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Allakaket considers Ambler road today

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By Matt Buxton mbuxton@newsminer.com

FAIRBANKS — The Allakaket Tribal Council is hosting a two-day meeting starting today on a controversial road connecting the Ambler Mining District in Northwest Alaska to the Dalton Highway.

The tribal council's meeting is the latest in several meetings held by villages along the road's proposed routes that are concerned about the impact the industrial road will have on their way of life.

Allakaket Traditional Council Second Chief

PJ Simon said the community's residents are concerned that the industrial road, with its daily truck traffic, will hurt subsistence living.

Proponents of the road promise a wealth of economic benefits including jobs and road access, but Simon said the community is worried about the greater access to non-village hunters.

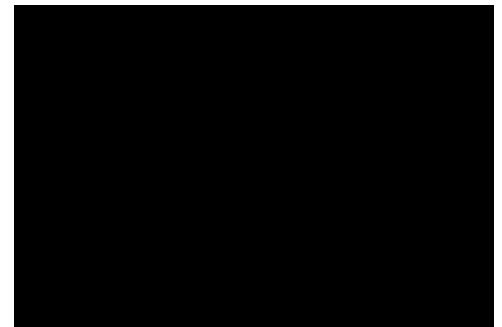
"Everybody is weighing the road there," he said. "What do you want? Jobs or food. We feel it's really going to provide too much access to the resources."

The state has been conducting an outreach effort to communities while moving forward with preparations for the environmental studies necessary to build the road, which includes paths through tribal land and the Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve. A corridor for the road was provided for in the 1980 Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act.

The two-day meeting in Allakaket invites officials and the media to tour local communities and attend a day-long meeting on the road and the community's concerns.

Contact staff writer Matt Buxton at 459-7544. Follow him on Twitter:

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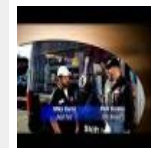


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