

Alaska Railroad may shed 20 percent of its workforce

Published: Monday, September 14, 2009

ANCHORAGE, Alaska - The state-owned Alaska Railroad plans to lay off 20 percent of its employees, or about 143 people, the *Alaska Daily News* has reported. The layoffs come amid a decline in traffic and an estimated \$10-\$12 million budget shortfall next year.

Railroad President Patrick Gamble told employees in an Aug. 31 email that he's looking at ways to make the railroad run more efficiently, but that won't be enough. "There would also need to be a significant reduction in funded manpower positions across the railroad, estimated by me to be about 20 percent," he wrote. "I directed those position reductions to be finalized and ready for approval as quickly as possible."

Railroad spokesman Tim Thompson said no final decision had been made, and said the railroad isn't taking questions on the matter. However, an article in the railroad's employee newsletter said final decisions will be made at an Oct. 2 meeting, and all cuts will be instituted by the end of the year.