

North Slope Residents Complete Junk Cleanup

North Slope residents with snowmobiles have completed gathering stacked debris and abandoned barrels in the final phase of a cleanup project sponsored by member companies of Alaska Oil and Gas Association.

The test project swept debris from more than 33,000 acres on the Colville River Delta, some of which dates back to World War II defense activities.

In the first phase of the project, Eskimo crews swept the Delta on foot, gathering the litter into piles for future pickup and disposing of burnables in existing pits.

The crew stacked debris and barrels until freeze-up, for removal by snowmobile and sled which could operate without damage to the tundra.

The non-burnable debris was buried in an excavation on private land in the Delta. Barrels were neatly stacked at Nuekshat

Island.

The experimental project was designed to assess efficiencies and costs of one method of sweeping an area clean. The task was to remove all litter regardless of who deposited it.

Results of the project will be used by individual companies in planning their own programs.

Petroleum companies and groups of operators have been conducting individual cleanup campaigns on their own leases in addition to the recently completed industry project.