

# INDIGENOUS MONITOR OVERVIEW REPORT

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**Month: July 2023**

**Project Region: Edmonton and  
Yellowhead**

**Indigenous Monitor days on-site: 26**

**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 erosion and sediment control, pump-off, right-of-way reclamation, Edmonton Terminal, Traditional Land Use (TLU) sites and wildlife management. Pipeline construction on Spread 1 is mechanically complete; some final Project activities on the Spread 1 right-of-way are being completed intermittently. The Project Construction Progress Report (Condition 106) for July 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 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](mailto:info@transmountain.com) or call 1.866.514.6700.**

## Erosion and Sediment Control

Site-specific erosion and sediment control (ESC) measures are implemented to prevent sediment-laden runoff from leaving the right-of-way or from entering watercourses and wetlands. Key areas where ESC measures are required can include soil excavations, exposed slopes, soil stockpiles and locations near watercourses.

On-site ESC mitigations may include sediment fences, swales, wattles, rock armouring, erosion control blankets and hydroseeding, coarse woody debris (CWD), as well as water drainage control measures.

Indigenous Monitors inspected ESC mitigations, including wing walls and silt fencing through wetlands and watercourses between KP 50 and KP 132. Indigenous Monitors inspected erosion control blankets secured with willow stakes, rock armouring, swales, and placement of CWD in and around the several watercourse crossings and steep slopes. No deficiencies were identified.



CWD installed near KP 96.



Straw wattles installed on hill, seeding complete near KP 102.

## Pump-Off

To keep trench excavation areas dewatered and stable during pipeline construction, water that accumulates from precipitation or groundwater seepage is pumped off to an approved location either on or off the construction footprint. At KP 92 on Spread 2, water accumulating in the excavated trench was pumped off to a sediment filtration bag. Water flowing out of the filtration system was discharged upland to a well-vegetated area.

The Indigenous Monitors inspected to ensure the filtration system was functioning as intended and that no sediment loading was identified at the discharge point. Observation 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 92.

## 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 via 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 inspected TLU sites with a focus on sites near active construction to ensure mitigation measures are in place to protect Heritage Resources. Sites inspected include but are not limited to TLU- 2, TLU-3, TLU-4, TLU-5, TLU-6, TLU-7, TLU-8, TLU-9, TLU-12, TLU-13, TLU-14, TLU-24 and TLU-26.

An Indigenous Monitor also performed an inspection on a plant gathering site. The Indigenous Monitor confirmed no chemicals have been sprayed in the TLU site, 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.



Mitigations in place TLU-2.



Mitigations in place TLU-6.



Reclamation complete TLU-9.

## Edmonton Terminal Inspection

Strategies for avoiding or reducing potential environmental impacts are employed at all stages of construction by following the Environmental Protection Plans. The goal is to protect the environment, have as little impact as possible and ensure the land is returned to a similar function.

A joint inspection was conducted at the Edmonton Terminal by the Environmental Inspector and Indigenous Monitor. Observations included a new lift station, sheet pile installation, temporary pump installation to bypass the existing drainage system, excavation of the new lift station location, north road construction, temporary ESC measure installation, final grade around the new pump building and tank lot compaction and grade work.

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.



Containment basin complete Edmonton Terminal.



Housekeeping at Edmonton Terminal.  
Line one and two Edmonton Terminal.

## 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 48 and 337 and communicate about active nests daily. All mitigations were in place during inspection.



Bird nest buffer at KP 69.



Bird nest buffer KP 72.



## 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 were confirmed as being in place.



Reclamation complete KP 67.



Topsoil replacement KP 84.

## 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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