



AMBLER MINING DISTRICT ACCESS PROJECT

Quarterly newsletter of the Ambler Access Project

March 2022
1st Quarter 2022

NEWSLETTER



Job Fairs Bring Opportunities

Over 30 people attended job fairs in Hughes and Allakaket in late January, when, at times, the temperature dipped below -50. There was a good turn out and overall, the job fairs were successful.

Story continues on page 2.

HIGHLIGHTS

Job Fairs

Bringing opportunities into communities

SAC and Workforce Development

How these individuals represent the views of the local stakeholders and guide the project

What is the Ambler Access Project?

Overview of the project and why it's good for Alaska

Community Corner

Local opinions from the project area

Working Together to
**Find
Opportunity**

The Ambler Access Project is being developed collaboratively, in close consultation with the tribes and communities closest to the project.



Job Fairs

continued from front

Team members of the Ambler Access Project hosted Job Fairs in Hughes and Allakaket in late January for positions to be filled for the summer field season. Ten different jobs were presented with over 50 positions. Most are seasonal jobs with rotational schedules. Comments heard from attendees were positive and reflected excitement for training and a chance for meaningful income.

“Good jobs are what we need...there are hardly any jobs here [in the village]. We don’t want to be left out,” commented a leader from Allakaket. Others noted that jobs such as these can help curb the outmigration of residents and help to keep the schools open.

Travel to the NANA region is an immediate challenge due to COVID-19 numbers, and we are committed to delivering the Job Fair and awareness of the job opportunities to villages of this region. Alternative plans are underway and communities will be notified how the Job Fair will be conducted.

All job information can be found on the website (ambleraccess.org/Employment-Info). Assistance can be received by contacting Kathy.mayo@kmayoassociates, the tribal offices, or the Shareholder Relations Coordinators (SRCs) in the NANA region.

Now and Always a Private Road

A common concern expressed by community members is that they do not want a public highway through their lands. It is important to understand that the Ambler Access Project is a private, controlled industrial access road and is being permitted and designed as such. It would not be possible for the road to ever be opened for public use.

Subsistence Advisory Committee & Workforce Development Working Group

Subsistence Advisory Committee

To further build relationships with important stakeholders, AIDEA has created a Subsistence Advisory Committee (SAC). The SAC is comprised of residents of Alatna, Allakaket, Ambler, Hughes, Huslia, Kiana, Kobuk, Noorvik, and Shungnak. Each member practices subsistence and is knowledgeable about the land, animals and culture around their respective communities. Input from the SAC, relying on the tribes' traditional knowledge, will be an integral part of the project's development as permitting and design work continues. The committee was established by the Subsistence Advisory Committee Working Group which included five Alaska Native Elders and two representatives from both NANA Regional Corporation and Doyon, Limited. The first SAC meeting was held on January 11, 2022.

The Subsistence Advisory Committee members were selected through an application process by the Subsistence Advisory Working Group. This Working Group solicited applications through flyers, mail, email and airline delivery of materials to tribal offices. SAC alternates are being sought. More information can be found at <https://ambleraccess.org/Community-Engagement/Subsistence-Advisory-Committee>.

Members of the SAC Include

Fred Bifelt, Co Chair (Huslia)
Larry Westlake, Co Chair (Kiana)
Harding Sam (Alatna)
Clinton Bergman (Allakaket)
Morgan Johnson (Ambler)
Wilmer Beetus (Hughes)

Workforce Development Working Group

A new working group to address workforce development was formed based on feedback received from the Subsistence Advisory Committee. Because the Ambler Access Project is expected to create thousands of new jobs, it is essential that those in rural Alaskan communities have the education and training needed to access these new career opportunities. The new working group will help the project's leadership identify career pathways and needs for training and development resources. The Workforce Development Working Group met for the first time in Anchorage on January 12, 2022.

Henry Horner (Kobuk)
Wilbur Howarth (Noorvik)
Nellie Griest (Shungnak)
Vacant (Evansville)
TBD (Gates of the Arctic Regional SAC)

2022 Field Season Starting Soon!

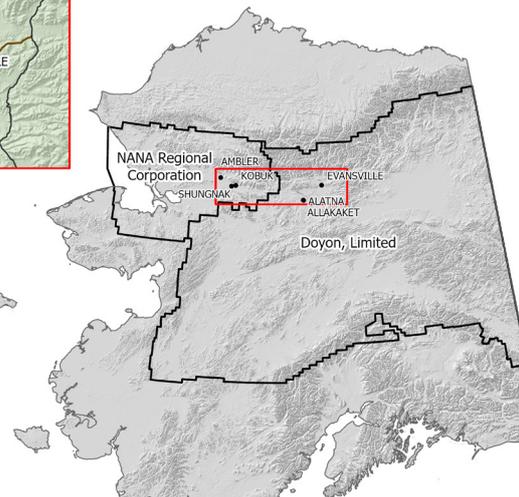
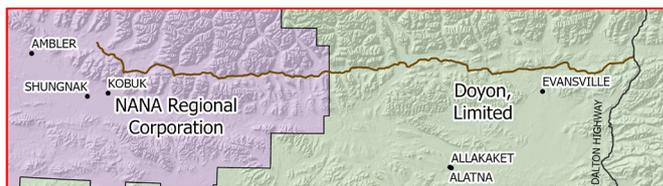
The Ambler Access Project (AAP) is currently in the final Feasibility and Permitting Phase following an extensive federal permitting process. During its first field season, AAP's team of contractors and local hires performed Cultural Resources, Hydrology, Fish Habitat and Land Surveys at over 50 sites including investigations at the John, Wild, and Koyukuk Rivers. The 2021 summer field season ended mid-October.

Hiring for the 2022 field season is now underway. This summer, teams will continue important studies to assess natural and cultural resources throughout the project corridor.

What is the Ambler Access Project?

The Ambler Access Project is a proposed 211-mile, controlled industrial access road that would provide access to the Ambler Mining District in northwestern Alaska.

The area currently lacks the transportation infrastructure necessary for the development, construction, and operations of potential mines in the district. The Ambler Mining District is a large prospective copper-zinc mineral with extensive deposits of critical minerals and other elements making this a secure, reliable US supply-chain resource essential for our nation's tech-focused economy, green energy products, and military effectiveness. Developing the mines within the district is expected to provide employment opportunities for more than 3,000 total jobs during construction and an estimated 1,800 total jobs supporting Alaskan families during operation of the road and associated mines.



Community Corner

Community leaders are expressing support for the Ambler Access Project

"...continued responsible resource extraction is essential to the future of the Northwest Arctic Borough and its provision of public services to the region's residents." - ~ Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly Resolution in Support of the AAP

Hughes has been in support of Ambler Road since we started meeting in 2010. Our Elder at that time wanted jobs for our Tribal members so people will not move to the cities, to try to stop outmigration. We've been struggling to keep our school open for years. The student count needs to be ten kids. If we go under ten kids, our school will close. Parents with children will move. We need year-round jobs for our Tribal members. I know the Ambler Road and Ambler Mining District will provide that for years to come. Thank you.

~ Wilmer Beetus, 1st Chief of the Village of Huslia, Population 90.



"The operation of the Red Dog Mine has brought huge benefits to the NANA region and to the Northwest Arctic Borough. It would be a good thing to show those from the Doyon region how a mine can be operated in a safe and environmentally sound manner." ~ Fred Sun, Shungnak Tribal Council President

According to a report by the University of Alaska Center for Economic Development, developing access to four major deposits in the Ambler mining district is expected to result in thousands of career opportunities across multiple industries:

Mine Construction

- 2,777 direct jobs with \$286 million in wages annually
- 2,034 additional indirect and induced jobs with \$108 million in wages annually

Mining Operations

- 495 direct jobs with \$72 million in wages annually
- 3,436 additional indirect and induced jobs with \$228 million in wages annually

Road Construction and Operations

- An annual average of 360 direct jobs over the road construction period
- Up to 81 direct annual jobs for road operations and maintenance over the life of the road

Want to learn more?

Visit ambleraccess.org to learn more how the AAP is unlocking opportunity for Alaska's rural communities. Contact us anytime with questions! info@ambleraccess.org

AAP Tribal Liaison Program-Continuing Development

AIDEA is continuing development of the Tribal Liaison Program (Program) for the upcoming 2022 year. AIDEA is actively communicating with Tribes to seek input and collaboration to build a robust and meaningful Program. The overall goal of the TLP is to create multiple roles, both field and community based, for tribal entities to participate in and contribute to the Project's ongoing cultural resources management activities.

AIDEA is planning to build upon the approved 2021 Annual Work Plan Tribal Liaison Program (Section 5), which was implemented through direct outreach to tribes and communities along the Project corridor, the distribution of flyers advertising the TLP, and coordination with Doyon, Limited, NANA, and Tanana Chief's Conference and mostly involved Tribal Liaison participation with the cultural resources survey teams in the field. Continuing the collaborative efforts from 2021, AIDEA will seek Tribal Liaisons to work with the cultural resources field teams. These individuals will accompany the daily cultural field teams to survey and inventory potential study areas along the proposed road route and

provide important tribal insight and collaboration on identified cultural resources.

In addition to the field-based tribal liaison activities, AIDEA anticipates that the Program may also include tribal members contributing important input through the participation in the development and implementation of Fieldwork Contractor Training, the review of Project maps, reports, and other information, and the sharing any potential conflicts surrounding culturally significant locations or areas, places of known or suspected ancestral use, and any other information for the responsible design of the AAP. These contributing activities would be conducted within each of the communities where a Tribal Liaison may live. These tribal members may be elders, traditional knowledge bearers, or oral historians.

If you have any questions or would like to arrange a meeting to discuss your participation in AIDEA's Program, please contact David Heimke AIDEA Chief Operating Officer (DHeimke@aidea.org) or AAP's Communications Manager, Charlene Ostbloom at (907) 590-9301 or costbloom@ambleraccess.org.

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