

INDIGENOUS MONITOR OVERVIEW REPORT

Month: October 2023

Indigenous Monitor days on-site: 25

**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 heritage resource sites, borepad construction near Jacko Lake, reclamation and final cleanup, pipe installation and backfill and fish habitat offset locations. The Project Construction Progress Report (Condition 106) for October 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.

Heritage Resource Sites

Resource-Specific Mitigation Tables and Environmental Alignment Sheets are used to identify locations of, and summarize specified mitigation for, previously identified historical resources and traditional land use (TLU) areas. Such locations have been identified via TLU studies conducted by Indigenous groups and archaeology baseline assessments conducted over many years of Project planning.

The Indigenous Monitor observed Archaeological Resource Specialists conducting monitoring works during soil placement and seeding activities. The monitoring, completed by a qualified archaeologist and Indigenous participants, may include visual inspection to identify features with archaeological potential, surface inspection of areas with exposed sediments for cultural materials and work activities staying within the construction boundaries. When an archaeological site is found, Trans Mountain completes the applicable reporting and applies for the required permits in alignment with the *Heritage Conservation Act*.



Reclaimed archaeological site at Lac Du Bois.



Reclaimed archaeological site near McQueen Lake.

Pipe Installation and Backfill

Pipe installation and backfill activities continue for 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.

Near AK 1 of the Coldwater Alternate Route, the Indigenous Monitors noted mitigations for storing topsoil to reduce erosion potential, including grading, applying tackifiers and grading to reduce ponding. Inspections were focused on 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 ensure backfill activities are confined to the construction right-of-way. No issues or potential chance finds were identified.



Pipe installation near AK 1 on the Coldwater Alternative Route.



Backfill activities near AK 1 on the Coldwater Alternative Route.

Jacko Lake General Inspection

Near Jacko Lake, crews constructed borepads for trenchless crossing activities. Trenchless crossings are used to safely cross underneath environmentally sensitive areas, minimizing the impact on resource users.

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.

Near KP 858, Indigenous Monitors inspected matting and soil piles for Borepad 6. The ground near parked machinery was inspected for surface staining. Good housekeeping and proper waste management procedures were identified during the inspection. Soil stripping activities were monitored to ensure activities stayed within the construction boundaries. Environmental features were monitored for continued avoidance, appropriate signage and buffers. No concerns were identified.



Inspection of horizontal directional drilling area at Borepad 6.



Inspection of horizontal directional drilling area at Borepad 6.

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 954, Indigenous Monitors conducted a walk-through of the watercourse crossing and fish habitat offset, completed in early 2023. Restoration included grading along the banks and establishing vegetative cover compatible with surrounding vegetation and land use.

During the walk-through, IMs identified good housekeeping and vegetation regrowth on the right trajectory. No concerns were identified.



Coldwater River watercourse crossing near KP 954.



Coldwater River watercourse crossing near KP 954.

Reclamation and Final Cleanup

Cleanup and reclamation are important steps in returning disturbed sites to a stable condition similar to pre-construction activity. 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 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.

Indigenous Monitors continue to monitor the reclamation activity. At KP 982, the inspections included reseeding activity in previously excavated and backfilled areas and ensuring correct signage was in place. The Indigenous Monitors documented topsoil reclamation and general site housekeeping efforts at KP 846 and 912. No concerns or potential chance finds were documented during the inspection.



Soil placement and hydroseeding at KP 982.



Subsoil placement at KP 846.



Topsoil placement at KP 912.

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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