

of the Baikalsk and Selenginsk combines. It was noted that modernization of the soda regeneration and power generating boilers is being held up. The reason is the late receipt by the Finnish side of a licence for the supplying of equipment. Our departments are apparently still unable to work quickly and precisely.

As a session of the USSR Supreme Soviet, People's Deputy Volodichev of the Angara Construction Trust (Angarstroj) said: "For the Selenginsk Pulp and Paperboard Combine the additional construction of purification plants at a cost of more than 100 million roubles is foreseen, but the replacement of aging and physically worn out equipment supplied 30 years ago is not anticipated".

The matter of protecting Baikal and the environment needs initiative and enterprise. The Selenginsk people might well give some thought to the introduction of the "Ecocell" design, the essence is of which is to obtain ecologically clean pulp. As is well known, there are two methods of cooking pulp: the sulphate and the sulphite methods. With the former, the release of sulphurous gases occurs; with the latter - emissions of sulphur dioxide, which of course, is also an unwelcome gift. That is why some 15 years ago a solution was found at the Leningrad Paper Institute in which oxygen is used in place of sulphur. In the process, there is absolutely no pollution of the environment. Secondly, any kind of wood is used. Even though the laboratory unit was awarded a gold medal at the Exhibition of Achievements of the National Economy of the USSR, as frequently happens in our country, the good idea was not put to use industrially. Currently, a small experimental industrial unit for the cooling of pulp by a fundamentally new method (capacity 35,000 tonnes a year) is being assembled at the Syas' Pulp and Paper Combine. So, might it be that the Selenginsk people will bring "Ecocell" into operation on their own, without waiting for the Ministry to stir itself?

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