

require verification, for example the removal of the food additive bel'vitamile at the Kondopoga Pulp and Paper Combine, the production of fertilisers and of various additives to building materials and adhesives, and the partial return of the sludge to the production process involved in the cooking of pulp.

It soon became apparent, however, that all the numerous experiments were to no more avail than dredging the wastes from the sea with a teaspoon. The truth is that in the country's paperboard and pulp and paper mills about half a million tonnes of activated sludge form every year (calculated for dry sludge!). And all this seeps into the ground and after breaching the embankments, threatens to get into our rivers and lakes, which we are trying to preserve by waste treatment programs.

The seriousness of the situation was emphasised by the notorious government decrees calling for the shutting down of production at the Baikal Pulp and Paper Combine and the Priozersk Pulp Mill. Implementation of the "Sludge" programme is being postponed until some time in the future.

For this case, however, an alternative to the sludge disposal problem solution is already to hand at the USSR Ministry of the Timber Industry. In mid-1986, a meeting of specialists was convened by then Deputy Minister N.G. Nikol'skii which led to the surfacing of a "new", or more correctly speaking, forgotten idea: burning it. The only previously used methods of burning sludge - in drum furnaces and boilers - were rejected as not fully effective. It was decided to attempt destruction of the precipitate in special furnaces that have a boiling layer. Two of these units, which had been operating abroad, had