

INDIGENOUS MONITOR OVERVIEW REPORT

Month: November 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 Archaeological Impact Assessments (AIAs), temporary construction lands, environmental features and Traditional Land Use (TLU), erosion and sediment control, and topsoil stripping and backfill. The Project Construction Progress Report (Condition 106) for November 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.

Archaeological Impact Assessments

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 by way of TLU studies conducted by Indigenous groups and archaeology baseline assessments conducted over many years of Project planning.

Indigenous Monitors observed AIAs conducted along the right-of-way near KP 721. The assessments were completed by a qualified archaeologist and Indigenous participants. AIAs included visual inspections to identify features with archaeological potential, surface inspection of areas with exposed sediments for cultural or terrain features exhibiting archaeological potential and subsurface testing (shovel testing) of terrain features exhibiting archaeological potential.

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. Additional consultation with Indigenous Nations occurs when a site is discovered. Ongoing AIA activities continue in the North Thompson region.



Soil piles at KP 721 were marked for location and identification by the Archaeological Resource Specialist.

Temporary Construction Lands

Temporary construction lands and infrastructure are defined for the Project as preparatory work areas to support Project construction and include temporary camps, stockpile sites and equipment staging areas. Many of the 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. This temporary infrastructure site is located 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 during construction of the Expansion Project in the North Thompson region.

Key aspects of the inspections 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 site. Loose miscellaneous debris was identified and disposed of during the inspection.



Blue River Yard inspection KP 611.



Blue River Camp inspection KP 611.

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 that reflects 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. They discussed the need to postpone topsoil replacement in wet or windy conditions to prevent damage to soil structure or erosion of topsoil. No deficiencies were found.



Reclamation KP 744.

Environmental Features and TLU Site

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 sites with a focus on sites near active construction to ensure mitigation measures are in place to protect Heritage Resources. Sites inspected include TLU-30 and TLU-31. Signage was in place and the area was staked and flagged. No concerns were identified during the inspection.



Mitigations in place TLU 30/31.

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 in place 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.



Crew installing coco matting at KP 750.



Crew installing coco matting at KP 750.

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 KP 720.

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)

CONTACT US:
Trans Mountain

 info@transmountain.com
 1.866.514.6700
 transmountain.com

 [@TransMtn](https://twitter.com/TransMtn)
 youtube.com/transmntn


 PO Box 81018
Burnaby, BC V5H 3B0



TRANSMOUNTAIN