

Continually worsening ecological problems are a further source of concern for the people of Kotlas and the Archangel'sk Oblast. The pulp-and-paper combines are now the main polluters of the aerial and aqueous environment. In our city, the atmospheric content of certain chemical compounds which are harmful to people's health is exceeding the maximum permissible level. The planned indices for effluent treatment are not being achieved. It is not only our Oblast that is affected by this problem. On the Vychegda River, in addition to our combine there is also the Syktyvkar Timber Industry Complex. I have learned that the same situation obtains there. In our view, all of the pulp-and-paper combines in the country are similarly affected. So far, there have been no scientific and technical solutions relating either to the utilization of surplus activated sludge, or to the removal of oxidizing organic pollutants from waste waters and of harmful components from the gaseous emissions entering the atmosphere.

Comrade scientists and machine builders! We are looking to you for concrete help in solving these problems.

At the Kotlas Pulp and Paper Combine a programme has been drawn up for technical re-equipping of the enterprise during the period 1988 - 1995 with first-priority to be given to the implementation of nature preservation. To this end, capital investments estimated at 200 million roubles will be needed. We, the workers, however, would be placed in jeopardy in the event of the programme being fully implemented. This is because, from January 1 of next year enterprises of the USSR Ministry of the Timber Industry are to become self-financing and self-supporting and will thus