

INDIGENOUS MONITOR OVERVIEW REPORT

Month: March 2023

Indigenous Monitor days on-site: 27

**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 reptile den construction, culturally modified trees, slash and burn piles, pipe installation, site housekeeping and trenchless crossings. The Project Construction Progress Report (Condition 106) for March 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.

Reptile Den Construction

The Western Rattlesnake and Great Basin Gophersnake Mitigation Plan focuses on the 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 AK 16 with construction monitoring activities for 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 observed large rocks placed on the bottom of the excavated den, with smaller rocks placed on top. Geo fabric and subsoil were then placed overtop the rock bed. No concerns were identified.



Reptile den reconstruction at AK 16.



Smaller rocks placed over large rocks for den reconstruction at AK 16.



Geo textile and soil placed above rocks for den reconstruction at AK 16.

Material Storage Site near Jacko Lake

Near Jacko Lake, crews continue trenchless crossing activities. Trenchless crossings are used to safely cross underneath environmentally sensitive areas, minimizing the impact on users. Tunnelling activities occurred between Borepad 4 and 5.

At KP 855, crews worked on a material storage site at Pad 5. The Indigenous Monitor inspected safe work practices, including signage and fencing. The ground near parked machinery was inspected for surface staining. Deficiencies were documented and corrective actions were applied by the contractor. Good housekeeping and proper waste management procedures were identified during the inspection.



Placement of blocks at the material storage site at Borepad 5.



Placement of blocks at the material storage site at Borepad 5.

Culturally Modified Trees (CMT)

Resource-Specific Mitigation Tables and Environmental Alignment Sheets are used to illustrate locations of and summarize specified mitigation for previously identified historical resources and TLU areas. Such locations have been identified via TLU studies conducted by Indigenous groups and AIAs in relation to the Project for more than seven years. If a site or location is observed in the field that may be a previously unidentified TLU area, the TLU Site Discovery Contingency Plan is followed.

Along the Coldwater Alternative Route, a previously identified and culturally modified tree was noted. Trees found during a CMT sweep are examined by Indigenous Monitors and Environmental Inspectors on-site to collect initial information. The areas are flagged off for additional evaluation. Resource Specialists and Knowledge Holders of Indigenous Monitors' communities are contacted for tree evaluation and potential mitigation. The Indigenous Monitor confirmed continued avoidance and appropriate buffers and signage. No concerns were identified.



General area of CMT sweeps.

Slash Piles near Black Pines Pump Station

During clearing activities, woody debris typically remains after the trees have been removed. Some debris (also known as slash) is removed through burning or mechanical mulching. Permits are obtained and appropriate government authorities are notified prior to burning debris. Burn areas are carefully considered and occur in areas where the topsoil or root zone material has been salvaged.

The weather forecast is monitored to limit the effects of smoke in the vicinity of sensitive receptors (e.g., nearby residences). Burning is monitored at all times and fire equipment is on-site.

At KP 806, the Indigenous Monitors were on-site monitoring during the debris removal. The Indigenous Monitors confirmed the fires were extinguished and noted good general housekeeping at the burn site.



Images of controlled burn near Black Pines Pump Station.

Pipe Installation and Topsoil Replacement

Pipe installation and backfill activities continue at 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 soil piles to reduce erosion potential, including grading, applying tackifiers and reducing ponding. Inspections were conducted for 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 ensured backfill activities were confined to the construction right-of-way. No issues or potential chance finds were identified.



Pipe installation at AK 9.



Pipe installation at AK 12.



Topsoil replacement at KP 947.

Site Housekeeping

The Indigenous Monitors conducted regular inspections throughout 5A for general housekeeping measures. This included observing and documenting garbage and recycling disposal, scrap metal management, waste storage and fuel storage (secondary containment).

Spill kits were inspected for volume and types of spill response material and to ensure the appropriate placement in relation to work fronts. Secondary containment was inspected under heaters, machines, containers and fuelling stations. No concerns were identified.



Images of secondary containment used at fuelling stations.

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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