



PRESS RELEASE

Office of Communications and External Affairs

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U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Accepts AIDEA's West Susitna Access Project Permit Application

ANCHORAGE, AK — The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) has accepted the Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority (AIDEA) permit application for the Section 404 of the Clean Water Act which kick-starts the environmental review of the proposed West Susitna Access Road.

In partnership with the Matanuska-Susitna Borough, the West Susitna Access Road Project will open state lands and resources west of the Susitna River for critical infrastructure development and increased economic development, and jobs. It will provide first responders the ability to reach populations in a currently roadless area west of the Susitna River and access domestic strategic minerals crucial for electric vehicle technology and green economy.

“Today marks the beginning of the environmental review process which could ultimately lead to hundreds of jobs for Alaskans and expanded access to our state’s abundant resources,” said AIDEA Executive Director, Alan Weitzner. “The area is home to tremendous economic and recreational opportunities for residents of the Mat-Su Borough and all Alaskans,” said AIDEA Chairman, Dana Pruhs.

The West Susitna Access Project was identified as a priority in the [State of Alaska's 2014 Road to Resources report](#) for its immense resource potential. The report found that the West Susitna is one of the richest resource regions in Alaska and that a road would provide access to billions of dollars of stranded resources.

The permit application acceptance initiates the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) compliance process where USACE will gather input from stakeholders, conduct detailed environmental analysis, and consider the economic impacts of the project. Accepting the permit application is a major milestone for advancing the project toward a final investment decision.

AIDEA maintains a [website](#) specific to the West Susitna Access Project. Interested parties can visit the site for new information, sign up for email alerts, and stay up to date on project progress.

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About the Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority

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.