

INDIGENOUS MONITOR OVERVIEW REPORT

Month: June 2021

Indigenous Monitor days on-site: 23

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

**Kilometre Posts (KPs) Spread 4B:
697 – 764 and Spread 3/4A: 470 – 696**

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 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 watercourse crossing isolated in-stream construction, de-watering management/pump-off, Traditional Land Use (TLU) sites, heritage resource chance finds, protective matting and pump station inspections. The Project Construction Progress Report (Condition 106) for June 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

Watercourse Isolated In-stream Construction

The Indigenous Monitor on Spread 3/4A monitored environmental mitigation measures for in-stream construction of watercourse BC 67A (KP 550.18). Mitigation measures required for in-stream construction include but are not limited to: biosecurity cleaning of equipment, secondary containment of hydrocarbons, stream bed material, fish salvage water quality monitoring, and sediment/erosion control.

The Indigenous Monitor observed the contractor install diversion pumps and hoses used to divert the water for in-stream work to occur at watercourse BC 67A (KP 550.18). The upstream water is being diverted downstream of the crossing area to maintain natural flow conditions and water quality. Hoses were placed on plywood to reduce the potential impacts of topsoil scouring, soil erosion, and water quality turbidity increases. The Indigenous Monitor observed that the hoses were working as intended and water was flowing onto the plywood; no adverse environmental impacts were identified during the time of inspection.



BC 67A watercourse diversion pump and hoses.



BC 67A watercourse diversion hoses on plywood.

Heritage Resource Site Chance Find

On Spread 3/4A, the Indigenous Monitor participated in the implementation of the Heritage Resource Site Discovery Contingency Plan for a cabin foundation feature identified near KP 588. The Indigenous Monitor was conducting a pre-clearing walk-through with the contractor when the feature was observed. The Project Team was notified immediately, and a 30-m buffer was installed around the site. The Trans Mountain Indigenous Relations Team notified applicable Indigenous communities and a permit-holding archaeologist (Resource Specialist) was deployed to assess the chance find. The foundation was assessed as a historical site and the logs will be carefully removed and placed in an approved location while construction continues. The logs will be re-established in the original location after construction and reclamation has occurred.

The Indigenous Monitor also participated in the Heritage Resource Site Discovery Plan for a bone fragment discovered near KP 561.44. After the contingency plan was executed, the archaeologist deemed the bone to be non-archaeological and the buffers were removed. No additional archaeological work in the area was recommended.



KP 561.44 where bone fragment was discovered and Heritage Resource Contingency Plan deployed. Deemed to not be of archaeological significance.

Topsoil Conservation

Geotextile fabrics and wooden matting are used to mitigate the potential for soil disturbance over a travel lane or other areas where equipment needs to safely access the pipeline right-of-way. The wood matting provides a barrier between the topsoil/vegetation layer and construction equipment. This method of conserving topsoil reduces rutting and soil compaction.

At the Raft River horizontal directional drill (HDD) entry pad (KP 712), the Indigenous Monitor observed the installation of protective wood matting. The matting will remain until construction activities at Raft River are completed. It will then be carefully removed by the contractor and any wooden debris will be cleaned up on the site. At the Blue River HDD site (KP 609.9), the Indigenous Monitor observed the removal of the protective matting and cleanup of residual woody debris.



Inspection of wood protective matting at the entrance to the Raft River HDD site.

De-watering Management / Pump-off

Water that accumulates within the Project area from precipitation or groundwater seepage is visually assessed for turbidity (suspended sediment in the water) or signs of contamination prior to being pumped to areas approved by the Trans Mountain Environmental Inspector.

At Peavine Creek, surface water management continued as the team awaits approval to restart construction of the watercourse crossing isolated in-stream work. The Indigenous Monitor inspected the pump-off of water and filtration devices near Peavine Creek on a regular basis. Inspections are completed to monitor for sediment deposition, pooling and saturation of soils. Pump-off locations are revised based on site conditions observed during inspections.

At the Mann Creek horizontal directional drill (HDD) exit site, hydrostatic testing was performed prior to installation of the pipe. The water used for hydrostatic testing was discharged to a location approved by the Environmental Inspector and was observed to be compliance with the Oil and Gas Commission's regulations on discharge of hydrostatic testing water. The Indigenous Monitor observed the discharging of the water and observed that no pooling occurred, water did not enter surface waterbodies or watercourses and that erosion did not result from the de-watering process.



New pump-off site selected for Peavine Creek de-watering



Hydrostatic testing water being discharged at the Mann Creek HDD exit site.

Pump Station Site Inspection

As part of the Trans Mountain Expansion Project, 12 new pump stations are added to the pipeline system, 11 for the new pipeline and one for the existing pipeline. Pump stations are a critical component of the operations of the pipeline system. They contain electric motors to drive the pumps that maintain the pressure and flow rate in the pipeline.

In June, the Indigenous Monitor worked alongside the Environmental Inspector to conduct environmental inspections at Blackpool Pump Station, McMurphy Pump Station and Blue River Pump Station.

Following the measures outlined in Trans Mountain's Facilities Environmental Protection Plan, the inspections included site general housekeeping, waste segregation, recycling and metal disposal, and equipment inspections (ensuring proper use of drip trays). Two minor deficiencies were observed which included a wood recycling bin that required replacement as it was at capacity and a small amount of construction debris on the ground. Both items were resolved.

During the inspections, the team was actively monitoring for wildlife. At the Blue River Pump Station, the Indigenous Monitor inspected that a buffer of 30 metres installed around a potentially active bird nest was intact and the nest was not disturbed. The buffer will remain in place until the Trans Mountain Wildlife Resource Specialist deems the area inactive.



Wood recycling bin at Blue River Pump Station that was replaced with an empty bin.



Blackpool pump station

TLU and Heritage Resources Training

In June, Indigenous Monitors from each region of the Expansion Project participated in a two-hour online live training session focused on TMEP's TLU and Heritage Resources Contingency Plans, processes and communications.

The training sessions were regionally focused to incorporate common TLU and heritage resource types in the various Project regions (Alberta, BC Interior and the Lower Mainland), and participants were encouraged to share their experiences and perspectives. Sharing of Indigenous Monitor stories and experiences would highlight the resources for the team to be looking for on the landscape as construction progresses.



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	Rolling Total and Type of Requests				
	Project Reports/Documents	Environmental Resource Specialists	Elder/Cultural Knowledge Holder	Other	Total
Total	0	0	0	1	1
Fulfilled	-	-	-	-	-
Outstanding	-	-	-	1	1

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

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