



PRESS RELEASE

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AIDEA Board Approves Funding to Study Trans-Alaska Supply Chain Corridor for Ambler Access Project

(Anchorage) – Wednesday, April 13, 2022, the Board for the Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority (AIDEA) approved AIDEA undertaking an independent technical feasibility study of the comprehensive Ambler Mining District supply chain –from mine to road to rail to port– across Alaska.

While the Ambler Mining District has been extensively explored since the 1950s, development of these proven mineral resources has been limited due to a lack of transportation infrastructure. “The access road to the Ambler Mining District is one part of the logistics chain,” said **AIDEA Board Chair Dana Pruhs**. “We need to look at this holistically to identify and mitigate transportation bottlenecks.” The technical feasibility study will evaluate ore concentrate routes from the intersection of the Ambler Road and the Dalton Highway via rail to export terminals at Port MacKenzie in the Mat-Su Borough, the Port of Alaska in Anchorage, Seward, and Whittier.

“The known resources of the mining district include abundant deposits of copper and critical minerals essential to growing our nation’s tech-focused economy and military preparedness. Establishing access through the Ambler Access Project has the potential to lead to up to five concurrent mine operations over time, which will have broad impacts to Alaska’s existing transportation infrastructure,” said **AIDEA Executive Director Alan Weitzner**. AIDEA is currently in development of the Ambler Access Project, a proposed 211-mile controlled industrial access road that would provide road access from the Dalton Highway to the Ambler Mining District.

The Ambler Mining District is an extensive prospective copper-zinc mineral belt in northwestern Alaska with large deposits of cobalt, gallium, germanium, arsenic, palladium, lead, gold, silver, and platinum. These elements are essential for our nation’s tech-focused economy, clean energy transition, and military effectiveness. The development of the Ambler Mining District aligns with current federal policy to reduce America’s dependence on critical mineral imports and Presidential executive orders to identify new sources of responsibly developed domestic critical minerals, increase activity at all levels of the domestic supply chain (exploration, mining, concentration, and separation) and streamline the leasing and permitting processes to expedite the exploration and production of secure, reliable resources here in the US.

The Board approved spending up to \$250,000 from the Arctic Infrastructure Development Fund to competitively procure the technical feasibility analysis. The solicitation will be posted to www.aideaaeprocmnt.org in early May.

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. Since 1967, AIDEA has been responsible for directing more than \$3.5 billion in economic development in Alaska and has declared \$446 million in dividends to Alaska since 1997.

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