INDIGENOUS MONITOR OVERVIEW REPORT

Month: May 2023

Indigenous Monitor days on-site: 27

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, archaeological impact assessments, environmental features flagging and signage, pump-off, erosion and sediment control (ESC), topsoil and subsoil stripping, and trenchless crossings.

The Project Construction Progress Report (Condition 106) for May 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.

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 archaeology baseline assessments conducted in relation to the Project for more than seven years.

The Indigenous Monitors observed the implementation of an AIA conducted near KP 1127. The assessment, completed by a qualified archaeologist and Indigenous participants, may include 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 in the Fraser Valley region.

Soil from an evaulation unit sifted by the resource specialist observed near KP 1127.

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.

The Indigenous Monitor observed topsoil stripping and grading and observed measures during topsoil stockpiling in various areas including but not limited to KP 1088, KP 1089, KP 1091 and KP 1101. Near KP 1101, the Indigenous Monitor observed the resource specialist conduct topsoil depth checks. 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 being stripped near KP 1101 observed.

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, erosion and sediment control and reclamation.

Near KP 1103, the Indigenous Monitor observed the resource specialist conduct a fish and amphibian salvage. Stickleback and coho fish, larvae and a Northwestern salamander were salvaged during inspection.

Near KP 1138, the Indigenous Monitor observed the reclamation of watercourse BC-748, including erosion and sediment measures such as silt fencing. No environmental concerns were identified.

Fish and amphibian salvage observed near KP 1103.

Reclamation of BC-748 observed near KP 1138.

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 6 and 7A, 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.

The dewatering system near KP 1087 observed functioning as intended.

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 TLU and Heritage Resources.

Indigenous Monitors inspected multiple locations, including TLU sites and archaeological sites. No concerns were identified.

Environmental signage inspected near KP 1091.

TLU signage inspected near KP 1139.

Trenchless Crossings

Trans Mountain is using horizontal directional drilling (HDD), a trenchless construction method, near KP 1151 to 1154, KP 1158 to 1160 and KP 1161 to 1164. Trenchless construction methods are used to construct the pipeline under rivers and other environmentally sensitive areas, such as wetlands and ravines, as well as major transportation corridors to minimize or avoid environmental and socio-economic impacts associated with open-cut construction. The HDD technique involves setting up a drill rig on one side of the crossing. Following the drilling of a pilot bore, the borehole diameter is enlarged using a series of consecutively larger reams. The pipe is then assembled and welded on the opposite side of the crossing, with the pipe string connected to the drill assembly and pulled back through the drill path to the HDD rig.

The Indigenous Monitors participated in inspections of environmental mitigations at the HDD crossings. Inspections included observing that signage and buffers were in place for environmental features, including archaeological sensitive areas, and that these areas were undisturbed during construction activities. Other environmental mitigations observed included inspection of Inadvertent Fluid Release (IFR) cleanup materials, ESC measures and participation in wildlife sweeps. The Indigenous Monitor worked alongside the Environmental Inspector near KP 1153 and 1164 to ensure the IFR walking pathway was being cleared of construction materials after work was complete. Near KP 1158, the Indigenous Monitor observed that sediment fencing had been removed and hydroseeding had occurred in the completed area. No concerns were identified.

IFR walking pathway cleanup inspected near KP 1164.

Completed hydroseeing observed near KP 1158.

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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