

Some 224,500 tonnes of paper are produced at Svetogorsk every year. A tenth of it needs to be sold for foreign currency in order to purchase what is required to bring the worn out machinery into running order. But who will allow us to do this, given the present dearth of paper in the country.

"In the extremely difficult situation in which our combine finds itself is mirrored the classical growth pattern of the domestic pulp and paper industry", says the Association's General Director, G. Kaluga. "We build an enormous enterprise, invest in a billion roubles worth of fixed assets and only then do we begin to think about the ecological consequences. We are making a scapegoat out of the administrators. Public opinion and the sanitary-epidemiological services are getting the better of us. We may be on the brink of shutting down."

The situation is indeed, as described. The townsfolk have joined the campaign for cleaning up the atmosphere and bodies of water. Failing immediate action to secure the necessary funds for bringing the combine into a state of ecological normalcy, much more may be lost in the very near future.

This is in terms of the economy. But what of the health of the people, the residents of Svetogorsk and the workers of the combine?

Lesnaya promyshlennost'

May 6, 1989

Page 1 (Full text)