

INDIGENOUS MONITOR OVERVIEW REPORT

Month: December 2020

Indigenous Monitor days on-site: 18

Project Region: Yellowhead (Spread 2)

**Kilometre Posts (KPs) monitored:
139–332**

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 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 Yellowhead region. 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 Yellowhead Region involving Indigenous Monitors were focused around KP 139–332 and included monitoring right-of-way clearing, erosion control, soil stripping and environmentally sensitive features. The Project Construction Progress Report (Condition 106) for December 2020, which reports environmental events and deficiencies in Tables 4 and 5 respectively, is found [here](#).

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: following physical distancing guidelines, staggering work shifts and breaks; eliminating or minimizing in-person meetings; and enhancing cleaning and sanitizing; and ensuring workers orientation includes COVID 19 expectations, awareness and prevention.

For more information: transmountain.com/covid19

Right-of-Way (ROW) Clearing

Project ROW clearing is a key part of early construction activity and involves the removal of tree and vegetation in areas along the pipeline. During this stage, the surveyed Project ROW is cleared by removing the trees and brush. Merchantable timber is salvaged. Following clearing, the topsoil is stripped and stored along the edge of the ROW to be spread back during reclamation.

The Indigenous Monitor on Spread 2 performed inspection and monitoring of clearing activities along the ROW. Observations of topsoil clearing and piling, burning of woody debris and grading were completed with signage and barriers in place to avoid environmentally sensitive features. Indigenous Monitors deemed Right-of-Way clearing was in compliance.



Trees cleared, merchantable wood stacked and burn piles made KP 292+450.



KP332+730 clearing.

Erosion and Sediment Control

Site-specific sediment control measures are implemented to prevent sediment-laden runoff from entering watercourses.

The Indigenous Monitors inspected several unnamed creeks, Little Brule Creek, Ponoka Creek and river slopes to ensure erosion and sediment control measures were in place. The Indigenous Monitors worked with the construction crew to ensure mitigation measures were put in place. These measures included silt fencing, erosion control matting, sheet piles, straw booms and soil walls. The Indigenous Monitors reported compliance with erosion sediment controls in place.



Rig mats and geotech installed on west bank of unnamed channel at KP 167+290.



KP 251+577 steel box setting to stabilize soil walls from collapsing in.

Environmentally Sensitive Features

Environmental features such as rare plants and rare ecological communities, wildlife species of concern, archeological features, Traditional Land Use (TLU) sites and any other sensitive environmental or cultural features on or adjacent to the construction footprint are staked, flagged and sometimes fenced prior to commencing construction. The features are clearly marked to ensure appropriate mitigation during construction.

The Indigenous Monitors inspected environmentally sensitive features to ensure the flagging/staking remains in place, the appropriate mitigations are being followed and that buffer zones are the correct distances. Indigenous Monitors deemed sites were compliant with appropriate signage in place.



East view Environmentally Sensitive Feature Site ID: AB-158 KP 297+380 RBZ 30 m.



West view Environmentally Sensitive Feature Site ID: WILD-51 KP 297+500 Western Toad breeding pond.

Final Cleanup

The objective during reclamation is to return the site to equivalent land capability as it was prior to construction. A key part of reclamation is final cleanup activities. During final clean up, all previous signage, flagging, fencing, rig matting and equipment are to be removed. All salvaged topsoil/root zone material is replaced in proper sequence over all portions of the construction site where soil cover was stripped. When replacing frozen topsoil, heavy equipment is used to ensure frozen material is broken up to provide a consistent and even ground surface for reclamation activities.

The Indigenous Monitor inspected final site cleanup to ensure all measures were taken to bring site to completion. Site cleanup was compliant and deemed complete.



KP 225+251 Final Cleanup.



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: 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	3	1	2	0	6
Fulfilled	3	1	2	-	6
Outstanding	-	-	-	-	-

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

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