million kilowatts! At night, the station is charged with water at a cheap power rate, while the "peak" kilowatt-hours go for an entirely different price.

So far we cannot compete even with Luxembourg. The rated power of the turbines at our (water-storage) stations - Kiev and Zagorsk - where the first units were recently started up, is under half a million kilowatts. Just what is the matter?

"The problem", says L. Sheinman, a leading Gidroproekt engineer, "is partly that we have very few natural locations with sufficiently large drops in level for building water-storage power stations in the European part of the country. And right here is just where we need these buffer plants. A thorough topographic survey has brought to light suitable sites near Leningrad, in Lithuania and around the Kanev Water Reservoir in the Ukraine.

"I did not say 'partly' by accident. The main reason for the lag is the excessively lengthy time taken to build these power engineering facilities."

In the year now drawing to a close, preparatory work has begun at the site of the Kanev Water-Storage Power Plant. Remembering the difficult experience of construction at Zagorsk, the engineers decided to dig the deep foundation pits for the plant building not by the open method, but rather to construct them using reinforced concrete caissons of unprecedented size (65 x 100 meters!). Calculations have promised a reduction of about 200 million cubic metres in the amount of excavation and earth moving at Kanev, even though the output of the Kanev Water-Storage Power Plant is to be three times that