

Given the situation, it is only natural that enterprises in this industry should come under close scrutiny. In the last few years these enterprises have been subjected to almost every measure possible from the procurator's offices. What are these measures? On the basis of comprehensive inspection by environmental protection specialists, we objected to many infringements of the law and both informed and warned the appropriate officials. Many of these officials were subject to disciplinary action and fines, some were even held criminally responsible for environmental offenses, like, for example, the senior executives of the Priozero Pulp Factory. This is not just an empty gesture towards an ecological 'fad', but is in keeping with our firm, uncompromising position on the issue. Consistency in opposing infringements of environmental laws is an integral part of the work carried out by the procurator's offices.

The seriousness of our intentions is demonstrated by the creation, in several areas, of inter-regional environmental protection procurator's offices - stable bodies with clearly defined, special purpose functions.

Many of these newly created offices went to work very quickly. The Khabarovsk environmental protection procurator's office can already number among its actions not only sanctions against 115 responsible officials fined for environmental offenses, but also the clearing of sunken wood from Nikol'sky Gulf.

While it is important to stop infringements of the law with a minimum of delay and ensure that those who permitted these violations are held fully