

Company charged in bear feeding

FAIRBANKS — A North Slope Construction company has been charged with illegally feeding a bear that state fish and wildlife protection officers later had to shoot.

News of the complaint comes as state officials are mounting a campaign to discourage bear feeding. They are particularly worried about potential problems along the newly opened Dalton Highway, formerly known as the North Slope Haul Road.

“Those people who feed the bears and then complain about the hunters are as responsible for the bear’s death as the person who kills it,” said Terry Jordan, a wildlife protection officer.

Truck drivers in Fairbanks have been complaining about a bowhunter who shot a bear near the highway. The highway corridor is closed to hunting with firearms but not bows.

State regulations forbid feeding of bears, wolves, foxes or wolverines, or deliberately leaving human food or garbage in such a manner that it attracts

such animals.

A complaint filed against Alaska International Construction Inc. says the company "did deliberately leave empty food containers and bread in such a manner that it attracted a barren ground grizzly," a misdemeanor offense.

The manager of the Deadhorse Airport said the bear damaged runway approach lights and airport personnel refused to fix the lights while the bear was in the area. Jordan said he shot the bear because the situation was dangerous.