

INDIGENOUS MONITOR OVERVIEW REPORT

Month: February 2023

Indigenous Monitor days on-site: 22

Project Region: Fraser Valley

**Kilometre Posts (KPs) monitored:
KP 1075–1165**

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 impacts 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 Fraser Valley. The purpose of this report is to provide an update on Indigenous Monitor activity to Indigenous groups.

During this reporting period, key Project activities in the Fraser Valley Region involving Indigenous Monitors included construction on Spread 6/7A, wildlife management mitigations, Traditional Land Use (TLU) inspections, pump-off, erosion and sediment control (ESC), watercourse crossings, topsoil and subsoil stripping, and inspections at Sumas Terminal.

The Project Construction Progress Report (Condition 106) for February 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. [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.

Environmental Features Flagging and Signage

The Indigenous Monitors conducted inspections in areas of known environmental features to ensure buffer zones are clearly flagged and staked. As part of pre-construction activity, environmental features such as wildlife species of concern, rare plants and rare ecological communities, archaeological features, wetlands, watercourses, TLU sites and any other sensitive environmental features are staked, flagged and sometimes fenced by Resource Specialist teams. The features are clearly marked so they can be appropriately protected during construction. Indigenous Monitors inspect TLU and archaeological areas with a focus on sites near active construction to ensure mitigation measures are in place to protect Traditional Land Use and Heritage Resources.

Indigenous Monitors inspected multiple site locations, including KP 1075 (Sto:lo-1622), KP 1129 (TLU-49), KP 1135 (Sto:lo-AQ32) as well as archaeological areas near KP 1097, KP 1102, KP 1135, KP 1145 and KP 1152. Signage was in place and the area was staked and flagged. No concerns were identified.



TLU signage inspected near KP 1075.

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.

Near KP 1102 and KP 1135, 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 is 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.



Near KP 1102, the dewatering system was observed to be functioning as intended.



Near KP 1135, the dewatering system was observed to be functioning as intended.

Watercourse Crossings

Environmental mitigation measures for in-stream construction of watercourses are prescribed in the provincial permit and site-specific watercourse crossing plans. Mitigation measures required for in-stream construction include but are not limited to biosecurity cleaning of equipment, secondary containment of hydrocarbons, stream bed material, fish salvage, amphibian salvage, water quality monitoring and erosion and sediment control.

KP 1138, the Indigenous Monitor inspected the restoration efforts at watercourse BC748. Restoration of the creek was observed as complete and ESC measures were installed. No sediment was identified in the watercourse.

Near KP 1160, the Indigenous Monitor observed the Resource Specialist conduct a fish salvage using visual, manual and electro-fishing techniques. No fish were identified.

Near KP 1083 (watercourse BC712a and BC712b), the Indigenous Monitor observed that signage was installed and the water was clear with no sediment. No environmental concerns were noted.



Restoration of watercourse BC748 inspected near KP 1138.



Fish salvage observed near KP 1160.

Erosion and Sediment Control

Erosion and sediment control (ESC) measures are monitored and inspected to ensure they are functioning as intended to mitigate erosion and sediment transport from construction sites to sensitive environmental features downstream. On-site ESC mitigations include sediment fences, swales, wattles, straw, polyethylene sheeting, coco matting, geotextile fabric and hydroseeding, as well as water drainage control measures.

Indigenous Monitors, alongside Environmental Inspectors, inspected ESC measures at construction sites throughout Spreads 6 and 7A. Inspections were completed in areas between KP 1076 and KP 1165.

At KP 1132, the Indigenous Monitor inspected straw wattles, swales and straw blankets installed to mitigate erosion and potential sediment transfer into watercourses BC739a, BC740 and BC741. The Indigenous Monitor also observed the contractor re-



Regrading of a bank near KP 1132 to mitigate erosion underneath wooden access matting.

grade a bank to mitigate erosion from occurring underneath the protective wooden access matting. No turbid water was seen entering the inspected watercourses.

At KP 1105, KP 1129 and KP 1136, the Indigenous Monitor confirmed ESC measures for stored topsoil and subsoil were intact and in good condition.



Polyethylene sheeting inspected near KP 1129 functioning as intended.

Topsoil Salvage and Storage

When salvaging topsoil 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 and no soil has gone outside these limits.

Near KP 1135, the Indigenous Monitor observed the Resource Specialist (archaeologist) conduct archaeology monitoring of topsoil stripping near archaeologically sensitive areas. Near KP 1094, the Indigenous Monitor observed topsoil stripping and grading. The Indigenous Monitors also inspected the construction areas before and after soil stripping to identify any potential chance finds. No potential chance finds were identified.



Topsoil shaped by excavator inspected near KP 1094.5.

Sumas Terminal

Work at Sumas Terminal includes installation of a new perimeter fence and a temporary infrastructure needed for construction, as well as a temporary laydown yard at the terminal on Trans Mountain property. One new storage tank will be installed within the terminal, bringing the total number of tanks to seven. A new firewater retention pond will also be built.

At Sumas Terminal, the Indigenous Monitor completed site inspections that included observing and documenting general housekeeping, waste management, ESC measures, soil stripping and storage, concrete management, groundwater management and wildlife management. The Indigenous Monitor observed and inspected the



Netting and polyethylene sheeting placed as a bird deterrent was inspected at Sumas Terminal.

contractor begin to install mitigations for nesting birds. No environmental concerns were identified.

Indigenous Monitor Request Dashboard

Indigenous Monitors are provided 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	0	2	0	0	2
Fulfilled	-	2	-	-	2
Outstanding	-	0	-	-	0

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

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