

# INDIGENOUS MONITOR OVERVIEW REPORT

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**Month: October 2020**

**Indigenous Monitor days on-site: 22**

**Project Region: Edmonton (Spread 1)**

**Kilometre Posts (KPs) monitored: 1–48**

## **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 Edmonton 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 Edmonton Region involving Indigenous Monitors were taking place from KP 1 to 48 including monitoring and inspecting of topsoil restoration, backfilling and pipeline excavation areas. The Project Construction Progress Report (Condition 106) for October 2020, which reports environmental events and deficiencies in Tables 4 and 5 respectively, is found [here](#).

**For more information: email [info@transmountain.com](mailto: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](https://transmountain.com/covid19)**

### Topsoil Restoration

Topsoil restoration is a vital step in returning disturbed sites to a stable condition by preparing the site for further reclamation activities, such as revegetation.

Mitigation measures implemented during topsoil restoration:

- Decompact and break subsoils to smooth the surface for re-contouring.
- Replace topsoil evenly over all portions of the pipeline construction footprint that have been stripped to pre-construction soil depths.
- Postpone topsoil replacement during wet conditions or high winds to prevent damage to soil structure or erosion of topsoil.

The Indigenous Monitors inspected housekeeping efforts and soil handling measures around KP 22.



Topsoil restoration at KP 34.



Topsoil restoration nearly complete around KP 22.

### Backfilling Trench

Proper backfilling of trenches is needed to protect the pipeline and minimize settlement of the trench; ensure excavated materials from the trench are properly replaced; and regraded for cross right-of-way drainage.

Backfilling mitigations include:

- Backfill the trench in lifts and compact after each lift, if warranted, at locations where a wider than normal trench (e.g., sharp sidebends and bellholes) was excavated.



Pipe before being backfilled.

### Backfilling Trench (cont'd)

- Backfill and compact clay/mineral soil first, if salvaged separately from organic material in shallow peatland areas, to ensure that cross drainage is maintained.
- Reduce the mixing of snow with spoil material during backfill during frozen ground conditions.
- Take measures to treat frozen trench spoil (e.g., mulching) when compacting trench line in frozen conditions, where feasible.

The Indigenous Monitors monitored backfilling and trenching activities in addition to the welding of mainline pipe at and around KP 41.



Pipe during backfilling.

### 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	1	0	0	1	2
Fulfilled	1	-	-	1	2
Outstanding	-	-	-	-	-

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

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