

In 1987 and 1988 water levels in the lake were not high enough. A decision was then made to use salt water from the sea in heating and hot water systems. Its colour resembled that of badly brewed coffee. But more importantly, this water completely finished off all of the plumbing, and this now simply has to be replaced.

On January 1, 1990 Galkin formally prohibited the use of the drinking water. Alas, the prohibition is not being observed.

What colour is snow? Even a child would answer 'white'. In Dikson the snow is black. The heating season here lasts the entire year, and the chimneys of the coal-fired boilers smoke 365 days per year. Tons of ashes and soot settle on the streets of the village and on the heads of the residents. The proximity of the Norilsk Mining and Metallurgical Combine is also felt here. So the air in the Arctic is not as pure as one might think.

The village is literally overflowing with garbage. Rats and seagulls feed here, as well as the occasional polar bears. There has long been a need to build a small facility to treat waste.

"I don't want to create the impression." Galkin goes on, "that we are merely reciting a litany. Both the Executive Committee and the Public Health and Epidemiology Station have made numerous appeals to various bodies and to the people's deputies. This has produced nothing. I have also written to the procurator's office, but they can't institute legal proceedings because of a lack of corpus delicti. Public health bodies, it seems, are waiting for a disaster, but that will simply be too late. I have already stopped issuing decisions for allocation of land plots for new construction. I haven't found any other way to make an impression on authorities.