

However, for some time now, a different procedure has been followed: currently waste petroleum products have to be collected and delivered every quarter to the directorate of Goskomnefteprodukt products. (The Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR recently abolished the Union-Republican State Committee of the USSR for the Supply of Petroleum Products, i.e. Goskomnefteprodukt - Ed.). This is an absurd requirement: the drilling crews and seismic sounding detachments are scattered all over the Far North. And yet, four times a year the specialists of the 34 expeditions and 75 seismic sounding parties and other groups must now collect waste petroleum products, put them in containers and dispatch them by air to at least the closest river for transshipment to their destination by water. By the same route they receive in return fresh crude and lubricants. The entire arrangement makes no economic sense of course.

Protracted negotiations were entered into with the Tyumen' directorate of Goskomnefteprodukt and the Ministries of Geology of the USSR and RSFSR. They made no attempt to understand our position. Not only that, they increased the delivery quota for 1986 - fivefold, and that for 1987 by another 60%!

Let's take a pencil and work it out. One tonne of recycled raw material is worth from 16 to 30 rubles, but when delivery costs are added it works out to about 300 rubles. The central board makes 90,000 rubles by fulfilling the sales plan for waste petroleum products and at the same time loses 1,082,000 rubles in transport costs. In other words, nearly a million rubles is squandered!

So that's what happens to the waste petroleum products collected with immense effort and sold to other central boards throughout the region.