

Corri A. Feige
Commissioner

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Department of
Natural Resources

Anchorage, Alaska

STATE OF ALASKA

PRESS RELEASE

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DNR seeks public comment on Ambler Road easement application

AIDEA seeks easement over 125 miles of state-managed lands

(Fairbanks, AK) – The Alaska Department of Natural Resources’ Division of Mining, Land and Water (DMLW) is seeking public comment on an easement application from the Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority (AIDEA) as part of its plan to build a 211-mile road to Ambler. The deadline for public comment is 5 p.m. on Wednesday, March 2.

The proposed road would be a private industrial access road intended to facilitate mine development and transportation of ore as part of the Amber Access Project (AAP). AIDEA is seeking a 450-foot-wide exclusive easement over approximately 125 miles of state-owned lands. Once construction of the road is complete, the final width of the easement would be 250 feet, consistent with federal rights-of-way.

Beginning at milepost 161 of the Dalton Highway, the road would extend west 211 miles to the Ambler Mining District. The road would cross lands owned and/or managed by federal, state, municipal and private entities. Federal agencies have already issued rights-of-way for the road on federally managed lands. AIDEA is proposing to begin construction in 2025.

“This 211-mile road would open access to one of the world’s largest undeveloped copper-zinc mineral belts and would help diversify Alaska’s economy,” said Alaska Governor Mike Dunleavy. “Just as Red Dog Mine has created tremendous economic opportunity in northwest Alaska, the Ambler project would help build a robust economy for the region.”

The Ambler access road project is the realization of the infrastructure and economic development vision set forth in the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA), DNR Commissioner Corri Feige said.

“This project would provide commercial access, potentially lowering the cost of living in area communities while encouraging the development of critical and strategic minerals

in the region,” she said. “The DMLW encourages the public to review this public notice and provide input to the division.”

The road would not be open to the public and access would be controlled by a permitting system administered by AIDEA. The road would initially be constructed as a one-lane road with seasonal access in the fall and winter but not during the spring and early summer when portions of the road are soft and susceptible to damage from traffic.

Additional details, including a summary of the application, maps of the road alignment, application materials, the draft Site Specific Land Use Plan, and links to the federal documents are available at <https://dnr.alaska.gov/mlw/ambler-road/>. The division is also seeking comments on the draft Site Specific Land Use Plan.

The public can comment at <https://dnr.alaska.gov/mlw/ambler-road/> or by sending comments to 3700 Airport Way, Fairbanks, AK 99709 on or before 5 p.m. on March 2.

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