

introduced. Membrane technology opens up extensive opportunities for a reduction in the consumption of reagents. All this could lead to the disappearance of the very idea of "effluent water". When we have closed systems, nothing will ever be discarded. Closed water-circulation systems are alleged to be much more expensive than the direct-flow systems currently in use. This is not only theoretically inaccurate, but also disproved in practice. Even now there are more than 120 enterprises in various sectors of the national economy operating on closed water-circulation systems (with no discharges into the environment). An excellent project for a closed water-circulation system was developed at the Selengin Central Control Commission (CCC), but unfortunately it was not brought to fruition for many years. The system is slated to be installed at the Selingino CCC before the end of the current Five-Year Plan. It is true that the return of the purified effluent could lead to an increase in the salt content. To avoid this, membrane technology should be used to maintain a constant salt level in the closed loop."

Q. "Dr. Laskorin, you mentioned that not all of the problems in environmental technology have been solved by science. We possess excellent scientific resources in the industry itself. How can they be applied? Wasn't there some talk about opening an Institute of Wood Chemistry in Leningrad."

A. "I'd like to point out the following: For a long time Soviet research led the way in the pulp chemistry and wood technology fields. Suffice it to say we have had some eminent scientists such as Sharygin, Nikitin, and others. But recent years have