



## PRESS RELEASE

AIDEA Office of Communications & External Affairs

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### **Field Season Begins Along Ambler Road Corridor and Capacity Building for Allakaket**

**ANCHORAGE, Alaska** — Field crews have returned to the Ambler Road corridor as spring conditions allow the restart of in-field work to resume in support of project design, environmental commitments, and responsible development planning.

Beginning in April, crews from Qayaq Construction LLC (Qayaq), HDR Engineering Inc and Alaska Department of Fish & Game will conduct field activities along the corridor. This year's field season will include geotechnical investigations, hydrology and hydraulics work, fish habitat surveys, and permafrost studies.

"This work is critical to reducing risk around major cost drivers and advancing design toward construction-ready plans," **said Jeff San Juan, Infrastructure Development Program Manager.** "Each field data point improves our understanding of the corridor and helps reduce data gaps, and uncertainty."

The 2026 field program builds on prior seasons of data collection and analysis and will provide critical information needed to advance environmental review, engineering design, and project planning.

Local hiring remains an important component of field activities conducted along the corridor. **First Chief of Allakaket, PJ Simon said** "My responsibility to my tribal members as 1st Chief is to provide the best opportunity for them as I can, the Allakaket tribal council wants our tribal members to reach their full potential wherever field they choose in life. Above all else, standing on your own two feet to succeed and having gainful employment builds character, confidence, disposable income, and future retirement. Qayaq Construction has taken the opportunity to provide gainful employment with Allakaket Tribal members. This is the direct benefit of responsible resource development and extraction for Ambler Access Project. No other industry can measure up to the pay scale and capacity building. Huge thanks to the State of Alaska and AIDEA for working with our tribe to provide career opportunities and form good working relationships."

### **About AIDEA**

The Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority is a public corporation of the State of Alaska. AIDEA's mission is to promote, develop, and advance the general prosperity and economic welfare of the people of Alaska. AIDEA's continued partnership with the shipyard reflects its mission to promote sustainable development and long-term opportunities for Alaskans. Learn more at [aidea.org](https://aidea.org).

### **About the Ambler Access Project**

The Ambler Road is a proposed 200-mile private industrial access road intended to provide a transportation corridor to the Ambler Mining District in Northwest Alaska. The Project is intended to support responsible access to critical mineral resources on millions of acres of state lands while contributing to long-term economic opportunities for the region and State.

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Pictured above: 2026 Ambler Access Road Field Work Crew | April 16, 2026