INDIGENOUS MONITOR OVERVIEW REPORT

Month: December 2022
Project Region: North Thompson (Spread 3/4A and Spread 4B)

Indigenous Monitor days on-site: 26

Kilometre Posts (KPs) monitored:
Spread 3/4A: KP 470–696
Spread 4B: KP 697–764

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 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 North Thompson Region. 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 North Thompson Region involving Indigenous Monitors took place from KP 470–KP 696 in Spread 3/4A and KP 697–KP 764 in Spread 4B and included temporary construction lands, right-of-way reclamation, matting removal and cleanup, erosion and sediment control, and topsoil stripping and backfill. The Project Construction Progress Report (Condition 106) for December 2022, 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. 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.

Right-of-Way Reclamation

Subsoil is de-compacted 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 reflecting the vegetation profile from pre-disturbance.

Indigenous Monitors were on-site inspecting various reclamation activities, including discing for soil decompaction, topsoil replacement, confirming topsoil depth and seeding. Indigenous Monitors were engaged in conversations with crews and EIs in all stages of reclamation. No deficiencies were found.

Reclamation KP 521.

Topsoil replacement KP 525.

Temporary Construction Lands

Temporary construction lands and infrastructure are work areas to support Project construction and include temporary camps, stockpile sites and equipment staging areas. Many of these sites addressed in the Temporary Construction Lands and Infrastructure Environmental Protection Plan are on previously developed lands.

An Indigenous Monitor inspected the Blue River yard near the Blue River Camp. This site is being used for office facilities, a construction yard for storage of equipment, pipe and other construction material.

The inspection included housekeeping and waste management with corrective actions noted, including proper waste disposal and using drip trays. In addition, spill kits and spill response procedures were reviewed and implemented at the site. Loose miscellaneous debris was identified and disposed of during the inspection.

Blue River yard inspection KP 611.

Blue River Camp inspection KP 611.

Erosion and Sediment Control

Erosion and sediment control measures (ESC) are monitored and inspected to ensure they are functioning as intended to mitigate erosion and sediment transport from construction sites to downstream areas, including watercourses. On-site ESC mitigations include sediment fences, swales, wattles, straw, polyethylene sheeting, coco matting and hydroseeding, as well as water drainage control measures, including coarse woody debris (CWD).

An Indigenous Monitor performed an inspection of ESC measures near KP 750. Coco matting was installed on the hill to help protect and retain sediment. This area was hydroseeded. When vegetation is re-established, it will act as primary ESC. No issues or environmental concerns were identified during the inspection.

Coco matting installed at KP 704.

CWD installed at KP 747.

Topsoil Stripping and Backfill

Topsoil stripping, pipe installation and backfill activities continue. When removing soil 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 Monitors noted mitigations for topsoil piles to reduce erosion potential, including grading, separation of wetland soils from upland soils and tarps to prevent erosion. Inspections were conducted for the excavated soil placed in the trench over the installed pipe. The Indigenous Monitors observed sand and subsoil being backfilled over the pipe prior to topsoil being replaced and ensured backfill activities were confined to the construction right-of-way. No issues or potential chance finds were identified.

Backfill complete at KP 615.

Backfill in progress at KP 554.

Matting Removal and Cleanup

Matting is a portable platform used during pipeline construction to create paths for equipment, protect environmental features and avoid ground disturbance. Used on worksites and right-of-way construction to connect hard-to-reach areas (e.g., wetted areas), matting prevents weather-related Project delays and shields equipment and the pipeline from damage.

Indigenous Monitor observations during matting removal at KP 745 included good housekeeping practices, debris removal, proper signage and work remained within boundaries of the right-of-way. Mats removed from the area are stockpiled until required in another Project area. No concerns were identified.

Mat removal KP 745.

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, input from an environmental resource specialist and 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	0	2	0	2
Fulfilled	0	-	2	-	2
Outstanding	-	-	-	-	-

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

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