

INDIGENOUS MONITOR OVERVIEW REPORT

Month: September 2023

Project Region: Lower Mainland

Indigenous Monitor days on-site: 23

**Kilometre Posts (KPs) monitored:
Spread 7 KP 1165–1176**

Indigenous Monitors on the Trans Mountain Expansion Project – Overview

The Trans Mountain Expansion Project (the Project or TMEP) has retained 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 Lower Mainland. 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 Lower Mainland region involving Indigenous Monitors include construction at Burnaby Terminal, Westridge Marine Terminal (WMT) and on Spread 7B. Activities included dewatering, erosion and sediment control, soil salvage, reclamation, construction site housekeeping and Colony Farm Regional Park.

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

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 to an approved location either on or off the construction footprint.

Near KP 1167, an Indigenous Monitor observed that water accumulating on-site was pumped off to 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.



Approved pump-off location KP 1167.

Erosion and Sediment Control

Erosion and sediment control (ESC) measures are used to reduce erosion and limit sediment transport across construction sites to sensitive environmental features.

At WMT and Spread 7B, the Indigenous Monitors conducted inspections to verify ESC measures were installed effectively as prescribed in the Environmental Protection Plan. This included inspecting berms and exposed slopes were securely covered with polyethene sheeting or hydroseed was correctly applied. Ditches and other water conveyance measures throughout the terminals and construction areas and along the perimeter of the Project footprint were also inspected to ensure they were free of construction materials and debris.



ESC installed and working as intended near KP 1177.



Bank restoration and rock armoring complete near KP 1172.

Soil Salvage

When removing 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 topsoil piles to ensure they are within the survey limits of the right-of-way and no soil has gone outside these limits. Wildlife has been shown to be using soil breaks to allow for travel across the right-of-way.

An Indigenous Monitor inspected topsoil salvage mitigations near KP 1178. The Indigenous Monitors also inspected the construction areas before and after topsoil stripping to identify any potential archaeological chance finds. No issues or potential archaeological chance finds were identified.



Topsoil salvage near KP 1178.

Reclamation

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

Indigenous Monitors inspected various reclamation activities in the Lower Mainland, including discing for soil decompaction, topsoil replacement, confirming topsoil depth, erosion and sediment control measures, and confirmation that proper seed mixes are applied. Indigenous Monitors worked with Environmental Inspectors to ensure mitigation measures were in place during reclamation activities.



Topsoil replacement and grading near KP 1168.



Hydroseeding activity at KP 1174.



Regrowth in erosion control blanked at KP 1174.

Site Housekeeping

The Indigenous Monitors in the Lower Mainland regularly conduct inspections of construction areas for general housekeeping measures. This includes observing and documenting waste management practices and hazardous materials containment, as well as inspecting that spill kits are effectively placed and stocked with absorbent materials.

The Indigenous Monitors conducted housekeeping inspections at WMT and Spread 7B. Indigenous Monitors also check that secondary containment is placed underneath machinery and stored petrochemicals such as paint and gasoline. No environmental concerns were noted.



Good site housekeeping at Westridge Marine Terminal.



Good site housekeeping at Westridge Marine Terminal.

Colony Farm Regional Park Temporary Workspace

The Colony Farm Regional Park Temporary Workspace near KP 1167 was being used as a staging area for drilling equipment and pullback section for the Fraser River horizontal directional drill (HDD).

The Indigenous Monitor observed and inspected various environmental mitigations at the temporary workspace, including environmental feature signage, ESC measures, site housekeeping, secondary containment for equipment and machinery, and wildlife mitigations.

The pipe has been pulled successfully from the HDD borehole at Colony Farm under the Fraser River through to the south side entry site. The pipe has been laid, welded and backfilling has been completed.

The Indigenous Monitor observed a survey crew placing survey stakes to mark the depth of topsoil to be added. The Indigenous Monitor observed the removal of wooden protective matting and the sand, gravel and geocloth placed under the matting. The Indigenous Monitor also observed trucks spraying water to control dust at the Colony Farm work area. No concerns were identified.



Amphibian salvage underway. Captured amphibians released outside of exclusion fence beyond the construction footprint at KP 1167.



Removal of gravel and geocloth ongoing KP 1167.

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	5	0	2	0	6
Fulfilled	5	-	2	-	6
Outstanding		-	-	-	

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

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