

On the whole, according to the state inspector, what happened was not very nice. The administration carried out part of the work, the localization, while the rest of the work was to be done by one of the co-operatives with which an agreement had been concluded. The co-operators did not keep their word and then winter came and snow covered all traces of the accident.

As a result, all 850 tons of oil flowed into a tributary of the Vatinsky Egan River this spring.

The conversation with Sidorov was not a cheerful one. Pipeline breaks, escaping oil and the death of rivers, forests and lakes have unfortunately all become commonplace. The following statistics are extremely eloquent by way of illustration. Nizhnevartovsk district has an average of three accidents of various degrees of severity per day. Last year, Surgut district lost about 9,000 tons of oil owing to pipeline breaks. The penalties for slipshod work and technological illiteracy are essentially symbolic in nature.

It is believed that the new local Soviets will finally begin to make a fresh assessment and evaluation of everything that is happening in the territories under their jurisdiction.

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