



PRESS RELEASE

AIDEA Office of Communications & External Affairs
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Ambler Access Project Hits Significant Project Milestones

March 10, 2023 (Anchorage, Alaska) – The Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority (AIDEA) is pleased to announce the Ambler Access Project (AAP) has progressed three major milestones for the project including passing the 2023 budget, decision on the 2023 field season work, and an agreement with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to fund the Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) addressing specific proposed deficiencies identified in the voluntary remand. BLM has selected SWCA Environmental Consultants, a third party contractor, who will be supporting BLM in completing the Final SEIS and a record of decision by end of 2023.

Randy Ruaro, Executive Director for AIDEA, said, “The State of Alaska was promised the right to an easement from the Dalton Highway to the Ambler Mining District as part of the land reforms by Congress in 1980. Alaska National Interest Land Conservation Act (ANILCA), Section 204(4)(b) says, ‘Congress finds that there is a need for access for surface transportation purposes...from the Ambler Mining District to the Alaska Pipeline Haul Road...and the Secretary shall permit such access..’ Those promises in ANILCA and the needs of Alaskans and the families for good paying jobs and the opportunity to start a small business matter. That is why we continue to progress the project and work toward these significant project milestones.”

On Wednesday, March 1, 2023, the AIDEA Board unanimously supported the 2023 field season plan and budget for the Ambler Access Project (AAP). Due to approval delays by BLM in 2022, the prior year field season was condensed into a single month and caused a loss in jobs. The 2023 field season will build upon the approvals from BLM in 2022 and continue field studies, permitting, and data collection. The AIDEA Board has approved \$44.8 million of the \$70 million budget to progress pre-development work.

“Thanks to the AIDEA Board of Directors for authorizing the 2023 Project Budget which enables the project to move ahead. AIDEA will fight for jobs, a future for Alaskans, and environmentally responsible resource development right here in Alaska. When environmental groups and the federal government delay or stop projects in Alaska, they just push production to other countries. These countries lack the strict protections Alaska has and the environment suffers. Alaskans and their families end up paying the bill for environmentally damaging projects in other countries. Production of minerals through the

Ambler project, specifically critical minerals, support America's national defense and offset a need to import such minerals from China – a country with little to no pollution requirements that want to control and dominate critical minerals the way OPEC controlled oil in the 1970s," said Ruaro.

While Alaska is rich with natural and mineral resources, access is a common barrier to development and economic opportunities. The Ambler Access Project is a proposed 211-mile, private, industrial controlled access road to reach the Ambler Mining District in the Northwest Arctic Borough. The district is a large prospective copper-zinc mineral belt with extensive deposits of critical minerals and other elements essential for a green economy and military effectiveness. AAP was modeled after a similar AIDEA-funded industrial access road project located in the Northwest Arctic Borough –the DeLong Mountain Transportation System– in support of Red Dog Mine.

About AIDEA:

The Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority is a public corporation of the state. AIDEA's purpose is to promote, develop, and advance the general prosperity and economic welfare of the people of Alaska.

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