

years ago. It only began sampling the air as of November last year. However, so far, the laboratory hasn't won the right to apply sanctions against offenders. Nor has the head public health doctor, N. Sosnovskii, any real authority.

The standing committee for environmental protection, headed by the chief engineer of the department, E. Chechik, is also idle. In fact, someone has accurately labelled it the "idling committee". The committee's recommendations and resolutions aren't carried out by anyone. The laboratory of the water supply division, for example, is supposed to carry out a regular analysis of the industrial effluents produced by the Smychka railway car depot, but in fact it isn't doing that. When your reporter checked up on this, the head of the laboratory, S. Smol'yaninova declared:

"If the public prosecutor's office tells us to carry out analyses, then we will".

There we have it, the "don't get involved" mentality. Our hopes that someone, apart from ourselves, would come to the defence of the environment using a wooden cart-shaft have not been justified. The natural environment is home to all of us and all of us should be putting that house in order.

Gudok

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