

We simply cannot allow ourselves to continue as if nothing were the matter. The situation at the plant has deteriorated to the extent that last year they had to install a special production line to process the chemical pulp that had been rejected by the state inspection committee. It was then transferred to the No. 1 mill to be made into paperboard. They were able to sell most of this pulp as a result of direct contracts with consumer industries. However, the situation has changed since the beginning of the new year: all production not appearing in the supply plan will no longer be paid for. Consequently, there will be a sharp increase in losses.

The workers at the mill are not confident that the flow of rocks will dry up or that there will be an improvement in the quality of the raw material. This is why they are not planning this year to produce any high-grade KhB-1 chemical pulp. More than 30% of production will constitute poorer quality KhB-7 pulp. This pulp is much cheaper. Almost 100 roubles will be lost per tonne. This means, of course, that there won't be any bonuses for the workers in the near future. The mill could lose its people. It will become more difficult to attract the necessary experts to the mill: shift foremen and technical engineers.

The pulp mill at the Bratsk Timber Industry Complex is the headquarters enterprise. Two-thirds of the mill's commodity production is manufactured here. Any kind of breakdown in the pulp production lines has an immediate effect on the economy of the complex and, thus, on the life of the many thousands of workers it employs. Strange as it may seem, people already appear to have become accustomed to these disruptions.

Lesnaya promyshlennost

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