INDIGENOUS MONITOR OVERVIEW REPORT

Month: September 2020

Project Region: North Thompson (Spread 3/4a and Spread 4b)

Indigenous Monitor days on-site: 23

Kilometre Posts (KPs) 504–678 & 715–763

Indigenous Monitors on the Trans Mountain Expansion Project – Overview

The Trans Mountain Expansion Project (the Project) 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 included monitoring and inspecting wildlife sweeps and amphibian salvage, environmental feature buffers, traditional land use areas, clearing, topsoil stripping and storage, and dewatering trenches and pump-off of surface water.

For more information: email info@transmountain.com or call 1.866.514.6700.

Trans Mountain COVID-19 – Our Response

Trans Mountain is actively monitoring the COVID-19 situation with the help of federal, provincial and local agencies. Trans Mountain's top priority remains the health and safety of its workforce, their families and our communities. Trans Mountain and its construction contractors are working diligently together to adhere to all advice and direction from government and health officials, while ensuring the safe uninterrupted operation of the Trans Mountain Pipeline and the continued, safe construction of the Expansion Project. Measures being undertaken at construction sites include: temperature screening; following physical distancing guidelines, staggering work shifts and breaks; eliminating or minimizing in-person meetings; enhancing cleaning and sanitizing; and ensuring workers' orientation includes COVID 19 expectations, awareness and prevention.

For more information: transmountain.com/covid19

Wildlife Sweeps and Amphibian Salvage

A requirement of the Project is to create an inventory of incidental wildlife observations and to follow contingency measures for the discovery of wildlife species of concern. Species of concern refers to animals, birds and amphibians that have increased potential to be affected by Project activities due to spatial or temporal overlap with the Project during sensitive life stages like breeding. Wildlife sweeps are conducted in areas where Project construction activities are occurring and will occur. In addition, amphibian salvages are conducted prior to the commencement of heavy equipment activity at specific identified stream-dwelling amphibian watercourses and other construction areas in accordance with amphibian salvage approval and/or permit conditions.

The Indigenous Monitors participated in wildlife sweeps and assisted with an amphibian salvage at the Valemount Construction Yard.

Frogs salvaged at the Valemount yard.

Inspection of Environmental Features

The Indigenous Monitors conducted inspections in areas of known environmental features to check on flagging/marking and to verify buffer zones are in place and that correct buffer distances are implemented.

As part of pre-construction activity, environmental features are staked, flagged and sometimes fenced by Resource Specialist teams. This may include wildlife areas, rare plants and rare ecological communities, archeological features, wetlands, riparian zones, watercourses, Traditional Land Use (TLU) sites and any other sensitive environmental features. The features are clearly marked so they can be appropriately protected during construction.

Flagging and signage installed indicating wetland crossing and the riparian area.

Traditional Land Use Site Monitoring

Traditional Land Use areas have been identified through information and studies provided by Indigenous groups over multiple years of Project assessment and planning. During pre-construction

activities, previously identified Traditional Land Use areas are marked with flagging ribbon by Resource Specialist crews during the environmental flagging and staking program. Signage is also installed to indicate the areas to construction crews.

The Indigenous Monitors performed monitoring and inspection activities to ensure environmental features, including identified Traditional Land Use areas, have been staked, flagged and signed in advance of construction activities and confirmed mitigation approaches for Traditional Use Sites where required.

Previously identified TLU site stake and ribbon.

Clearing

Right-of-way clearing is a key part of construction activity and involves the removal of trees and woody vegetation within the Project footprint.

The Indigenous Monitors are performing inspection and monitoring of clearing activities along the right-of-way. This includes monitoring signage and flagging of sensitive areas and monitoring timber salvage.


Clearing of trees near Peavine Creek.

Topsoil Stripping and Storage

When stripping topsoil in construction areas, required mitigation includes segregation of topsoil from root zone material; proper storage and covering 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.

The Indigenous Monitors were involved in monitoring and inspecting topsoil stripping mitigations. The Indigenous Monitors also walk in transects along the cleared area to investigate any potential chance finds that could be unearthed.


Excavation of pipeline trench off access road (Shoofly 23) near Norfolk Road, with topsoil piled on the side of the right-of-way.

Trench Dewatering

Dewatering the pipeline trench occurs if existing or anticipated (based upon precipitation forecasts) water levels or flow rates in the trench could overwhelm existing trench water control measures (e.g., berms and take-offs) allowing sediment-laden water to affect areas off the right-of-way, like a watercourse, wetland or lake.

For example, during excavation of the pipeline trench, water that accumulates within the excavated area from precipitation or groundwater seepage is pumped from the excavation into a pump-off structure on a well-vegetated surface approved by the Environmental Inspector.

The Indigenous Monitors inspect the excavated trenches for pooling of water and monitor the pump-off structures and activities on a regular basis to validate surface erosion and sediment loading is not taking place and filtration system is intact.

Pump-off structures used to filter water removed from excavations during pipe installation.

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: request for Project reports, input from an environmental resource specialist or on-site support from an Elder or other cultural knowledge holder. Monthly requests and their completion status are noted below.

Status	Number and Type of Requests				
	Project Reports/Documents	Environmental Resource Specialists	Elder/Cultural Knowledge Holder	Other	Total
Total	0	0	0	0	0
Fulfilled	-	-	-	-	-
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
youtube.com/transmtn
PO Box 81018
Burnaby, BC V5H 3B0