessment, completed by a qualified archaeologist and Indigenous participants, may include visual inspection to identify features with predictable archaeological potential, surface inspection of areas with exposed sediments for cultural materials and shovel testing of terrain features exhibiting archaeological potential. No concerns were identified.

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. Engagement with Indigenous groups occurs when a previously unidentified site is discovered. Ongoing AIA activities continue.



Shovel testing near KP 954.



Shovel testing near KP 954.

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 at AK 18.



Tying-in at AK 18.

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.

Near AK 16 at Coldwater Creek, Indigenous Monitors observed DPI activities, including rig mat removal and cleanup. Reclamation activities will follow once pad deconstruction and cleanup is complete.

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 have completed drilling activities.



DPI workspace cleanup near AK 16.



Coldwater Creek DPI, drilling complete and rig mats removed near AK 16.

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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