

## POWER GENERATING STATIONS

### The Story Of A Very Long Energy Project

The River Kem' in Kareliya cannot, of course, be compared with the Volga or the Enisei. And yet, carrying its turbulent waters between rocky shores, covered with coniferous forests, it heads for the White Sea with implacable persistence and energy. The wilful Kem', with all its rapids, seems almost to have been born for the construction of hydroelectric power stations. It is already the site of a whole cascade of productive GES, which breathe life, as they say, into many centres of population and production.

Nevertheless, an energy supply shortage still has a negative effect on the development of the northern parts of the Kareliya Autonomous SSR. More than twenty years ago, locations on the Kem' were chosen for the construction of yet a few more power stations, including the Krivoporozhskaya. But its fate has not been an easy one. Why?

In order to answer this question, we had to become familiar with an entire chronicle, left for posterity by Minénergo USSR. It makes for dismal reading. The decision to build not only the Krivoporozhskaya, but also the Morskaya GES on the Kem' was taken by the government in 1968. But it takes longer to do the deed than to tell the tale. Twelve years (sic) later, when the deadline came for reporting on the opening of these facilities, it turned out that not a finger had been lifted. All those years, of course, the local Party and Soviet bodies constantly sounded the alarm, sending letters to various departments, which ultimately had to be