INDIGENOUS MONITOR OVERVIEW REPORT

Month: March 2023

Project Region: Edmonton and Yellowhead

Indigenous Monitor days on-site: 27

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 right-of-way reclamation, erosion and sediment control, watercourse restoration inspection, Edmonton Terminal and Traditional Land Use (TLU) sites. 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 March 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 or call 1.866.514.6700.

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 EIs 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. No deficiencies were found.

Topsoil replacement and cleanup at KP 66.

Topsoil replacement KP 337.

Edmonton Terminal Inspection

At the Edmonton Terminal, 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 and have as little impact as possible.

A joint inspection was conducted by the Environmental Inspector and Indigenous Monitor at Edmonton Terminal. Observations included construction of the new lift station, new catch basins and a new road north of Tank 4. Outstanding items remaining include paving and repaving roads, and final electrical and mechanical items.

Waste management was inspected as well as secondary containment for equipment and fuel storage tanks. Open excavations were marked and properly delineated. 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.

Beginning of TMEP Line 2 Edmonton Terminal.

New pump building Edmonton Terminal.

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.

ESC measures are a major focus as crews prepare for spring runoff. Indigenous Monitors inspected ESC mitigations, including wing walls and silt fencing through several wetlands. 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, including AB-21 KP 65, AB-45 KP 107, AB-48 KP 112, AB-185 KP 321 and AB-188 KP 326. No deficiencies were identified.

CWD installed on hill with erosion control blanket at KP 98.

Watercourse Restoration Inspection

Environmental mitigation measures for in-stream construction of watercourses are prescribed in the provincial permits and the watercourse crossing plans, and in some cases, a Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) authorization. Mitigation measures required for in-stream construction include, but are not limited to, biosecurity cleaning of equipment, secondary containment of hydrocarbons, salvaging of stream bed material, fish salvage, water quality monitoring and sediment/erosion control. When in-stream work is complete, Indigenous Monitors regularly monitor watercourse crossings. Erosion and Sediment Control (ESC) measures are monitored; these measures mitigate erosion and sediment transport from construction sites to downstream areas and watercourses. On-site ESC mitigations may include sediment fences, swales, wattles, rock armouring, erosion control blankets and hydroseeding, as well as water drainage control measures.

Restoration of AB-21 complete KP 65.

Restoration of AB-45 complete KP 107.

Watercourse Restoration Inspection (cont'd)

Indigenous Monitors inspected the effectiveness of restorations completed at AB-21at KP 65, AB-45 at 107 and AB-202 at KP 337 to observe site transplant areas, including erosion control blanket, willow stakes in riparian zones, reseeding in previously excavated and backfilled areas, and rock armouring and stream bed material replacement. These mitigations were installed and working as planned. No deficiencies were identified.

Restoration of AB-202 at KP 337.

Traditional Land Use Sites

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 in place to protect Heritage Resources. Sites inspected include but are not limited to TLU-1, TLU-5, TLU 6, TLU-8, TLU 9 and TLU-12.

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 boundary signage is in place. Inspected mitigation measures remained in compliance. No cultural or environmental concerns were identified.

Signage and mitigations in place at TLU-6.

Signage and mitigations in place at TLU-9.

Signage and mitigations in place at TLU-12.

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)

CONTACT US:
Trans Mountain
info@transmountain.com
1.866.514.6700
transmountain.com
@TransMtn
youtube.com/transmtn
PO Box 81018
Burnaby, BC V5H 3B0