

INDIGENOUS MONITOR OVERVIEW REPORT

Month: September 2022

Indigenous Monitor days on-site: 26

**Project Region: BC Interior
Spread 5A**

**Kilometre Posts (KPs) monitored:
KP 806–974**

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 BC Interior 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 BC Interior Region involving Indigenous Monitors took place from KP 806 to 974 in Spread 5A and included monitoring wildlife management, airbridge installation, topsoil removal, heritage resource activities, housekeeping and bore pad construction. The Project Construction Progress Report (Condition 106) for September 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.

Wildlife Management

While conducting site monitoring, the Indigenous Monitors record and report wildlife sightings to the Environmental Inspector. Indigenous Monitors also participate in discussions with the Environmental Inspection team relating to wildlife protection strategies and monitor and inspect that mitigation measures like environmental feature signage and buffers are effectively in place.

The Indigenous Monitors participated in wildlife sweeps, including amphibian and den sweeps alongside the Resource Specialist prior to clearing and/or other construction activity. A marmot and badger den were identified, documented and the appropriate buffers were applied to the area. Amphibian fencing was inspected to confirm no damage requiring corrective action. No concerns were documented.



Wildlife staking installed; 50-m buffer observed for marmot den.



General area of den sweep activities at KP 851.

Heritage Resource Sites

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.

The Indigenous Monitor observed the implementation of an Archaeological Impact Assessment (AIA) conducted near the Coldwater West Alternative Route (the portion of the right-of-way that goes around the Coldwater 1 Reserve) at AK 16. The assessment, completed by a qualified archaeologist and Indigenous participants, may include visual inspection to identify features with archaeological potential, surface inspection of areas with exposed sediments for cultural materials and subsurface 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*. Ongoing AIA activities continue in the area. No concerns were identified during the inspection.



General area of the archaeological impact assessment.

Darfield Pump Station

As part of the Trans Mountain Expansion Project, 12 new pump stations will be added to the pipeline system, 11 for the new pipeline and one for the existing pipeline. Pump stations are critical components of the pipeline operations system, containing electric motors to drive the pumps to move oil through the pipeline.

At Darfield Pump Station, 100 km north of Kamloops near the town of Barriere, Indigenous Monitors completed site inspections of the facility. The inspection included observing and documenting general housekeeping, waste management, hazardous materials storage, and vehicle and equipment parking.

During the inspection, Indigenous Monitors identified misplaced debris, garbage and recycling, which was brought forward as a deficiency and addressed. Spill kits were inspected for volume and types of spill response material and to ensure the appropriate placement in relation to work fronts. No cultural concerns were identified.



Darfield Pump Station housekeeping inspection.

Airbridge Installation

An airbridge was installed at KP 850 near Lockie Lake. Airbridges allow access in areas that require moving heavy equipment safely across active pipelines or gas lines. Airbridges are designed to support the weight of heavy equipment while protecting the underlying pipeline, culvert or other subterranean material that require bridging.

Indigenous Monitors observed mitigation measures during the airbridge installation, which included the installation and maintenance of erosion and sediment control measures to avoid or minimize erosion, as well as the potential discharge of sediment or other substances into any nearby watercourses. Indigenous Monitors noted the matting was free of soil, debris and invasive species per the Environmental Protection Plan. The Indigenous Monitors conducted walk-throughs of the area to check for any potential culturally significant items; no concerns were identified.



Airbridge installation at KP 850.

Topsoil Stripping

Topsoil stripping, pipe installation and backfill activities continue at Spread 5A. 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 the topsoil piles to reduce erosion potential, including grading, applying tackifiers and reducing ponding. 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.



Topsoil stripping and soil segregation at KP 850.

Bore Pad Construction near Jacko Lake

Near Jacko Lake, crews continue constructing bore pads for trenchless crossing activities. Trenchless crossings are used to safely cross underneath environmentally sensitive areas, minimizing the impact on users.

At KP 856 and KP 852, safe work practices, including signage, fencing and proper ladder use were noted. The ground near parked machinery was inspected for surface staining. No concerns were identified. Good housekeeping and proper waste management procedures were identified during the inspection. Environmental features at KP 856 near the active construction area were monitored for continued avoidance, appropriate signage and buffers.

Sediment fencing, culverts and drainage were inspected at access road 1 at KP 851. Repair of sediment fencing was recommended and implemented immediately by the contractor. No further concerns were identified.



Jacko Lake drag section, grading work commenced.

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	7	1	8	0	15
Fulfilled	7	1	8	-	15
Outstanding	-	-	-	-	-

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

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