

INDIGENOUS MONITOR OVERVIEW REPORT

Month: November 2021

Indigenous Monitor days on-site: 26

Project Region: Yellowhead, Spread 2

**Kilometre Posts (KPs) monitored:
KP 47–377**

Indigenous Monitors on the Trans Mountain Expansion Project – Overview

The Trans Mountain Expansion Project (the Project or TMEP) is retaining 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 Yellowhead 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 Yellowhead Region involving Indigenous Monitors took place from KP 47–377 in Spread 2 and included monitoring wetland crossing and pump-off, pump station inspections, amphibian salvage area monitoring and Traditional Land Use (TLU) Sites. The Project Construction Progress Report (Condition 106) for November 2021, 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 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.

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.

For more information: transmountain.com/covid19

Wetland Crossing

Wetland crossing requirements are outlined in the Environmental Protection Plan, Site-Specific Wetland Crossing Execution Plan, and Applicable Provincial Permits. Plans and permits are required before work begins. Indigenous Monitors review the requirements outlined in the above documents before and during their inspections. These inspections consider spill response and mitigations that are in place, topsoil being stored separately from upland soils and erosion and sediment control (ESC) measures in place.

At watercourse (WT) 849/851 KP 303-304, an Indigenous Monitor reviewed the Site-Specific Wetland Crossing Execution Plan. Indigenous Monitors inspected and ensured equipment and vehicles arrived at the worksite clean and free of soil and vegetative debris. Indigenous Monitors observed the execution of mitigations, such as matting, geotech/wing walls and clay ramps being installed, and wetland topsoil being stored separately from upland soil. In saturated soil, pump-off is a regular requirement to keep excavations open and safe. The Indigenous Monitor performed a Focus Inspection on the pump-off activity and noted ice buildup that could later cause problems. The contractor was notified and ice was promptly removed. No outstanding environmental concerns were found when the inspection was complete.



Sediment trap at pump-off location WT849/851

Pump Station Inspection

In November, joint inspections were conducted by an Environmental Inspector and an Indigenous Monitor at Edson and Gainford Pump Stations. The Facilities Environmental Protection Plan was reviewed and referenced during the inspection to ensure correct mitigations were identified. The inspection included observing the sites' waste management procedures and disposal bins, use of secondary containment and the installation of the liner surrounding the pump station that leads to the hydrocarbon retention pond at the Gainford Pump Station. Edson Pump Station construction was nearly complete during the inspection and no construction activity is anticipated there until spring 2022, when reclamation activities will resume. No cultural or environmental concerns were recorded at the time of the inspection.



Edson pumphouse south view KP 245.



Gainford Pump Station KP116.

Amphibian Salvage

A Project requirement 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 wildlife with higher sensitivity to disturbance from Project activities during sensitive life stages like breeding and overwintering.

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.

Salvaged amphibians were released outside of isolation points. An Indigenous Monitor inspected a wetland that was isolated to keep salvaged Three Toed Salamanders in a suitable overwintering habitat. The fence was intact and there was no disturbance. No concerns were identified at the time of inspection.



Signage in place to advise workers of the feature at KP 337.



Salamander habitat isolated KP337.

TLU Sites

During construction, cultural use areas are noted along the right-of-way. Such locations have been identified during TLU studies conducted by Indigenous groups prior to construction. As part of the Environmental Protection Plan, a TLU Sites Discovery Contingency Plan outlines steps to take if previously unidentified TLU sites are identified during construction.

Indigenous Monitors inspected previously identified TLU sites along the right-of-way, including but not limited to: TLU-6, TLU-7, TLU-8, TLU-9, TLU-12, TLU-13, TLU-14 and TLU-19. Mitigation measures in place included signage, flagging and documentation of any current use. Indigenous Monitors report deficiencies in these mitigations to an Environmental Inspector.

Indigenous Monitors assist, where possible, with corrective actions and confirm completion. An Indigenous Monitor inspected the pictured TLU site to confirm the root zone soil remained labelled and separated. This soil contains the seed bed for traditionally used plants. The seed bed will be replaced during reclamation. No outstanding deficiencies were found at the above-mentioned sites.



Proper signage in place at the approach of a TLU site.



Soils separated, staked and labelled at KP130.

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 or on-site support from an Elder or other cultural knowledge holder. Monthly 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	6	1	5	-	12
Fulfilled	6	1	5	-	12
Outstanding	-	-	-	-	-

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

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