INDIGENOUS MONITOR OVERVIEW REPORT

Month: September 2023

Project Region: Coquihalla Hope Spread 5B

Indigenous Monitor days on-site: 26

Kilometre Posts (KPs) monitored: KP 990–1075

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 Coquihalla Hope 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 Coquihalla Hope Region involving Indigenous Monitors took place from KP 990–KP 1075 in Spread 5B and included monitoring archaeological impact assessments (AIA), water pump-off, temporary construction lands heritage resource chance find procedures, cleanup and reclamation and conducting culturally modified tree sweeps. 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.

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

The Indigenous Monitors observed the implementation of an AIA conducted near Hope and Laidlaw Road. The assessment, completed by a qualified archaeologist and Indigenous participants, included 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.

Assessing evaluation units at KP 1056.

Dent pit archaeology screening and raking materials from Laidlaw and Hunter Creek.

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 5B, 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.

Water pump-off near Road 29, hoses and connections secure and in working order.

Temporary Construction Lands

Temporary construction lands and infrastructure are defined for the Project as preparatory work areas to support Project construction and include temporary camps, stockpile sites and equipment staging areas. Many of the sites addressed in the Temporary Construction Lands and Infrastructure Environmental Protection Plan are on previously developed lands.

Indigenous Monitors participated in joint inspections with the Environmental Inspector at the Popkum laydown yard. This temporary infrastructure site, located on the Popkum Indian Reserve No. 1, has been developed and is owned by the Popkum First Nation. This site is being used for office facilities and as a construction yard for storage of equipment, pipe and other construction material.

The inspections included housekeeping and waste management with corrective actions noted, such as proper waste disposal and using drip trays. In addition, spill kits and spill response procedures were reviewed and implemented at the site. Loose miscellaneous debris was identified and disposed of, and corrective actions were taken during the inspection.

Popkum yard inspection for general housekeeping.

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 Traditional Land Use (TLU) areas. Such locations have been identified via TLU studies conducted by Indigenous groups and archaeology baseline assessments that have been conducted in relation to the Project for over seven years.

In the event 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.

Near Hope, off Road 7, the Indigenous Monitors conducted CMT sweeps in a stand of cedar trees. No CMTs were discovered during the sweep. Indigenous Monitors continue conducting CMT sweeps ahead of construction activity.

General area of CMT sweeps.

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 1070 and Road 93. 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.

Cleanup near Road 93 and KP 1070.

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. 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	9	0	4	0	13
Fulfilled	9	-	4	-	13
Outstanding	-	-	-	-	-

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