

I shall make the following comparison. While the boiler-houses of Yurmala are discharging into the air about 1,770 tonnes of hydrogen sulphide per year, in the pulp cooking process no more than 32 tonnes of this substance are escaping into the atmosphere. The pulp and paper mill is dumping into the Lielupe 40 times less purified waste than all of Riga does in the unpurified form.

Of course, such figures do not make pleasant reading. It is high time to come to grips with them. But you can't argue with facts: in terms of statutory norms, the share of the Sloka pulp and paper mill in each kilogram of pollution from the Riga and Yurmala based enterprises is only a few drops.

However, there is no agreement on this score even in scientific circles; not all participants signed the conclusions of the Committee of the Academy of Sciences of the Latvian SSR last summer. The director of the centre for the study and control of environmental contamination, I. Lyul'ko, for example, continued to hold to his own views.

Up to now we have not developed a serious approach to the all round evaluation of the effects of pulp and paper mills and other industrial sites on the pollution of Yurmala. For a conclusion based on one-sided and limited material cannot be a scientific basis for taking such important decisions as the continued operation or closing down of Sloka.

At this same committee, G. Dankfel'd, the chief technologist of the pulp and paper mill, spoke against the hasty and unjustified closing of it. I admit that at first I thought that he had disgraced his bureaucratic uniform, but having been at Sloka