

What is the problem? The boiler system in the enterprise is old; for a long time no-one has tried to improve it. The equipment is always repaired in a rush and in a haphazard fashion. The engineers themselves call it a makeshift operation. After three to four months the boilers go on the blink again, sometimes several at a time.

Inadequate purification of the water used also contributes to the breakdown of the equipment. The water purification system is only geared to treat a certain amount of water at a time and this is sixty tonnes less than the hourly maximum capacity of the thermal power station. This means that whenever a large amount of heat and steam is needed some of the water is unpurified. They have been talking about building a new water purification station for several years now at every conference devoted to the development of the production facilities. The planned date for the introduction of this facility is 1989.

Another reserve that could be used to provide steam in the combine is also being under-utilized - condensate recovery. From 120-130 tonnes of condensate can be recovered when the plant is utilizing 200 tonnes of steam per hour. At present, however, no more than only 50 to 60 tonnes are being recovered. All the rest is dumped in the sewage. The existing equipment would allow for the recovery of the condensate. However, up to now no-one in the shops has been concerned enough to keep track of steam utilization or to attempt to reduce consumption. This, in spite of the fact that the plant will transfer to a profit- and loss-accounting system as of January 1. This means that the time has come to eliminate spendthrift habits and to manage things carefully and wisely.