

of the Zagorsk plant. Sixteen reversible units will begin to pump water from the Kanev Reservoir into the upper basin, and, during peak hours, under a full load, they will be able to deliver 3,600,000 kilowatts to the system!

Incidentally, the upper basin, which engineers chose here exclusively from among patches of uncultivable land and ravines, occupies a total of 550 hectares.

An interesting fact is that when engineers build water-storage plants, they can not only do without dams, but also entirely without one of the two basins of the hydraulic engineering complex by locating it... underground. According to geological data, high-capacity underground water-storage power plants can be built on the outskirts of Leningrad, near Minsk and Voronezh, and in the Ukraine. Solid granites at depths of 700 to 1,000 meters will enable us to establish, under the earth, vast reservoirs for many millions of cubic metres of water and to accommodate the units of the water-storage power plants themselves.

The worked-out shafts of ore deposits are also suitable for underground water-storage power plants. Even now, around the Kursk Magnetic Anomaly, ore bodies have been depleted to the extent that we can, without delay, begin installation work underground. Since the mines belong to the Ministry of Ferrous Metallurgy, however, a new obstacle has entered the picture. The miners wish to return for the ore left in the so-called supporting "pillars". They do not contain that much ore, and if the pillars are demolished, then any talk of a water-storage electric power plant in a mine will remain purely theoretical.