

A resolution adopted by the residents of Svetogorsk and published in "Vyborgskii Kommunist" contains the following statement:

"We are proposing that an enquiry be conducted by competent bodies with the object of ascertaining the names of the authors of the ecologically ill-considered design plan of the pulp and paper combine, of those who, in reducing the cost of it, turned their backs on nature preservation systems and the resulting enhanced reliability of the production lines. We need this information in order to institute criminal proceedings against them."

Alas, this demand by the townsfolk amounts to no more than an emotional outburst. Twenty years have gone by and it is quite understandable that people are now venting their anger against the administrators of the Combine.

With the arrival at the "Svetogorsk" Production Association eighteen months ago of a new director in the person of G.I. Kaluga the ecological situation, both at the mill and in the town, became somewhat better. The emissions of methylmercaptan and hydrogen sulphide were reduced. But all of this had only a local impact. The Association still has a long way to go before a radical solution to the environmental protection problems is found. After 17 years of continuous operation the machinery, which is mostly imported, has become worn out. Spare parts are needed, which means that there is a requirement for foreign currency. If it were not for the fact that all of it is already spoken for by the State order and contractual deliveries, it would be possible to earn this by selling paper abroad.