

the ideal state to producing rated output. While energy units of thermo-electric power plants need almost 24 hours.

Can all of this be disregarded when considering the problems of hydro-electric power engineering? I think not. Public discussion of projects, competent and non-simplistic criticism would obviously be useful. But what really does happen? The designs for the Turukhanskaya and the Sredne-Yenisei Hydro-Electric Power Plants are already being criticized. But is it reasonable to find fault with designs which...do not exist yet? It would be much more useful to discuss the question of how to build hydro-electric power plants so that we affect the environment as little as possible. For instance, the public is justly insisting that reservoir bottoms be prepared [stripped] beforehand, to prevent their pollution. In flat country, it is possible to avoid excessive reservoir flooding immediately upstream of the dam by dyking the banks, so that fertile soil is not lost. Of course, such hydro-electric power plants would cost more, but it would still be more economical in comparison with other sources of ecologically clean electric power.

There are also other problems demanding general discussion. For example, the reservoir level fluctuation, or the change of temperature conditions downstream from the dam. But to discuss does not mean to reject at the outset the very possibility of building hydro-electric power plants.

Unfortunately, at present we are witnessing a drop in the rate of increase of the overall capacity of the country's hydro-electric power plants. There are many reasons for this. And the foremost reason is that the structure of the