Role of Environmental Inspector
(Credit: Vancouver Island University)

The Environmental Inspector has numerous roles, depending on the project requiring inspection. The following examples of Environmental Inspector roles specific to construction activities are taken from the Vancouver Island University Environmental Monitoring for Construction Project Manual:

- Assure appropriate levels of protection are in place to prevent or minimize impacts to environmental resources
- Assure the project is in compliance and conformance with environmental management requirements in:
  - Project approvals
  - Authorizations and permits
  - Applicable legislation
  - Regulations and guidelines
  - Contract documents and specifications
  - Corporate environmental management programs and policies
  - Industry Best Management Practices
- Maintain an independent role from other project parties in order to assess compliance and report non-compliance and non-conformance events
- Provide advice to help safeguard the First Nation and the construction contractor from unnecessary environmental risk
- Provide practical advice on environmental management issues to the First Nation and contractor in a proactive and timely manner
- Act as an effective communication liaison between the First Nation and contractor and representatives of environmental and other regulatory agencies
- Review and provide advice and recommendations on environmental management plans, i.e. erosion and sediment control plans and spill control and response plans
- Assist with the interpretation of environmental authorizations, approvals, permits, standards, and guidelines
- Assist in obtaining regulatory approvals and permits
- Work co-operatively with other project parties to resolve environmental issues
- Prepare timely, accurate, and unbiased reporting
- Attend project meetings and assure environmental issues are brought forward for discussion and resolution
- Issue stop work orders when construction activities are impacting or have the potential to threaten environmental resources
- Communicate regularly with regulatory agencies and other project parties