

INDIGENOUS MONITOR OVERVIEW REPORT

Month: August 2023
Project Region: Edmonton and Yellowhead

Indigenous Monitor days on-site: 25
Kilometre Posts (KPs) monitored: KP 1–337

Indigenous Monitors on the Trans Mountain Expansion Project – Overview

The Trans Mountain Expansion Project (the Project or TMEP) is retaining 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 Edmonton and Yellowhead Regions. 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 Edmonton and Yellowhead Regions involving Indigenous Monitors included monitoring surface water pump-off, wildlife management, right-of-way reclamation, Traditional Land Use (TLU) sites, vegetation management and erosion and sediment control (ESC), and the Edmonton Terminal. Pipeline construction on Spread 1 is mechanically complete; some final Project activities on the Spread 1 right-of-way are being completed intermittently. Construction in Spread 2 is more than 99 per cent mechanically complete. The Project Construction Progress Report (Condition 106) for August 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.

Pump-Off

To keep trench excavation 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. At KP 89 on Spread 2, water accumulating in the excavated trench was pumped off to a sediment bag. Water flowing out of the filtration system was discharged upland to a well-vegetated area.

The Indigenous Monitors inspected the activity to ensure the filtration system was functioning as intended and that no sediment loading was identified at the discharge point. Observations showed pump-off water was released a minimum of 50 m from the nearest watercourse, replacement materials were readily available, including sediment control devices, pumps, spill kits and secondary containment, and housekeeping of off-construction footprint locations took place.



Pump-off location KP 74.



Pump and fuel in clean secondary containment KP 76.

Edmonton Terminal Inspection

Construction at Edmonton Terminal is more than 99 per cent complete. Strategies for avoiding or reducing potential environmental impacts are employed at all stages of construction by following the Environmental Protection Plans.

A joint inspection was conducted at Edmonton Terminal by the Environmental Inspector and Indigenous Monitor. Observations included general housekeeping, tank lot compaction, containment wall backfill and grade work. Demobilizing unneeded equipment, materials, storage sea cans and office trailers continues.

Waste management was inspected as well as secondary containment for equipment and fuel storage tanks. Walking paths were kept clear. Spill kits and spill response procedures were also reviewed in the field. Key compliance measures on the construction permit were reviewed and mitigations were in place. The final inspection of the Edmonton Terminal is anticipated for mid-September 2023.



Edmonton Terminal Tanks 1,2 and 3 completed.



Containment basin completed at Edmonton Terminal.

Vegetation Management

Trans Mountain conducts routine vegetation management on the right-of-way and at facilities. Trans Mountain is responsible for managing problem vegetation, including noxious weeds that pose a hazard to people, animals or crops and invasive weeds, which are plants that have been introduced into the environment that threaten naturally occurring and indigenous plants.

Indigenous Monitors inspected the mechanical removal of noxious weeds and the mitigations in place to prevent their spread. No concerns were identified.



Mechanical removal of noxious weeds in riparian area KP 63.

Spread 2 Right-of-Way Reclamation

Subsoil is decompacted to alleviate compaction caused by construction activities before topsoil replacement. Acceptable topsoil depths are confirmed by an Environmental Inspector during final cleanup. Multiple measurements are taken of topsoil replacement quality and depth. After the contractor has properly prepared the ground, the area is seeded with the approved mix that reflects the vegetation profile from pre-disturbance.

Indigenous Monitors were on-site inspecting various reclamation activities on Spread 2, including discing for soil decompaction, topsoil replacement, confirming topsoil depth and seeding. Indigenous Monitors were engaged in conversations with crews and Environmental Inspectors about the different stages of reclamation. Indigenous

Monitors discussed the need to postpone topsoil replacement in wet or windy conditions to prevent damage to soil structure or erosion of topsoil with Environmental Inspectors. All compliance objectives observed throughout the inspections were confirmed in place.



Reclamation ongoing KP 116.



Topsoil replacement near KP 71.



Topsoil replacement near KP 71.

Traditional Land Use Sites (TLU)

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 archaeology baseline assessments conducted in relation to the Project over many years.

Indigenous Monitors inspected previously identified TLU sites along the right-of-way on Spread 2 to confirm mitigation measures remain in place, including signage, staking and flagging.

Indigenous Monitors inspect TLU sites with a focus on sites near active construction to ensure mitigation measures are protecting Heritage Resources. Sites inspected include but are not limited to TLU-4, TLU-5, TLU-6 and TLU-20.

An Indigenous Monitor also performed an inspection on a plant gathering site. The Indigenous Monitor confirmed construction is confined to approved work boundaries and that boundary signage is in place. Inspected mitigation measures remained in compliance. No cultural or environmental concerns were identified.



Regrowth at TLU-4.



Regrowth at TLU-5.

Wildlife Management

While conducting site monitoring, Indigenous Monitors record and report any wildlife sightings to the Environmental Inspector. Indigenous Monitors also participate in discussions with the Environmental Inspection team relating to wildlife protection strategies and inspect that mitigation measures, like environmental feature signage and buffers are effectively in place.

The Indigenous Monitors participated in wildlife sweeps, including migratory nesting bird sweeps alongside Environmental Inspectors prior to construction activities. Nesting birds that require protection include species of migratory birds and those listed federally and/or provincially. Indigenous Monitors joined to conduct bird sweeps between KP 58 and 337 and communicate about active nests daily. All mitigations were in place



Bird nest buffer at KP 72.

Wildlife Management (cont'd)

during inspection. The Restricted Access Period for Migratory Birds and Raptors ended in August on Spread 2. Existing buffers will remain around active nests until it is determined they have fledged out. No nest sweeps will be required in September.

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 (beyond any reports or documents requested and shared through day-to-day team activity on-site), 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	7	1	8	-	16
Fulfilled	7	1	8	-	16
Outstanding	-	-	-	-	-

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

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