

violated there stand real people - the scientists, builders, administrators, planners, and members of State committees accepting installations in "truncated" form - with unfinished purification plants. And finally, there are the people who work in these enterprises - all the way from the director to the labourer. That is why what was said at the conference about the need for maximum firmness when calling for interferences with production cycles at enterprises of the wood-chemistry complex sounded so topical. Here also the most important task becomes the training of qualified personnel, for incompetence at times leads to serious damage being sustained with an irreplaceable loss to the environment. Consider the cost of the damage at Cherepovets alone, where almost a ton of concentrated sulphuric acid has entered the river!

At large enterprises we evidently need our own kind of monitoring, for then the actual ecological situation will be brought to the attention of the workers and the administration. The lack of such information, shortages of measuring equipment, and irregularity in the monitoring process itself will inevitably have some influence on the effectiveness of nature conservation activity.

All these measures - especially the accelerated construction and rebuilding of purification plants - need to be implemented immediately, for it will be five to seven years before any radical changes can be expected, by which time waste-free technology will have replaced the system now in existence at many enterprises, and new methods will have been found and introduced for purifying and utilising the waste products of this evil of large-scale chemistry.

For the time being, however, as was mentioned by V. K. Gusev, it is necessary to foster the growth of the chemical industry while ensuring strict observance of all ecological norms. Production for export must be given special emphasis, for this will provide the funds for purchases of sophisticated equipment, and accelerate the rebuilding and technical reequipping of the enterprises. In a number of ministries - and this