

Yakutiya for some time now. And the local "Agropromproyekt" (Institute of Agro-industrial Design), "Yakutgiprovodkhoz" (Yakutsk State Institute for the Design and Planning of Hydroeconomic Construction) and other institutes are planning new underground reservoirs and so-called geocryogenic cold storage facilities, for the most part to serve the needs of agricultural regions. But why here of all places?

"There's nothing tying us to this place in particular," says P. Fedorov, Chief Engineer of Yakutgiprovodkhoz. "For now these reservoirs have found rural application, but nothing is preventing us from using them to serve the needs of industry. The underground reservoirs are designed for storing water, diesel fuel, gas condensates, and so on. All these things are extremely important for local farms. Potable water lies fairly deep here -- 300-400 metres and deeper. To supply farms with this water in winter is very difficult. This simplifies things in many ways. In summer the reservoirs are filled with water from natural basins. Bringing it back up is easy to automate."

"But the water can freeze."

"Not at all. The ice forms an envelope only around the reservoir chamber. This also keeps the water clean, by the way. This same water can be used to cool livestock products, such as milk. Specialists at the Yakutsk Institute of Geocryology have estimated that the use of natural cold would conserve over seven billion kilocalories of heat consumed in pastures in the Republic during the summer months. In addition, and this is important, everything that needs to be stored is excellently preserved underground and retains its qualities. We