

POWER GENERATING STATIONS

"Energy Thrown To the Winds"

How is the program of the Republic for utilizing non-traditional sources of energy in the national economy working? This was a subject of discussion at the Session of the Permanent Commission on Power Engineering of the Supreme Soviet of the RSFSR. Information about the work of the Commission was published on September 9.

Today we offer notes from the Session which were prepared by special correspondents of Sovetskaya Rossiya.

Let us recall how attentively we followed the energy crisis that broke out in the mid-seventies in Western Europe. It aroused a feeling of pride in us -- to us, this crisis was no threat at all. We produce more coal, natural gas, and oil than practically anyone else; newly built nuclear power plants stride powerfully across the map of the country; dams cut across the largest water arteries... We hold second place worldwide in electric power production. Our prospects appeared even more grand.

But...Isn't the air in Krivoi Rog and Kemerovo as full of toxic wastes as can be? As for the dammed channels of Volga, Dnepr, Yenisei -- aren't the flora and fauna of these great rivers adversely affected? And we also had Chernobyl! Many Departments shyly omit to mention that the USSR holds only 67th (!) place worldwide in production of ecologically clean energy. The time has come for