INDIGENOUS MONITOR OVERVIEW REPORT

Month: May 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 dens, dewatering activities, post construction reclamation activity, erosion and sediment mitigations, hydrostatic testing activities and trenchless crossings. The Project Construction Progress Report (Condition 106) for May 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 at AK 3 and 16 with post-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 noted erosion and sediment control (ESC) measures in place, along with appropriate signage and fencing. No concerns were identified.

ESC monitoring at reptile den reconstruction site near AK 16.

ESC monitoring at reptile den reconstruction site, near AK 3.

Dewatering near Jacko Lake

Near Jacko Lake, construction crews continue trenchless crossing activities. Trenchless crossings are 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 and soils in areas. From there, it will slowly infiltrate into local soils.

The Indigenous Monitors inspected the pump-off of water at KP 856 near Borepad 5. Water management mitigation measures were verified and in effect.

Water pump-off hose.

Sediment filtration device placed in well vegetated area, near KP 856.

Kingsvale Transmission Line

Cleanup and reclamation are important steps in returning disturbed sites to a stable condition similar to pre-construction activity. Post-construction monitoring is 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 Kingsvale Transmission Line post-construction monitoring 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 to maintain equivalent land capability.

The Indigenous Monitors inspected and participated in post-construction monitoring activities on Kingsvale Transmission Line, inspecting vegetation establishment and weed management in previously excavated and backfilled areas and ensuring correct signage is in place. The Indigenous Monitors also monitored general site housekeeping efforts. No concerns were identified.

Inspecting vegetation establishment and weed management at Kingsvale Transmission Line.

Vegetation established and mulch applied on access road.

Coldwater River Watercourse Crossing

Isolated trenched pipeline 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 reclamation activities from previous watercourse crossing construction, including applying coconut matting, reseeding in previously backfilled areas, rock armouring and stream bed material replacement. These mitigations were installed and observed to be working as planned. No concerns were identified.

Reclamation activities observed at BC-570 Coldwater River Crossing #3.

Erosion and Sediment Control

Erosion and sediment control (ESC) measures were monitored at KP 910 and 912 to mitigate erosion and sediment transport from construction sites to downstream areas and watercourses. On-site ESC mitigations may include sediment fences, swales, wattles, rock armouring, erosion control blankets and hydroseeding, as well as water drainage control measures.

Key areas where ESC measures are required include soil excavations, exposed slopes, soil stockpiles and locations near watercourses.

Near Claperton Creek, Indigenous Monitors inspected tackifier applications on topsoil piles and exposed slopes. No issues were identified for the completed construction and ESC in the area.

Hydroseeding steep slopes at KP 912.

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.

Noise mitigations are implemented at the drilling entry location such as maintaining equipment in good working condition, maintaining noise suppression equipment and scheduling construction activities in accordance with applicable local government noise bylaws.

Near AK 16 at Coldwater Creek, Indigenous Monitors observed DPI activities, including matt installation and workspace preparation, sheet pilling and excavating.

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 on the Coldwater Alternative Route have commenced activities.

DPI workspace near AK 16.

DPI entry 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	7	1	8	0	16
Fulfilled	7	1	8	-	16
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