INDIGENOUS MONITOR OVERVIEW REPORT

Month: September 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 dewatering activities, cleanup and reclamation, pipe installation, backfill and borepad construction. The Project Construction Progress Report (Condition 106) for September 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.

Jacko Lake

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.

At Jacko Lake near KP 851 at Borepad 6, sheet pilling, excavation and work to build up the pad extension continues. Indigenous Monitors inspect the ground near parked machinery for surface staining. Good housekeeping and proper waste management procedures were identified during the inspection.

Sediment fencing, culverts and drainage were inspected at access road 1 at KP 851. Regular maintenance of sediment fencing was recommended by an Indigenous Monitor and implemented immediately by the contractor.

Indigenous Monitors also monitored excavation activities to confirm activities stayed within the construction boundaries. Further, Indigenous Monitors monitored environmental features for continued avoidance, appropriate signage and buffers. No concerns were identified.

Maintaining staking near environmental features for continued avoidance near KP 851.

Sediment fencing near KP 851.

Installed culvert near access Road 1.

Cleanup and Reclamation

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

Mitigation measures implemented during the cleanup and reclamation part of construction 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

The Indigenous Monitors inspected reclamation activities near KP 914, KP 915 and KP 954. Observations included re-seeding in previously excavated and backfilled areas and correct signage. The Indigenous Monitors also monitored topsoil replacement and general site housekeeping efforts. No concerns were identified.

Cleaning up debris and materials at KP 914.

Topsoil placement and grading at KP 915.

Topsoil placement and grading at KP 954.

Harrowing soil for seeding at KP 914.

Pipe Installation and Backfill

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.

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.

Backfilling pipe at KP 914.

Backfilling pipe at KP 914.

Screening soil material for backfill at KP 958.

Pump-Off

To keep trench excavation and other construction site areas dewatered and stable during pipeline construction, water that accumulates from precipitation or groundwater seepage is pumped off and relocated to an approved location either on or off the construction footprint.

In various areas on Spread 5A, the Indigenous Monitor observed that water accumulating on-site was pumped off to a settling containment system and filter bags. Water flowing out of the filtration system was discharged upland to a well-vegetated area. The settling containment systems were inspected and functioning as intended and no sediment loading was identified at the discharge points.

Dewatering near KP 961.

Dewatering near KP 952.

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	15
Fulfilled	7	1	8	-	15
Outstanding	-	-	-	-	-

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

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